

Welcome to The Foundation Stage

Welcome!

- The aim of this presentation is to:
 - induct you a little further into the Foundation Stage
 - give you an insight into what happens when the door closes
 - support you in supporting your child



Baseline

- Over the first three weeks we have been / will be getting to know the children, helping them settle in and get used to the daily routines.
- We will also be working through some Baseline activities, these are small group and individual activities that allow us to get to know each child's strengths and weaknesses.
- You may have heard about the 'Statutory Baseline Assessment.' This is an informal, practical assessment that allows us to find out a little more about the children. It is statutory so as a school we have to do it.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

There are 7 areas of learning:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

- All the areas are planned for each week, both through teacher led activities and continuous provision. (This means activities that the children can select – free choice / choosing.)
- Every morning we teach reading, phonics and maths or English. The children complete at least 2 adult led activities and read to a teacher.
- We also complete short activities with the whole class.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

- In the afternoon we teach one or two of the other areas on a timetable. All the children get the same opportunities.
- The children generally have more time for choosing in an afternoon and this is also when we are able to provide interventions for areas that they need more support with.

Reading

- We have personalised Lammack reading records to provide you with ideas, terminology and example words to help you support your child at home.
- We follow a phonics scheme called Little Wandle. The books are matched to the sounds that the children learn. The children begin their reading journey by looking at wordless picture books.
- The children will take home books every week. They will have a library book, home reading books and later in the term a practice reading book, that will be labelled GR.
- The practice reading book is a book that the children have looked at 3 times in school before they bring it home so it is an opportunity for them to show off their skills.

Reading

- Reading is a pleasure. Choose an appropriate time to read which suits your family.
- When reading a book with your child, focus on the words **and** the pictures. Ask **lots** of questions. Help to extend your child's language.
- Read every day! We read with the children everyday in class. It is important to **initial** to show us that your child has read. We value your comments so please feel free to make a comment on one of the extra pages.
- Don't feel it is a race to read the book! We would rather you spent time discussing each page than read the book as quickly as you can. Understanding is really important.
- When we start practice reading there may not be a comment in the reading record every day, this does not mean that we haven't read with the children each day it just means we haven't read the home reading book.

Writing and Phonics

- Phonics is taught everyday in school. The children take part in fun, interactive sessions that introduce new sounds and also revise the sounds already covered. We follow the Little Wandle phonics programme.
- We start by revising the foundations for phonics (Old Phase 1) which most of the children will have been exposed to in nursery. We will then teach the pure sounds.
- There are lots of words that the children will start to learn associated with phonics such as:
 - Phoneme
 - Blend
 - Segment
 - Sound out
 - Digraph

We teach phonics first thing every morning so it vital that the children are in school bright and early.

Writing and Phonics

We will be teaching the children to write. Every child is different and they will all be at varying stages with their development.

Some will just be starting to hold a pen, some will be beginning to hear the first sound in words, some will be writing down CVC words, some will be beginning to write sentences.

We use the sentence format

I can see ..

when we start writing at Lammack as this gives the children the confidence to have a go and write recognisable words and sentences.

We also encourage the children to emergent write. This means that they write what they think a word looks like. For some children this may simply be shapes and scribbles, for some this will be letters and for some will be words that they can write on their own. This is an important part of writing and should be encouraged.

Pen grip

- Lots of children find holding a pen a challenge. This is not because they are doing anything wrong. They need to develop the muscles in their hands to help.
- Ideas to help develop hand strength:
 - Sand play
 - Playdough or baking
 - Tweezers
 - Picking up small objects
 - Playing with lego
 - Climbing
 - Threading

Maths

Each week we learn lots of new mathematical facts, we do this in many ways:

- Practically using a variety of different resources
 - Drawings to represent the number
 - Writing the numeral
 - Verbally to explain what we have done
 - Calculations to make the number we are focusing on
 - Shapes to find shapes with the same number of sides and corners.
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- We also look at many other forms of mathematics but the most important skill is to be able to reliably count sets of objects, talk about numbers and compare numbers.
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- We use Numberblocks to support our teaching.

Topic Approach

We have a topic approach to learning:

A1 – All about me!

A2 – And we all go Travelling by..

Sp1 – Frozen Planet

Sp 2 – We're Roaming in the Rainforest

Su 1 – Seashore Secrets

Su 2 – The Land of Make Believe

We teach all areas of our curriculum through these topic areas and develop the children's language in each area.

Every fortnight we will email a curriculum newsletter that outlines what is being taught in the areas and also a half termly knowledge organiser to help with appropriate language at home.

Homework

- At the moment the only homework you will receive is reading. Please ensure you read every day with your child.
- You will also receive phonics homework. This will help your child learn their letter sounds and is a fundamental part of reading and writing. We will send you helpful videos and memos to support you with this.
- Homework should be completed in school pen (this has been provided with the homework pack.)
- Any drawings should be completed in pencil.
- We will also send practical maths tips to help at home.

Top Tips

- Read everything!
- Talk to us!
- Weekly whole school newsletter
- Check your emails –
 - videos and memos posted to help you with things we are doing in school
 - reminders to prevent you from forgetting things.
 - homework hints and tips to help with phonics.
 - a newsletter.

Housekeeping

- Fruit snack – one small piece of fruit to eat in the morning.
- No earrings / jewellery on any day.
- PE – Wednesday – children must come to school wearing their PE kit.
- Coats – ensure your child has a coat everyday.
- Library – Thursday – children will select their own library book to read with an adult at home. This must be returned each week. If a book is lost there will be a charge to replace the book.
- Breakfast and after school clubs – the office have emailed out information about how to book onto the sessions. Please contact the school office if you are having any difficulties.
- Do not book appointments / take holidays in school time.
- Absence – if your child is ill please call the absence line and leave a message, state their name, class and reason for their absence.

We will send Reception emails regularly so please make sure we have the correct email address.

If you need to contact the class teacher please:

- See the teacher at the classroom door either before or after school.
- Write a note in the reading record and let your child know to show the teacher.
- Send an email to the class teacher – they will get back to you as soon as they can.
 - o'kane@lammack.blackburn.sch.uk
 - eason@Lammack.blackburn.sch.uk
 - gregson@Lammack.blackburn.sch.uk
 - ordish@Lammack.blackburn.sch.uk