



Crowmoor Primary School Foundation Stage



ACORN & 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. 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.

Instead, for both Nursery and Reception 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. Our assessment is done through careful and sensitive observations of children and through talking to parents.

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 all stages, the help and support of parents will play a vital role in the child's progress.

~When your child first starts school, he/she will have a book-bag for carrying books between home and school. At this early stage your child will bring home a free choice reading book which we encourage you to share. For this we ask you to read the books to, as well as with your child. An important part at this stage is when the child 'pretends' to read the book by turning the pages, looking at the pictures and telling the story. Children also learn to memorise the text, so it is important to ensure that your child points to every word in turn as he/she 'reads' it.

As your child moves into Reception (Beech Class);

~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 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.

~ During the first few weeks, the children will be given a reading record book for both staff and parents to write regular comments in. They will also be given a set of sound cards to practice at home, which will be linked to the sounds we are learning in class; a Letters & Sounds booklet will also help you learn the action linked with each sound. Please ensure your child's current sound cards are kept in

their plastic wallet, in their book-bag. Your child will also be reassessed on sounds previously learnt so it is important to recap occasionally too.

~ Your child will begin our reading scheme books, these books are colour banded and your child will start at the cream band of books. Children will be heard read regularly, we would recommend that you try to hear your child read most days. Please remember to record this in their 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.

In both Acorn and Beech classes;

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 to be sent home will be placed 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 to be given directly to us.

You will receive a class newsletter each term showing the terms 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:

We are part of the National School Fruit Scheme. This means that all children in Foundation Stage will receive a piece of free fruit or vegetable for their morning snack (or afternoon if attending afternoon Nursery sessions). Children are not allowed to bring their own snacks to school.

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

Toys:

In Nursery for the first half term a favourite teddy or whatever comforter your child has, may be helpful but only if absolutely necessary. Once settled, we ask that no toys or precious items come to school. We do encourage children to bring items of interest for our topics. Sometimes a change in routine at home - e.g. new baby or emotional upset - may mean a sudden return to a comforter. Please inform us of any known change in home life which may cause upset in the knowledge that this will be treated confidentially.

And 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 your class teacher.

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.

Mrs Lindsey Woodfine & Mrs Rebecca Ross (Nursery) Miss Barbara Jones, Mrs Holly Smith & Mrs Rachel Fairclough (Reception).