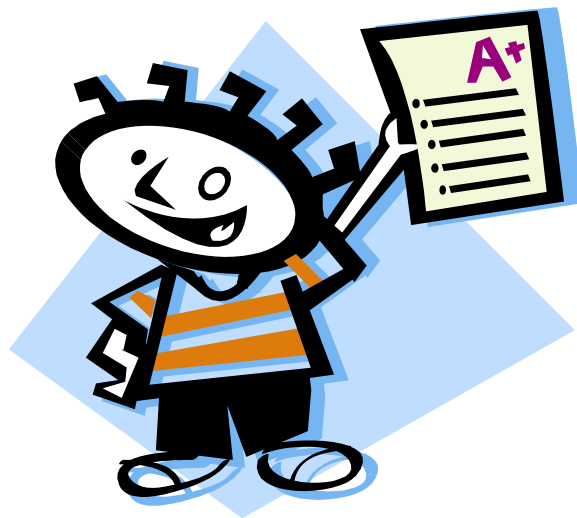


Oswestry School

Bellan House



Reception Information

Booklet

We want your child to settle quickly into a happy productive school life. We hope this booklet offers you an insight into what we do and how you can support your child's learning through that vital home school link.

What is the Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage is the National provision for 3 to 5 year old children. In the first year children will often be with a Childminder, part of a Playgroup or in a Nursery. The second year children are in school in the Reception year.

All children are required by law to start school full time in the term after their fifth birthday.

As soon as we meet your child we begin to make informal assessments. Whilst they are learning with us we make further, more specific observations about their abilities, skills and progress. These are recorded in the Foundation Stage Profile when necessary. We can share these developmental records with you at any time during the year. We have parent consultation evenings in the Spring (Lent) term and you will receive a written report based around the Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the Autumn (Michaelmas) and Summer (Trinity) Terms.

We do however try to keep regular informal contact with you and invite you to approach us if you have any concerns or confusions as we operate an open door policy.

The Curriculum

The Foundation Stage curriculum consists of six main areas of learning.

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** – relates to developing confidence and independence. Building good relationships and to enjoy sharing as part of a group.
- **Communication, Language and Literacy**- covers communication with one another and developing skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- **Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy**- involves using ideas about number, quantity, measurement, shape and space.
- **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**- covers investigating and beginning to understand the things, places and people around them.
- **Physical Development**- relates to improving control and co-ordination of the body while learning to move and handle equipment efficiently.
- **Creative Development**- involves finding ways to communicate by using colour, shape, sound, texture, movement and stories.

The Importance of Play

Early experiences affect children's attitudes to learning so it is vitally important we get it right. All children learn best from experiences that are suitable for their stage of development. Play is key to the way young children learn. Through play children can develop, for example: the confidence needed for learning; the social skills needed for personal development and the skills needed for reading and writing. We encourage independence from an early age to aid problem solving skills.

Taking all this into account, the children will be given the opportunity to learn through a carefully planned, well balanced, topic based curriculum which takes into consideration the children's interests.



School Times

Morning Session 8.55am-12.25pm

Playtime/Snack 10.30am-11.00am

Lunchtime 12.25pm-1.30pm

Afternoon Session 1.30pm-3.30pm

A Typical Day

Planning and teaching is shared between the teacher (Mrs Lambourn) and a Teaching Assistant (Miss Mel).

The children's day starts with arrival between 8.40am and 8.55am. Coats are hung on named pegs in the cloakroom and book bags with reading record and book are taken into the Reception classroom.

The register is taken at 8.55am and the children then go up to Assembly in the hall until 9.20am.

The morning session is mainly taken up with Literacy and Numeracy tasks that are enriched with various practical child initiated activities that support the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Between 10.30 and 11.00am there is a fruit sharing time and playtime.

At 12.25pm the children wash their hands and go for lunch. After lunch there is a playtime.

Afternoons start at 1.30pm and more practical subjects such as Science, Music, Ballet, PE and Art take place. Children will also have free choice play activities during some of this time.

The day ends with a story and at 3.30pm the children will be collected by their parents outside the classroom door.

Please inform the class teacher if a different adult will be collecting your child.

Book bags contain a reading book, a reading diary and occasionally messages such as the Newsflash and ideas for activities at home. Please check and de-clutter bags regularly.

Can your child....?

When your child starts school it would be helpful if he/she could do some of these things.....



Wash and dry his/her hands and face



Use a knife and fork



Tidy/clear away his/her toys



Use a handkerchief



Dress and undress him/herself



Put on and fasten his/her coat.



Change shoes and pumps.



Use the toilet properly and flush it

Preparing for more formal learning

As your child moves through the final months of the Foundation Stage they may be ready to take part in more formal learning activities. Children are ready at different ages, so we aim to catch the right moment for your child.

Communication, Language and Literacy

From the beginning of the Reception year onwards, your child will participate in daily Literacy sessions. This is where the majority of your child's reading and writing will be developed in a structured and focused way following the Letters and Sounds programme.

Your child's individual home reading will complement the Letters and Sounds work. They will bring home a reading book. This is for you to share with your child, initially with you reading the text. As your child begins to read, he or she will be able to read the text in the books.

Any other books you may choose, with your child (e.g. library books) should follow your child's interests. A range of fiction and non-fiction that your child is interested in will help develop his or her skills as a reader.

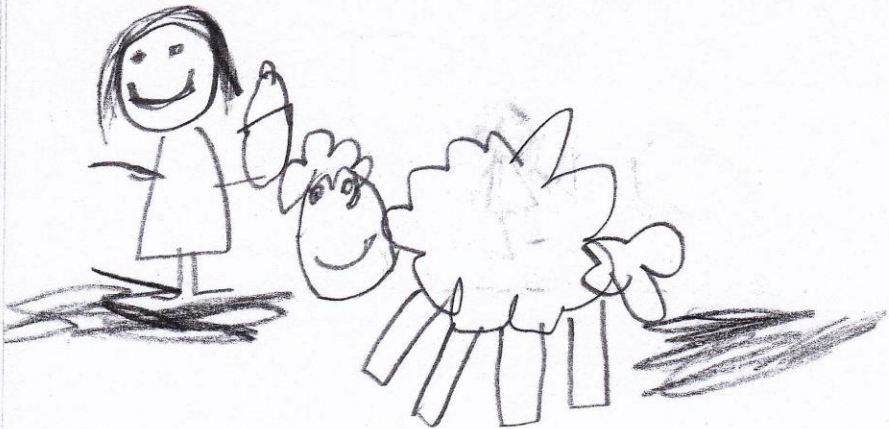
Along with your child's reading book will be sound cards and tricky word cards to practise and support the learning going on in class. If you are unsure on how to pronounce some of the sounds please don't hesitate to ask. In the reading record we ask you contribute by signing when you've completed the tasks and by noting books and any other activities you have shared with your child at home.

You may also like to help your child with writing. Gradually children start to make marks, often through their play activities, which as they mature, will develop through emergent writing stages (where children use their sound knowledge to begin to build words) to accurate writing of words, then sentences and finally full pieces of text.

At home you could help your child to write their name beginning with capital letter, followed by lower case letters. The way your child begins to form letters is very important. Holding a pencil carefully and actually forming the letters in the right direction will enable your child to write more fluently and neatly.

We had a tier and

we had Biscuits.



I Fed the lamb.

I played with

the lamb. We

Went to the farm

today. I saw

the cow at the

farm. ✓ 25-3-10.

a b c d e
f g h i j k
l m n o p
q r s t u
v w x y z

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Your child will be involved in daily number sessions. These will include counting and/or mental calculation work, small group teaching activities, and maths based play activities.

Areas covered in mathematics will include:

- Counting and Recognising Numbers
- Adding and Subtracting
- Solving Problems
- Measuring and Shape

Supporting your child's mathematical development is also very important. Talking about numbers, shape, money etc in play and everyday activities can be very beneficial to your child. There is a great importance in developing mental skills before formal recording (e.g. written down 'sums') is introduced.