



Crowmoor Primary School

Foundation Stage



BEECH CLASS

Information Booklet



At Crowmoor we believe that children are always most successful when they know that parents and teachers are working together in partnership for their interest.

Our Major Objectives:

~To introduce children to school, making them feel happy, secure and valued as individuals.

~To introduce children to the concept of 'learning' in a fun and practical way.

~To provide a differentiated curriculum that meets the needs of each pupil in terms of his/her social, emotional and academic ability.

~To provide a curriculum that systematically develops the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy, whilst at the same time increases general knowledge and understanding of the world through cross-curricular topics.

The 'Foundation Stage' Curriculum

We believe that Early Years education is a valuable and vital introduction to school life. It welcomes, settles, nurtures and prepares children for the subsequent years in school.

Research shows that young children learn most effectively through play and through first hand practical experience. We firmly believe that this is true and use this knowledge as the basis for everything we do. The Foundation Stage classes provide a variety of creative, malleable, writing, investigative, building, modelling and physical activities as well as literacy and maths games, books, jigsaws and musical instruments. Children also learn how to use IT including programmable toys and computers. Both our Nursery and Reception classes have the benefit of a purpose built outdoor play area. The play that takes place outside is carefully planned and well-resourced so that children can develop the same skills and knowledge that we promote inside.

The children have the opportunity to play out daily, both in the morning and the afternoon in all weathers.

There are seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

1. Personal, Social & Emotional Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication & Language
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding of the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

These areas of learning and development cannot be delivered in isolation from the others. They are all equally important and delivered through planned, purposeful play opportunities with a careful balance between adult-led and child initiated activity. We access these areas through half-termly or termly topics.

The Foundation Stage Profile

The Foundation Stage Profile is a statutory assessment for children in Reception that specifies Early Learning Goals in all seven learning areas above which the Government expect children to meet at the end of their Reception year. It provides evidence of the specific steps in learning that children have achieved and has to be completed by the teacher during the child's Reception year. There are no specific tests or tasks until the end of the year where we use specific reading and maths tests in line with the rest of school. Instead, we use photographic evidence and written observations of children as they play every day, along with samples of their work and information from parents. These allow us to make judgements about the specific learning of each individual child and how we can develop their learning in the future.

Learning to Read:

During the first years at school, your child will start to learn to read. There are several stages to this process, and at each stage, the help and support of parents will play a vital role in the child's progress.

As your child moves into Reception:

~ We will be teaching letter sounds following the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. This is a phonetic approach to learning, which focuses heavily on children being able to hear sounds at the beginning, end, then middle of words, before moving on to blending those sounds together. It is **extremely important** that your child learns the sound that is associated with each letter and not its orthodox letter name (these will be learnt later in the year).

~ During the first week, the children will be given a reading record book for both staff and parents to write regular comments in. They will also be given sound cards to practice at home, as we learn them in class; a Jolly Phonics Letters & Sounds booklet will also help you learn the action linked with each sound. Your child will be reassessed on sounds previously learnt, so it is important to recap occasionally too. Please ensure your child's sound cards are kept in their plastic zip bag, inside their book-bag and brought to school every day.

~ As well as initially having a self-chosen book from our book corner your child will begin our reading scheme books. These books are colour banded and your child will start at the cream band of books that are wordless, just to help form good reading habits. As they move on to books with words, it is even more important that children are heard read regularly. We would recommend that you try to hear your child read most days. Please remember to record this in their yellow reading records.

Handwriting:

The main aims during this year are for children to form lower case letters correctly and making sure that the size and proportions of all letters and the spaces between letters and words are consistent and even. As Crowmoor uses the continuous cursive script throughout the school, this will be taught from Reception.

Physical Development:

The children will have access to PE lessons each week. Please ensure that kit is provided including footwear. For safety jewellery must not be worn and long hair must be secured back.

Letters:

Any letters that need sending home will be in your child's book-bag. Please check your child's book-bag daily for letters and messages. If your child is absent, we will keep a letter for them and forward it to you on their return. We would however prefer any letters you send in, are handed directly to us.

You will receive a class newsletter each term showing the term's activities so that you will be able to support at home and encourage your child to bring in relevant items linked to the topic.

Snacks:

All children in Foundation Stage will receive a piece of free fruit or vegetable for their snack.

This will be eaten along with their milk or water during snack time. Milk is free until your child reaches the age of 5.

Children are not allowed to bring their own snacks to school.

Toys:

It is recommended that all personal toys are kept at home or handed back to parents/carers on arrival at school to avoid any potential issues with loss or damage.

Finally...

We hope that you have found this booklet informative and that it has answered many of the questions that you may have had. However, if you need clarification on anything at all please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher - Miss Barbara Jones - either on the playground after school or by appointment via the Office.

Our aim is to provide an environment in which your child can develop into a creative independent learner, where they will be excited and motivated by all the opportunities presented to them and become an active member of the family that is Crowmoor School.