

# Welcome to the Foundation Unit

We have two nursery rooms – one for children who are 2 years old and one for 3 year olds.  
We have a room for children who are in the Reception year.

There are three teachers in the unit:

Mrs Henshaw, who teaches Reception and is also the Early Years coordinator,

Mrs Leaf, who teaches Reception children

Mrs Wibberley, who teaches the children in the three year old unit.

We have three early years practitioners in the 2 year room: Mrs Martin, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Dunn.

Each term we ask parents for a voluntary contribution of £2 per child.  
We use this money to buy snacks for the children. Activities such as spreading toast and making sandwiches help to develop the children's independence.  
We also use the money to buy baking ingredients and we have a weekly baking session.

We use an on line Learning Journal called Tapestry which is very popular with our parents.  
Teachers and parents can add photos and comments to the child's Learning Journal. It is a very effective way of communicating between home and school. The staff always enjoy sharing the experiences that the children have had at home.

## Organization

The children are taught in groups according to their needs and level of development.

During a session your child is likely to experience whole class, small group and individual teaching.

The children enjoy extended periods of carefully planned play activities indoors and outdoors.

We are very lucky to have a wonderful outdoor space for our children with plenty of opportunities to experience activities such as riding on wheeled toys and playing with bats and balls.

We have areas where the children can help with gardening and growing produce to eat.

The children also get the opportunity to visit the Forest and to learn to ride a pedal bike.

The Early Years Curriculum is focused on seven areas of learning.  
All of the activities we plan are based around these seven areas of learning.

The areas of learning are:

Communication and language

This focuses on your child's listening and attention skills, their spoken language and their understanding of language.

Physical development

This is the development of skills such as control and balance, running and jumping and also fine motor skills such as using a pencil and scissors.

This area of learning is also concerned with self care skills such as being able to dress independently and knowing about healthy food to eat.

Personal, social and emotional development

Developing self confidence, being able to manage feelings and behaviour and also being able to play and cooperate with other children.

Literacy

The development of early reading and writing skills

Mathematics

Learning about numbers, shape and measures

Expressive arts and design

Singing, dancing, art work, drama

Understanding of the World

Learning about the natural world. Finding out about other communities and traditions.

Technology – using technology to support their learning.

Reading and phonics are of prime importance to a child's early learning and we place a strong emphasis on developing early literacy skills. All children have a daily phonics lesson. In Nursery this is about hearing sounds in words and enjoying rhymes and stories. When children are ready we start to teach them about the sounds letters make. We do this through the use of songs and actions.

In Nursery, children will take home books to share with an adult, so that they can learn to talk about the pictures. In Reception, children take home books which will have simple words that they can begin to read when they know some letter sounds. We ask that you share the books at home with your child and write some feedback in the learning together book that will also come home with the reading book.

Our Foundation Unit is a very happy place!

Every day there are exciting activities for children to enjoy. We enhance this with special activities, visitors and trips out of school as much as possible.

We are a very friendly, caring team of staff and someone will always be available if you need to talk to us about your child.