



Welcome to the Early Years at Devonshire Primary School.

Devonshire has a morning Nursery class of 26 children and three Reception classes of 30 children.

We believe that every child should be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be successful life-long learners.



Our aim is to foster a love of learning, and to help children to become enthusiastic learners by providing a topic based approach which is led by the children's needs and interests. Children enjoy a play based curriculum and are able to engage with the carefully planned and well-resourced learning environment. Their learning takes place inside and outside the classroom and there is a balance of child initiated activities as well as adult supported activities where the children engage in specific learning and practise skills. The teaching of reading and phonics is given high value, instilling a life-long love of reading and equipping children with the skills to grow into fluent readers.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2021 which sets the standards for the learning, development and care of our pupils.

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape our Early Years curriculum. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Prime Areas

These Prime Areas are essential to build strong foundations for all future learning. They are given high priority to ensure all children are equipped with the skills needed to be successful learners across the curriculum

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Inter-connected with the 7 areas of learning are the Characteristics of Effective Learning



- **playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things and 'have a go.'
- **active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Four guiding principles shape our Early Years curriculum:

- Every child is a **unique child**

We understand that every child is unique, has their own interests and their own individual ways to learn. We ensure that we get to know each child quickly as they join us so that we can support their development appropriately.

We endeavour to make transitions to us as smooth as possible by holding 'Stay and Play' sessions where we can work with parents to find out as much information as possible about each individual child. We use this information to ensure that children's interests and needs are catered for within the environment.



- Children learn through **positive relationships** with staff and peers
We support children in forming positive, trusting relationships with both adults and peers. We recognise the importance of forming attachments so that children feel safe and secure and know who they can turn to for help and support. These positive attachments are important to underpin learning and development across the EYFS curriculum.

- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments** with teaching and support from adults
Our environments have been developed to allow children to select and use resources they need to encourage independent learning supported by skilled adults. Our environments are welcoming and well organised to allow children to lead their own learning across the EYFS curriculum.



- Children **learn and develop** at different rates
Children have the opportunity to consolidate their learning and extend their understanding through child-initiated play which is supported by familiar adults. Learning experiences are designed around a half termly theme in combination with children's interests. We recognise that children learn and develop at different rates and ensure that children are supported to achieve their next steps for learning.

The EYFS Curriculum at Devonshire Primary School

- Half termly themes are used in conjunction with children's interests to ensure children have access to learning across all educational programmes in the EYFS framework.
- Communication and Language underpins all learning within the EYFS. Children are supported to develop strong skills across all Prime Areas of Learning.



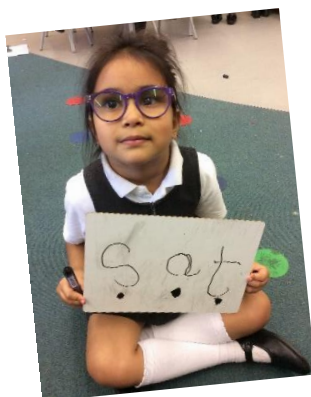
- The teaching of early maths and phonics is highly effective, ensuring children make rapid progress to be successful as they move to Year 1. Reading, writing and mathematical opportunities are embedded across the provision alongside other areas of learning.
- Children take great enjoyment from their learning and are actively involved in leading their learning through play-based opportunities and high-quality interactions with staff who have a strong understanding of the EYFS framework.
- Children have opportunities to embed and extend their learning through play.



- Children are supported with their emotional wellbeing in a caring and nurturing environment and form strong, warm attachments with staff and peers. Every child is included and supported to develop to their full potential.
 - Parental partnerships are greatly valued. Parents have daily face to face contact, parent consultation meetings, and weekly newsletter updates, outlining 'The Week Ahead'.

Assessment in the Early Years

Assessment is ongoing throughout the Early Years. From September 2021 all schools are required to take part in the 'Statutory Baseline Assessments, which will happen during the first six weeks of starting school.



At the end of Reception, the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is completed for each child. The children are assessed against the 17 Early Learning Goals, covering each area of learning and development. Judgements are based on ongoing observations and assessments carried out by the EYFS staff throughout the year.



Pupils will be awarded one of these levels for each Early Learning Goal:

- Emerging - not yet reaching the expected levels for their age.
- Expected – working at the expected levels for their age.

Learning Journey

You child's learning journey celebrates their learning during their time in the EYFS. It will tell the story of your child's learning, the activities they enjoy, and their time with their friends.



Staff will take photos and make observations of your child to build a full picture of your child as an individual with special interests, skills and ideas.

