



## **Early Years at Preston Grange Primary School**

### **What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage?**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) describes the time in your child's life between birth and 5. The EYFS framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support healthy development.

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/eyfs-statutory-framework/>



The team of staff who are involved in the Early Years Foundation Stage believe that the provision of a secure, caring and stimulating learning environment will enable our pupils to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to become confident independent learners.

At Preston Grange Primary school, we provide challenging learning experiences, through a purposeful curriculum which is broad and balanced, providing relevant learning opportunities through meaningful first-hand experiences. Pupils can work both indoors and outside, often on a larger scale.

The Early Years Curriculum is split into seven areas of learning. Although each area is equally weighted in importance, children should mostly develop the three prime areas first:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

These prime areas are those essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in the four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The teachers and support staff will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. The approaches adopted are designed to be flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

These curriculum areas are designed to support your child in being ready to engage with the National Curriculum programmes of study as they enter Key Stage One.



## **Staffing**

**Mrs Lawrence** – Nursery Teacher

**Miss Beavers** – HLTA based in Nursery

**Miss Knowles** – Reception Teacher and Early Years Lead

**Mrs Spowart** – Teaching Assistant based in Reception

The ratio of staff to children is 1:13 and in reception it is 1:15. We often have additional staff and other adults such as parent helpers and students.

## **Early Years experiences at Preston Grange**

### **Forest School**

All children will have regular visits to our forest led by our experienced Forest School Leader: Miss Beavers. Forest School offers a specialised learning approach that offers regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence, perseverance, collaboration and self-esteem through meaningful hands-on learning experiences in our woodland classroom. This area enables us to have many unique, first-hand opportunities to investigate and observe living things, habitats, plants and seasonal changes.



### **Dough Disco/ Funky Fingers/ Squiggle while you Wiggle**

Each child will take part in daily opportunities which are engaging and active and designed to help them build up their upper strength and finger strength. These activities strengthen muscles for writing.





## **Pre-phonics, literacy and mathematical skills**

Children take part in daily small group and whole class activities to develop a range of early pre-phonics, phonics, writing and mathematical skills. These activities often include rhyming games, number songs and stories. As they progress through Reception class, key concepts and ideas are shared in this whole class approach before being investigated and practised through paired, group and individual activities as appropriate.



## **Baking/cooking activities**

Children enjoy regular opportunities to prepare ingredients and cook to develop skills throughout Early Years. The vital skills practised during these activities are endless and give the children a huge sense of achievement and enjoyment.



## **Lending Library and Over and Over Project**

We recognise the importance of regular sharing of books both at school and home. All staff are positive reading role models and engage children in daily book chat.

Each week, children receive a new story book to share at home. In Reception, our Lending Library works alongside our school reading scheme to

enhance the reading experiences of the children. Please see our reading section on the website for more information on this.

The Over and Over project is a research-based approach to sharing stories. Staff are trained in delivering this programme, designed to support children in their understanding and enjoyment of stories as well as develop their communication, language, listening and attention skills.



## Hall Time

Children will have regular access to the school hall area where they will have the opportunity to develop their physical skills further through games, dance and the use of larger scale PE equipment as well as learn to negotiate larger spaces.

## Other Information

### Nursery School uniform

We ask that Nursery children wear a red school jumper/cardigan. Children should wear bottoms that they can manage independently when using the toilet. We ask children to wear appropriate footwear (Velcro if possible). **All clothing and shoes must be named.** Nursery staff will provide aprons for messy play; however, clothes may get dirty throughout the session so we advise that the children come to nursery in bottoms/shoes that are old/ can be washed easily!

### Reception School uniform

In Reception, children should wear our school uniform and bring a P.E kit. It is essential that **all** items of clothing; including shoes and sandals are labelled with your child's name. PE kits need to be brought to school on the

first day of term, stay in school and are then taken home at the end of the half term. This helps us to ensure P.E kits are in school whenever we need them. We provide aprons for messy activities and will inform parents in advance if old clothes are needed prior to Forest School activities.

### **Nursery session times**

The Nursery sessions run from 8.45am to 11.45am each day. Children who are entitled to 30 hours of education can find information about wraparound care from the school office.

Nursery children will be brought into school by parents/carers through the KS1 door. In line with our safeguarding policy, this door will be closed at 8.55. Children who arrive after this time should report to the school office. As Nursery children approach the summer term before they are due to start in Reception, staff will begin to encourage them to leave their grownups at the door and come into the classroom independently. Children will be released one at a time at 11.45 through the KS1 door. Parents should inform staff if their child is being picked up by someone different.

### **Reception session times**

Initially in September, children come into school for one week of mornings plus lunchtime, **from 9.00 am until 1.00pm each day**. From the second week of term they will stay in school full time, from 9.00am until 3.30pm. Each day the children will be collected from the yard at 9.00am and will be dismissed from the blue reception gate. Parents should inform staff if their child is being picked up by someone different on a particular day.

### **Toileting**

When children start Nursery, we would expect all children to be toilet trained. We are aware that children will have occasional accidents and we suggest that parents leave a change of clothes for these rare occasions. We would advise that families seek advice from their Health Visitor if they feel they need support in this area.

### **Tapestry**

We use the electronic learning journey system Tapestry to record children's learning and progress. Parents/carers are also encouraged to add to this: enabling us to build a strong picture of learning and development for every child. Further information about this will be giving when your child starts.

**We hope you find this information useful and we welcome visits from perspective families who would like to see our friendly and popular setting in action.**

**Please contact the school office who can arrange this for you.**

