



St Nicolas Primary – RECEPTION OCTOBER 2022

At St Nicolas School our vision is to journey together and live life to the full.

Our St Nicolas Early Years Curriculum Intent

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which **NAVIGATES** each child through their learning. It is underpinned by our four overriding principles as set out in the EYFS which we intend to uphold in everything we do:

- Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environment
- Learning and Development

Our curriculum is designed to nurture learning behaviours to help children to succeed, with a passion and desire to learn through the concepts of **Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning**:

- ✓ *Creating and thinking critically* – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things
- ✓ *Active learning* – children keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy their achievement.
- ✓ *Playing and exploring* – children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’

Furthermore, our intent is to:

- ✓ Embed a love of learning and being curious: we provide a curriculum that is inspiring, creative and engaging which challenges children to think, ask questions, problem solve and take risks.
- ✓ Offer a text-rich curriculum which enhances learning, supports communication skills and makes links with their learning to build knowledge.
- ✓ Build strong positive partnership through effective communication between home and school valuing all contributions made by staff and parents.
- ✓ Support children to cope with emotions through co-regulating which leads onto self-regulating.
- ✓ Enable children to repair and resolve friendship issues independently.
- ✓ Enable children to reflect on their own goals by aiming high and developing a love for reading, writing and number.
- ✓ Enable children to be energetic and motivated to keep active and to promote importance of healthy lifestyles.
- ✓ Provide a secure solid foundation based on deepening key concepts and gaining the knowledge skills and understanding across all areas for success.
- ✓ Challenge each and every child so they can achieve their potential across all areas and to support those with barriers to learning.

Our St Nicolas Early Years Curriculum Implementation

Our Reception team, uses their knowledge of the children, their deep subject knowledge and consistent high expectations to provide (**inspiration** and) **challenge** for all through:

- **A curriculum which is broad and balanced and which NAVIGATES and builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills of all children**, from individual starting points. Pre-school setting visits, SEND home visits in the Summer term prior to their start; home visits and some staggered visits in September ensure we ‘hit the ground running’ in knowing each child’s starting point.
- An Early Years curriculum that uses a combination of ‘in the moment’ planning based on child’s interest, knowledge-rich themes and enrichment opportunities. The emphasis being on progress **by knowing and remembering more**.
- **A curriculum that INSPIRES our children** through themes using a text-rich curriculum and meaningful learning experiences with links and visits within our Abingdon community. Visits to the library, local woods, museum and teaching life skills such as sewing, gardening and regular cooking skills all develop children’s characteristics of learning. Outdoor learning is fundamental and our loose parts play, climbing equipment, mud kitchen, forest school

sessions or RealPE lessons are examples of how we repeatedly promote physical development for gross motor movement skills.

- ✓ **CHALLENGE for all** as we equip the children with essential key skills, knowledge, concepts and values through quality first teaching. Implemented the SSP, Rocket Phonics; Mastering Number provides a secure solid foundation based on deepening key concepts and gaining the knowledge skills and understanding across all areas for **SUCCESS**.
- **Daily differentiated lessons**, taught through SSP Rocket Phonics; continuous provision where phonics activities are available for children to consolidate and extend phonic skills and knowledge.
- **High quality interactions with adults that demonstrate and impact on the progress of all** children. Staff have a deep understanding on how their key person children learn, what they enjoy and know their next steps across the curriculum. The reception team interact closely with children during child-led activities to develop restorative language and promote self-regulation. We also carry out positive behaviour reinforcements throughout the year such as whole class promise 'Wise Words', class rewards, 'Wiggly' system. We also promote self-regulation through use of Zones of Regulation practices.
- Develop **an effective and engaging environment** that is set up so that children can access all areas of learning both inside and outside at any one time.
- **Speech, language and communication opportunities** are provided through the practice of Helicopter stories, the Poetry Basket, talk partners, show and tell and in the moment 'chats'. Sand and water play has been invested in as prime areas for encouraging talk and fine motor skills.
- **Careful assessment opportunities** through observations, which are recorded on tapestry and shared with parents and children. These are used to inform the next steps of learning and meet individual needs. Term 1 and 2 Focus child with parental input.
- **Home learning opportunities** that allow children to build on their school experiences at home. This is done in weekly home challenges and Parent Workshops that focus on specific areas (phonics/maths/early writing over the year). Each child receive a writing pack and staff share Tapestry videos on how to use it effectively. Knowledge mats are shared with families to support the children as they navigate the theme.
- Ensure that staff are equipped with the **necessary professional development** to deliver our curriculum. All staff members are invited to attend termly local Early Years twilight workshops and regular local partnership Forums. Regular updates and good practices are shared at fortnight team meetings. Safeguarding is discussed in each team and all staff are up to date with training.
- An **Early Years leader** who leads and monitors teaching and learning to improve standards and outcomes alongside the Headteacher.
- A **link governor** who liaises with the lead in order to monitor and improve standards, 3 meetings in an academic year.

Our St Nicolas Early Years Curriculum Impact

The impact of our curriculum can be seen in the individual **SUCCESSSES** of each child and measured through:

- Evidence of children's achievements are recorded in Online Learning Journeys using Tapestry
- Class teachers make formative assessments which inform in the moment or future planning and ensure that all children build on their current knowledge and skills at a good pace
- Judgements are moderated both in school and externally with local Partnership schools
- Children are ready to transition from the Early Years curriculum to the National Curriculum in Year 1 – steps are taken for those continuing the EYFS in Autumn y1 term.
- Children demonstrate curiosity, independence, resilience and other characteristics of effective learning.
- Children display a positive attitude and disposition to learning. They are fully engaged in both play and adult-initiated learning activities.