



Reckleford School

Early Years Foundation Stage

Curriculum Booklet

2018-2019



The Early Years Foundation Stage

Starting school is a very big step for your child. This booklet aims to support you in understanding the Early Years Foundation Stage and how we manage the curriculum at Reckleford School. The transition to school is most effective when parents, teachers and children work closely together, sharing their achievements and experiences. In this booklet we have outlined ways in which you can help your child make progress at home and school across all the areas of learning.



Learning with your child at home

We really value the learning that takes place at home. There are several ways you can help to share with us.

Tapestry

All parents will be given a personal log-in to Tapestry which is our on-line record of your child's learning journey. As well as being able to access your child's learning journal, parents are also able to upload photos and comments of their child's learning and achievements at home. This gives us a really valuable insight into your child's interests and successes that we don't see in school.

Reading Rainbow

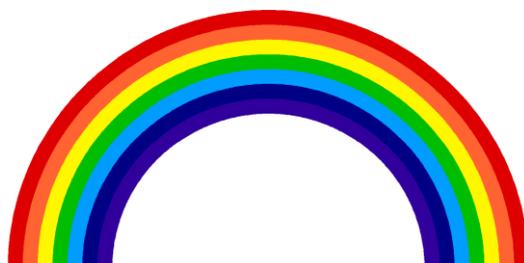
Your child will bring home a book to read from school. We will expect your child to read daily- including weekends and holidays. Please sign your child's reading record each time you read or share a book together. For each 10 signed reads at home, your child will receive a certificate, one for each colour of the rainbow. When they have completed the rainbow they receive a special Reading Ambassadors badge in celebration assembly. Once a Reading Ambassador, the reading journey continues with special ambassador challenges and treats in school.

Learning with your child at school

Each term we will invite you into school to learn alongside your child. We will let you know these dates in our newsletters.

Homework

Along with our reading expectations, your child will have key word lists to learn to read and spell in their homework books. We will also send home maths activities and games on a regular basis.



The Curriculum

During the Early Years Foundation Stage, your child will be learning from a broad and balanced curriculum covering the following areas.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self Confidence and Self Awareness

It is important that children develop a positive attitude to learning that will continue with them during their time at school and throughout life. We will encourage the children to engage in a range of different activities that will motivate them to make choices, develop curiosity and extend their concentration.

What you can do to help

Try to extend the length of time your child will play with a toy or game by playing together with them. We love to hear about family days out or special occasions so encourage your child to come to school and share what they have been doing at home.

Making Relationships

We will continue to teach the children how to share and take turns so that they can cooperate well with other children and adults and form good relationships. We will help the children to understand their beliefs and customs and to value themselves. We will also encourage them to learn that other people have different beliefs and customs and that it is fine to be different.

How you can help

Sharing and taking turns is a difficult skill to learn and one that needs to be modelled clearly and consistently before children will do this independently. When your child is playing with other children they may get upset because they want to play with a toy another child has, or they may snatch a toy. Make sure you help your child to find a solution to the problem. For example, you might say 'J had that toy first, so you need to give it back.' Ask him if you can have a turn 'in a minute.' Encouraging children to resolve situations by talking with each other will help them to be able to resolve issues like that independently in the future.

Managing Feelings and Behaviour

The children will continue to develop an awareness of their needs, views and feelings and also consider the needs, views and feeling of others. There will always be opportunity for the children to take pride in their identity and their achievements. We will teach them to understand a range of emotions and how to express these appropriately.

How you can help.

Talk to your child about how they feel in certain situations and how other people may feel. In school we talk about being happy, sad, cross, excited and worried.

The rules you have at home will be different to the ones we have at school, but rewarding positive behaviour and reinforcing the rules we have in school will help your child to settle quickly and understand what is expected of them.



Communication and Language, Listening and Attention

How can you help?

The everyday conversations that you have with your child at home help them to develop their early language skills. Listen and talk to them about the things that interest them. Involve them in the day to day activities in the home and encourage them to reflect and talk about what they are doing.

Physical Development

How can you help?

Just by keeping your child active you are helping them in this area of development. Teaching them to throw, roll, kick and catch a ball, taking them swimming and to the park, for example, will naturally teach them about movement and space.

We will talk to you about letter formation-getting it right at an early age really helps children in their writing. It is important to encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly. There is also the opportunity to develop their finger strength, through activities like drawing, painting, writing in the sand, threading beads, cutting and sticking.-strong fingers help writers!

It would be particularly useful if your child has a pair of scissors at home so they can practise cutting and how to hold the scissors safely when they are walking from place to place.

Health and Self Care

What can you do to help.

Make sure your child goes to bed early enough. They need their sleep, particularly when big changes are taking place, such as starting school. Many children find the first term very tiring. Teach your child how to wash their hands properly with soap as there won't always be a teacher in the toilets to help the children when they are in school. Encourage your child to get dressed themselves in the morning. It is a good confidence boost if they can be independent. This includes being able to do up buttons, zips and also being able to put on socks and shoes. Talk about which foods are healthy and which are unhealthy.

Literacy

Reading

How can you help?

Singing songs, reading rhymes, poems and stories will help develop your child's awareness of rhyme and rhythm. Playing "eye spy" with the letter sounds will help them to hear and say the sounds at the beginning of words.

If you are unsure of how to pronounce the letter sounds, then please come and see us. We will also be holding a meeting in September to explain our approach to teaching reading at Reckleford School.

Enjoy reading stories with your child. Talk to them about the characters and what is happening in the story. Be prepared to read your child's favourite stories over and over again! At first your child may not be able to read the words, but they will be able to use picture cues and make sense of the story structure. Begin to look for familiar and common words and read them together.

Writing

How can you help?

Encourage your child to write at home. Involve them when writing cards to friends, ask them to help write the shopping list, or write labels. At first they may only make marks but these will emerge into words as their sounds as knowledge develops. Please value their mark making as it is an important part of the writing process. Please help your child to write their names with a capital letter at the beginning and the rest in lower case letters please encourage them to use the correct formation and orientation. If you are unsure about how we do them, please come and ask us.

Maths

Number

What you can do to help

You can play simple board games, card games and puzzles. Look for numbers in the local environment, such as door numbers and the numbers on buses. Your child could count objects in the home that you need for a given purpose, such as, knives and forks for dinner, or count enough biscuits so that everyone has one. If your child is interested in writing numbers down at home, please encourage them to use the correct formation and orientation. If you are unsure about how we do them, please come and ask us.

Learning mathematical language is difficult to grasp at an early age because much of it isn't used in everyday talk. This means we need to keep 'drip feeding' the language so the children become familiar with it. You can help your child by using mathematical language such as, more, less, fewer, add, take away, subtract, share, estimate, how many altogether, total.

Shape, Space and Measures

What you can do to help

You can help your child to learn the names and properties of 2D (flat) shapes, by discussing whether they are big or small, how many corners or sides they have, whether they are long or short, curved or straight. You can do the same with 3D (solid) shapes by discussing the number of faces in the shape and whether they are flat or curved. You could count the number of edges and discuss whether they are straight or curved. You can help your child understand measure and position by encouraging the use of the language we will use in school. Making models from boxes and construction kits are fantastic for reinforcing your child's understanding of shapes.



Understanding the World

The World

Help them to enjoy the local environment in which they live. Visit Ninesprings, Yeovil Library, walk through town and encourage them to observe different features and ask questions about what they see. Look at the leaves on the trees and how they change with the seasons.



Technology

What you can do to help:

Children from an early age can use technology-ipads/tablets/phones for learning and entertainment. Show your child how to handle equipment safely. Teach them how to stay safe when they are online and monitor carefully the materials they are using. We place a huge emphasis on e-safety in school. We can give you information on age suitable websites. Please ask.

People and Communities

What you can do to help

Encourage them to show an interest in their family structure and also be interested in things they have done in the past, for example, remembering a holiday experience or the birth of a baby in the family. Teach your child about the features in their local area. They may differ from other children in the class which makes an interesting discussion point. They are often very interested in the different houses people live in and different jobs people do. Be clear about the routines you have as a family, for example, you may take your shoes off before you go inside the house, another family may not. Your child will then begin to see that everyone is different and that it is fine to do things differently to others.



Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and Using Media and Materials

What you can do to help.

We will send home a lot of their creations, so talking about and valuing the work they have done will encourage them to become more involved at school. We will also encourage the children to bring in creations they have made at home to show us. Ask questions that will encourage your child to share their ideas and to develop their descriptive vocabulary. We will very often use open questions like 'Can you tell me about what you have made/ painted/ built/ drawn?'

Being Imaginative

How you can help.

Knowing a range of songs and nursery rhymes will give them a head start as we always start the beginning of term familiarising the children with these.

Encourage your child to make sense of their environment by role-playing their first hand experiences with them. For example: a trip to the beach or the shops. Read them a range of stories to develop their imagination. Dressing up in old clothes, scarves and hats is always great fun!

