



# 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. Whilst in Beech Class the children are provided with 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 learn how to use IT including programmable toys and computers. Beech Class also has 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-led 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 17 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 their first year 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.

~ We will be teaching phonics following the 'Twinkl Phonics' scheme. 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. Whilst learning to read, it is important to focus on the **sound** the letters make, rather than the letter names. Letter names will be learnt later in the scheme.

~ 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. 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 banded according to the stage of phonics your child is working at. Initially your child will start

with a wordless book, focusing on telling the story and forming good reading habits - turning pages correctly, making predictions etc. As they move on to books with words, it is even more important that children are heard read regularly to build fluency. 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 ensure that the size and proportions of all letters and the spaces between letters and words are consistent and even. The children are initially taught print to ensure correct formation and will progress to continuous cursive when ready, in line with the rest of school.

### **Physical Development:**

The children will have access to PE lessons each week. Please ensure children attend school dressed in school PE kit on their specific PE days. 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. An overview of each term's activities is shared on the class information page of the website so that you will be able to support at home and encourage your child to bring in relevant items linked to the topic. A Weekly Newsletter is also posted on the Class Page and the school newsletter which you can sign up to on the school website.

### **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.

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 either on the playground after school or by appointment via the Office.