

The Early Years Foundation Stage Intent

At New Hall our Reception classes form a firm foundation for learning in our school. It is our intent to create an environment of emotional warmth, with consistent praise and encouragement, so that each child feels individually valued. We begin each year by taking into account our children's needs and interests and then design our curriculum accordingly, planning appropriate steps of development to enable them to be the best that they can be.

Our EYFS curriculum is underpinned by our 4 school values of being caring individuals, collaborative learners, creative minds and critical thinkers. We want each child to be motivated to learn new skills and confident to meet new challenges and reach our high expectations with a sense of achievement.

We believe learning is holistic. One experience may provide children with opportunities to develop a range of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning. Each area of learning works towards a number of relevant Early Learning Goals, which most children are expected to achieve by the end of the Foundation Stage.

The children enjoy a stimulating and happy atmosphere where they learn important skills through their play. Children have access to indoor and outdoor learning environments and thrive in our setting. They are encouraged to develop their imagination and independence whilst acquiring those skills necessary for reading, writing, maths, physical development, science, history, geography, information technology, music and art and design.

We follow the Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum guidance. This enables us to organise carefully planned practical activities through a combination of adult led, teacher taught sessions, small group work and stimulating continuous provision. The children gain experience in all the following areas of learning: Prime Areas: Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development Specific Areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design.

We use the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' alongside our 4 school values in order to give the children the skills they need not just to achieve at age 4 or 5 but skills they will continue to use after their time in Reception. All of the skills, knowledge and vocabulary are encompassed within our themes which driven first and foremost by the children's interests and needs.

We assess children by observing what they can do and then plan their next steps accordingly, ensuring our children's learning is embedded and that they continue to make progress.

At New Hall we strongly believe the ethos of our EYFS setting is an important first step to foster our ambition for all to love to learn for life.