

27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the recent changes.

We are writing to you to give you an overview of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and to inform you of the recent changes that came into effect this September.

### What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is a government document that all schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England must follow. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

### What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programmes. There are **three prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

Communication and Language

Personal, social and  
emotional development

Physical Development

There are **four specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

Maths

Literacy

Understanding the World

Expressive arts and design

All Early Years staff will consider your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences.

## **How Will My Child Be Learning?**

The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of play in your child's development. It is through both child-led play and adult-led play. Through play, our Early Years' Team will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills. The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

Playing and exploring

Active Learning

Creating and thinking critically

## **The changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been reformed and there is a new EYFS framework that all schools and settings are required to follow from September 2021. These national changes have been made to better support all pupils' learning and development. It is also the aim that the new framework will better prepare pupils for the transition into Key Stage 1.

There are some elements of the EYFS that have not significantly changed and some that have. Below are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that include relevant changes:

- Early Years staff will be spending less time on large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection. This means they can spend more time supporting and engaging with the children and their learning and development needs.
- Pupils will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age.
- The early learning goals at the end of reception have been changed to become more clear and easier to understand. Staff will use their judgements to assess if pupils have met these goals at the end of the EYFS and inform parents/carers.
- There is an emphasis on improving pupil's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.
- Literacy and numeracy skills focused on in the EYFS have been adapted to better match up with the National Curriculum that starts in year 1.
- There is no longer an exceeding judgement at the end of Reception. Pupils will instead be challenged to have a greater depth and understanding of ideas.
- Safeguarding and welfare of pupils is still of upmost priority, with the added mention of teaching pupils about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

## Reception Baseline

The reception baseline assessment, or RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with your child's class teacher and will measure your child's progress from reception to year 6. The school, the teachers and you, as parents will not be shared and the data will only be accessed by the DFE. The teacher will be able to spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and if they need any further support in certain areas. When your child reaches year 6, you will be able to see the progress your child has made throughout their school journey. If you wish to read further on the reception baseline, then you can find a useful parent booklet here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

If you have any questions, then please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher.

We hope that this has given you an insight into how/what your child will be learning this academic year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Miss Morton  
Early Years Leader