

## Curriculum Overview – Reception Cherry Class

The curriculum that we deliver in the reception class meets the requirements set out in the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage. This sets out the standards that must be met to ensure that children learn and develop well, are healthy and safe. Children develop skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. These areas are divided into the 'Prime' and 'Specific' areas of learning.

The **3 'Prime' areas of learning** focus on developing the skills that children need for healthy development and to become effective learners. These areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As children grow, the Prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 'Specific' areas**, which are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan children's learning and activities. It is designed to be flexible so that staff can follow the needs and interests of the children. Children in the EYFS learn through playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

You can download a guide to the EYFS framework and what typical development looks like in each area of learning from <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/>

Each term we hold 'Stay and Play with Me' mornings, where parents are invited to spend some time in class and see the children's learning in action.

## Topics in Class

The wonderful thing about the EYFS curriculum is that it is specifically designed to work around the interests and needs of that particular class. We take our lead from the children's passions and interests, theming our teaching around them to ensure that children really engage with their learning. As we cannot know what will motivate and inspire the children as they move through the year, we have moved from fixed topics to following the interests of the children across the year.

There are, however familiar themes which arise each year, although we may explore them in different ways. Over the course of the year, our learning may well be based around some of these common themes:

- Me & My Family
- Autumn
- Christmas
- Snow
- Spring
- Growing (Plants and animals)
- Around the world
- Summer
- Fairy tales and traditional stories

The school newsletter is published weekly and gives information about what the children have been learning in class that week. Each class produces a half termly newsletter with details of upcoming events and possible learning journeys for the period.

Reading: We use a variety of books when the children are first learning to read, including Dandelion Launchers, Bugclub, Songbirds & Big Cat Phonics. Once all children are on the reading scheme their books are changed weekly. Reception staff hear the children read during the week so book bags should be in school every day.

Phonics: We follow the Letters and Sounds phonics programme. Children have a daily phonics session where they are introduced to and taught how to use the sounds in a lively and hands on way. Each child will be given a 'phonics book' into which the sounds taught that week are stuck and this will be sent home on a Friday. This website [www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com) contains games and resources which you can use to support your child at home. A parent information session, giving further details of how we teach phonics at St Mary's, is held in the Autumn term.