

Nursery Parents Handbook



Much Hadham

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St Andrew's EYFS Vision Statement

Our Vision in Early Years at St Andrew's is to meet the needs of each individual child. We work hard to ensure we promote and celebrate independence, difference and inclusivity. We believe there are no glass ceilings for our children and work as a strong team to provide a nurturing teaching and learning environment, in order to help children be the best that they can be. We work closely with parents and carers to ensure we get to know the whole child and form close working relationships in order to provide support.

In our Early Years we strive and encourage our children to live 'Life In All Its Fullness' and to be:

Valued

Heard

Curious

Creative

Independent

Problem solvers

Good citizens

Accepting

Equal

Inquisitive

And believe that anything is possible.



Daily Routine

8.45 – 9.00 am Children should be dropped off to the Nursery classroom door.
Registration - If for any reason your child is late you must sign them in at the School office.
Doors and gates are locked at 9.00 am

If your child is ill and unable to attend school please contact the school office on 01279 842626 before 9.30 am.

Once they enter the classroom they need to:

- * Hang their coat on their peg independently
- * Put their book bag in the book bag box independently

9.00 - 9.20 Adult Directed whole class activity.

9.20 - 11.30 Group work/Child Initiated Learning (CIL) during this time children can choose from the activities on offer. Potential learning is available through all the activities provided, both indoors and outdoors. The children are encouraged to vary their choices of activities and to challenge themselves. Staff will lead particular activities during this time and also carry out observations of the children. Children will have snack during the course of this morning. This may be as a whole class or in groups.

11.30 – 12.00 Story time and Surprise Box

12.00 Children are collected at the top playground by parents or lunch club staff.

The Foundation Stage

Your child will be following the Foundation Stage Curriculum which is made up of 7 areas of learning and development, 3 prime areas of learning development and 4 specific areas of learning.

Area of Learning and Development	Aspect
Prime Areas	
Communication and Language	Listening, Attention and Understanding
	Speaking
Personal, Social and Emotional	Self-regulation
	Managing behavior
	Building Relationships
Physical Development	Gross Motor Skills
	Fine Motor Skills
Specific Areas	
Literacy	Comprehension
	Word Reading
	Writing
Mathematics	Number
	Numerical Pattern
Understanding the World	Past and Present
	People, Culture and Communities
	The Natural World
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with materials
	Being imaginative and Expressive

These subjects may be taught together or separately, but the most important part of the Foundation Stage is instilling a feeling of enthusiasm for learning and curiosity of the world, and having fun!

Characteristics of effective learning - describe the different ways children learn rather than what they learn.

The three Characteristics of Effective Learning comprise

- playing and exploring,
- active learning and
- creating and thinking critically.

They begin at birth and are lifelong characteristics which are critical for building children's capacity for future learning. These characteristics need to be understood by practitioners working across all seven Areas of Learning.

It is important that the Characteristics of Learning underpin the prime and specific curriculum areas and are specifically planned for. Skills such as independence, curiosity, resilience, collaboration, and reflection are critical for success as a 21st century learner.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) includes Nursery and Reception who follow similar curriculums. Year 1 and Year 2 are known as Key Stage 1. Years 3, 4, 5, 6 are known as Key Stage 2.



Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, story-telling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

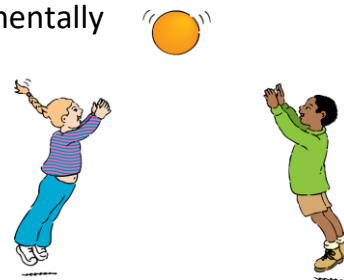
Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.



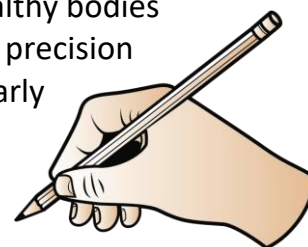
PSED is taught throughout all elements of the Early Years Curriculum at St Andrews. But we also have a programme called JIGSAW in which the children will sit down for 'Calm me' time and think about themselves and their world. Themes include 'Being Me', 'Celebrating Difference', 'Dreams and Goals', 'Healthy Me', 'Relationships' and 'Changing Me.'

Physical development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop



their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy. Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and



the practice of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Some skills are taught specifically during PE but Physical Development is also incorporated into many other subjects. Please ensure your child's name is on all their PE kit. The kit stays at school for each half term unless it specifically needs cleaning. Please put the PE kit in a small bag as there is very little space on the class pegs. Children are encouraged to change independently.

Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).



Stages of Reading Development

1. Telling a story using the pictures and elaborating on a story read to them by an adult
2. Learning the **sound** each letter in the alphabet makes
3. Once they have a good sound knowledge they can begin to apply it to phonetically plausible words (c-a-t, l-o-g)
4. Remembering the shape of the word without needing to 'sound it out' (sometimes called tricky words)
5. Using letter sounds, word knowledge, picture cues, grammatical sense and 'reading on' to decipher text in books.

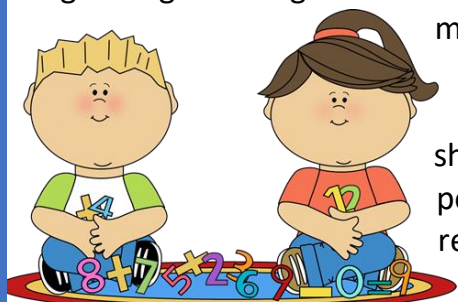
Reading books

Your child will have a Reading Book and Reading Record. These will be used by both you and the adults within the school. It is essential to hear your child read regularly, **preferably every day**. When you hear your child read please record this in their reading record and initial it, so we can change the book for them. Your comments help us greatly and any queries you have will be answered within this record. Please ensure these books are always in school. Any message or additional tasks for your child will be added to this record and it can also be used if you wish to send the teacher a message.



Mathematical Development

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.



Understanding of the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.



This subject incorporates Science, History, Geography, ICT, RE and it is generally taught through topics and seasonal work. You will be informed about the topics.

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.



School Administration

What should my child bring to Nursery everyday?

- Named draw string bag
- Coats and jumpers **with names** (we go outside in all weather!)
- A book bag (to carry sharing book)
- A pair of named wellington boots (these should be left in Nursery so that they are always accessible when we work outside)
- Indoor shoes (to be left at school)
- Shoes and socks that they can easily take on and off

Surprise Box

Show and tell is an important tool to promote speaking and listening in young children. Each child will be allocated a day of the week for them to bring in or share verbally something that is important and special to them.

Other information

Independence Skills

We aim to promote independence in Nursery. It is helpful if children are encouraged to toilet and dress themselves in preparation for and during their time at school. Please speak to a member of staff if your child has additional needs regarding toileting.

Homework- in EYFS this is known as 'Next Step'

Next steps will come home once every two weeks for you to help your child with at home. Their Next Step will be focused on something they are working on in school to support them with their learning and progress.

Queries and Questions

- If you need to ask questions concerning your child the best time is at the end of the session
- By the door there is a communication board for parents to inform us if someone other than a parent is collecting your child from nursery.

Parent Teacher Consultation (PTC) Meetings

In the Autumn and Spring terms there are Parent/Teacher meetings to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. We also offer several opportunities throughout the year to attend events in the setting (e.g. Christmas play, Easter celebration)

Home Visits

All new starters in EYFS, Nursery and Reception, will be offered either a home visit or an invitation to meet your teacher in school. The purpose of this visit is for you and your child to meet your child's new teacher either in school or in the familiar surroundings of your own home to prepare your child for the transition into school. You will be advised of the date and time of the visit by letter.