

Nursery

The Nursery is plentifully resourced and full use is made of these in our policy of 'learning through play'. Children in the Nursery range in age from 3 to 4. We follow the Foundation Stage National Curriculum implemented by the Department of Education in 2001. We cover the following six areas of the curriculum:

- Personal, Social and Emotional
- Communication
- Language and Literacy
- Physical
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Mathematics

Personal, Social and Emotional: This involves the ability to look after oneself and to have self-esteem which is encouraged through fostered independence and praise for achievement. Children are encouraged to convey their emotions and to socialise with each other. Their views are listened to and respected.

Communication: Communication skills are nurtured through all of the other activities put together. Children are given the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of ways, through speech, through movement, through art, and increasingly through developing literacy.

Language and Literacy: Skills in this area are gained through talking, teaching new words and learning the alphabet. Children have an alphabet book which they will take home after inserting one letter each week. Once the letters and sounds are recognised the children have the opportunity to learn to read within our reading scheme.

Physical: Each week there is a Physical Education session in which different apparatus is used. Children learn to kick, throw and roll balls and how to exercise different parts of their bodies. In the summer term they prepare for Sports Day with team games, running and balancing.

Mathematics: Weekly sessions are held in two groups, each group with its own member of staff. The children must be familiar with numbers up to ten before leaving the Nursery and some may be able to do simple addition and subtraction.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World: Weekly 'show and tell' sessions are held where children are able to bring in items for discussion. These could be a colour, a shape, a letter or an object on a theme such as 'growing'. They talk about their items and why they have brought them in. The opportunity to talk about experiences on holiday and trips, or about anything of interest to them, is provided and this helps to increase their knowledge and understanding of what happens around them.

It is important that we cater for the needs of every child. We are advocates of inclusive education which means that we will look at the individual needs of each child and cater for them in our planning. All through the Nursery Year we assess children on number and alphabet and observe them regularly so that we are up to date with their requirements.

All of our activities take place inside and immediately outside the Nursery building, apart from PE for which we use the Main School sports hall, a short walk away. The covered play area is used every day of the year as some children learn better in an outdoor environment and fresh air is vital for their well-being. We mirror the indoor and outdoor activities so that each child can choose where they would like to play and learn. Choice is very important in allowing children to become independent and also to expand their creativity. It has been found that children whose creativity is valued and respected learn much better both now and in the future. We like to have a happy, secure environment in which the children feel comfortable and welcomed.