



Nurturing the Future, Inspiring Success

Intent

At North Farnborough Infant School, we believe that every child in Year R is unique and valued as an individual. Our curriculum is tailored to be accessible to all and provides learning opportunities linked to our main school values. Our aim is for every child to feel a part of our community and build skills to help them become respectful citizens and life-long learners. This happens through nurturing and building positive relationships with both the children and their parents.

All learning opportunities are aimed to promote independent learners who can confidently communicate their wants and needs.

A child's first year at school is very important and so we ensure a caring and stimulating environment specifically designed to meet their individual needs. Our curriculum is delivered through a combination of adult led and child-initiated activities. We carefully plan lots of opportunities for children to learn through play in both the indoor and outdoor environments as we know that children learn best through active learning. We believe that reading is one of life's most important skills and reading for pleasure can have a huge impact on a child's educational performance. Therefore, we put a great deal of emphasis on not only teaching children to read but also encouraging a love of stories and books.

Our core values are:

Respect, Independence, Confidence, Cooperation, Responsibility and Happiness.

Implementation

Children benefit from meaningful learning across the curriculum and as such, each half term a new theme is introduced which provides an inspiring hook and incorporates the children's ideas and interests. The children learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult-focused activities and the timetable is carefully structured to allow maximum time for continuous provision to happen. The timetable is adapted throughout the year to take into consideration the children's developing needs.

Equal importance is given to the indoor and outdoor areas to cater for all needs and ensure a rich range of learning opportunities. Children are provided with a variety of experiences which are carefully planned to engage and challenge them. Throughout the day, adults will interact with the children during their play to provide feedback and extend their learning further taking into account the Characteristics of Effective Learning. The learning experiences within Year R are linked to the seven areas of learning and development within the EYFS. These are split into the three prime areas and the four specific areas.

The three prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development are the areas considered most essential for the healthy development of a child. A constant focus on developing children's social, emotional and language skills is a key priority and is delivered through circle times, social games and encouraging meaningful play. We provide daily physical activities to develop both fine and gross motor control including funky fingers and write dance. We develop this over the course of the year to reflect the changing needs of the children.

As children grow and develop within these areas, this will help them to naturally develop the skills within the four specific areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understand the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and our aim is to encourage a love of reading from the beginning. Children are exposed to a range of books which will develop oracy, vocabulary and comprehension. Each week a vocabulary rich text is chosen as an English focus and then planned activities linked to the text are available for the children to access independently. The aim is for children to internalise the new vocabulary and language patterns to be able to retell stories.

In phonics we follow the Read Write Inc programme to ensure all children have phonological awareness to identify different sounds and can recognise rhyme. The aim is for children to leave Year R reading green books in phonics. Children are encouraged to read at home daily and visit the school library each week to select their own book. They are given books in school which match their current phonic knowledge and from the spring term are also given key words to practise.

Mathematics is taught using the NCETM progression maps as guidance for the key skills needed. There is a daily maths session and a purposeful maths activity in the classroom with weekly challenges linked to previous learning to consolidate skills. Children have access to a range of physical resources to support their maths including number lines, five frames, and pictorial representations. From the spring term, we also incorporate a 15 minutes maths session daily. The aim of this is to develop a strong number sense and focus on developing a good sense of number.

Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design are taught through providing exciting, purposeful and contextual activities to build on the children's natural curiosity. Children are encouraged to use subject specific language and terminology which has been modelled to them as they explore the environment and test out their own ideas.

Our inclusive approach means that all children learn together, but we have a range of additional intervention and support for children who may not be reaching their potential, or are showing a greater depth of understanding and need further challenge. This includes, for example, sessions for developing speech and language, social skills, fine motor skills, phonics, and mathematics.