

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 next three weeks we 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

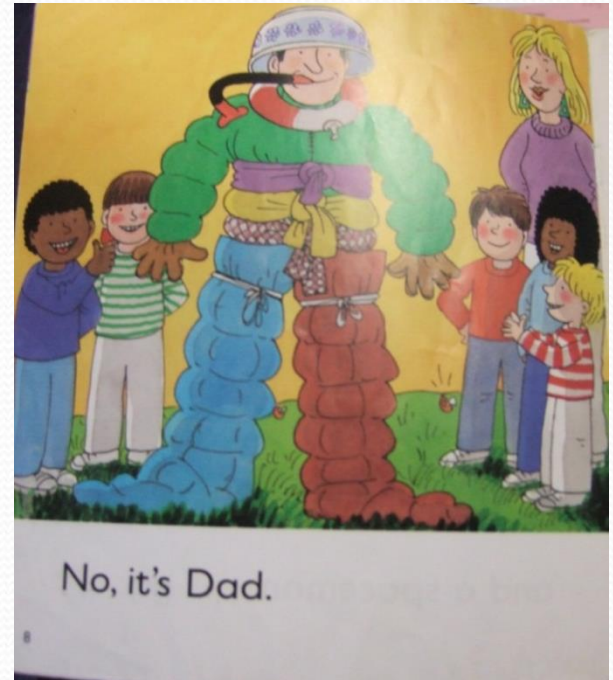
- In the afternoon we teach one or two of the other areas on a timetable. All the children get the same opportunities just on different days.
- The children generally have more time for choosing in an afternoon and this is also when we are able to provide interventions for areas that they need more support 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.
- The books take the form of Phase 1, 2, 3 and 4 in line with the phonics phases. They introduce sounds in a similar order to our teaching in school and encourage blending.
- As the children work through the books they will also get pink, red, yellow and blue band books. These are not linked to the phonics and so your child may need more help with some of the words in them. They are important to help develop their comprehension and understanding.

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.
- **Please 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.**



Reading



- We have also invested in the Collins e-book subscription. This allows you to access online reading books from home.
- The log in details for this will be provided in the back of your child's reading record.
- We will send you more details about this once we have got the new children registered.

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 currently use Jolly Phonics actions and songs to support our teaching and the Letters and Sounds government document.
- We start by revising phase 1 phonics that most of the children will have covered in nursery and then we teach the pure sounds. (A help video was uploaded to Tapestry for this.)
- There are lots of words that the children will start to learn associated with phonics such as:
 - Phoneme
 - Blend
 - Segment
 - Sound out
 - Digraph
 - These words are all explained in the reading record.

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 in many ways
 - 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.

Changes this year

- This year the Early Learning Goals that we are working towards have been changed quite significantly.
- If you have had children in Reception before you may notice a few differences in the way we are doing things or the things that we are teaching.
- At the end of the year the children will be informally assessed against these criteria and we will inform you if they are below or inline with the expectations for the end of the year.
- We will provide more information on assessment and the Early Learning Goals throughout the year.

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 send 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.
- In the coming weeks you will also receive a phonics booklet. 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 on Tapestry to support you with this.
- Homework should be completed in school pen (this will be provided with the homework pack.)
- Any drawings should be completed in pencil.

Top Tips

- Read everything!
- Talk to us!
- Use Tapestry –
 - There will be videos and memos posted to help you with things we are doing in school
 - There are reminders to prevent you from forgetting things.
 - There are homework hints and tips to help with phonics.
 - There is a copy of the newsletter.