

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the start of the autumn term. We are writing to you to give you an overview of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and to inform you of the recent changes that have come into effect this September.

What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. It sets the standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old and ensures that your child will learn and develop well and be kept healthy and safe. It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning and is the same curriculum as in pre-reception settings. From September 2021 the EYFS has changed.

What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programmes. There are **three prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

There are **four specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We will consider your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences. You can help us to do this by sharing your observations of your child's interests at home.

There are also three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

These tell us about *how* each child learns not *what* they are learning. We link these to our 'Achieveasours' and promotes a positive attitude towards learning.

Highweek Community Primary & Nursery School
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Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

The new curriculum gives us the opportunity to spend more time interacting and playing with your children. This means that we will not be completing as many written observations in learning journeys, however you will receive one observation per week via Tapestry and we will be creating a celebration of learning book to collate all work created. This means that we will know your children very well and be able to share observations verbally with you and have a greater knowledge of all children. Please share any information with us as communication with parents is vital to supporting and providing the best for the children.

Assessment in the reception year – Baseline

The reception baseline assessment, or RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with your child's class teacher and will measure your child's progress from reception to year 6. The data from the baseline will not be shared with you and will only be accessed by the DFE. The teacher will be able to spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and identifying if they need any further support in certain areas. When your child reaches year 6, you will be able to see the progress your child has made throughout their school journey. If you wish to read further on the reception baseline, then you can find a useful parent booklet here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

Assessment in the reception year – EYFS Profile

Your child will work towards the final assessment at the end of the Reception year, using the new ELGs (Early learning goals). These goals are short statements that teachers assess your child against at the end of the year.

What can you do to help your child?

- Chat, play and read to and with them
- Encourage them to be independent
- Play board games with them
- Talk about the learning at school – our Newsletter will share all upcoming learning and our planning boards can be found on the EYFS page on the school website.

There is a new focus on early language and extending vocabulary. You can help us do this by:

- Having quality learning conversations and interactions with your child

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- Reading a range of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts
- Teaching your child new words and vocabulary
- Sharing what you are doing with your child at home.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Jenkins and the Early Years Team

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