



The Foundation Stage

Parents' Meeting: Wednesday 12th October

What is the Foundation Stage?

- Foundation Stage covers birth to 5 years.
- At Newsham, the children in Foundation Stage are in Pebbles (Nursery) and Seahorses and Starfish (Reception).
- The Foundation Stage prepares children for learning in their future school career.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

These are about how children learn not what they learn.

Playing and Exploring - engagement

Finding out and exploring

Playing with what they know

Being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning - motivation

Being involved and concentrating

Keeping trying

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and Thinking Critically - thinking

Having their own ideas

Making links

Choosing ways to do things

The Foundation Stage curriculum is split into prime and specific areas of learning. The prime areas develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences and support learning in all other areas. The specific areas include essential skills and knowledge.

Areas of Learning and Development	Aspect
<u>Prime Areas</u>	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making relationships Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour
Communication and Language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking
Physical Development	Moving and handling Health and self-care
<u>Specific Areas</u>	
Literacy	Reading Writing
Mathematics	Numbers Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and communities The world Technology
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials Being imaginative



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Encourages children to be independent and to get involved with other children and adults.
- Helps children to become confident, safe, secure and ready to learn from new experiences.
- Supports children to enjoy responsibility, recognise praise and confidently seek out adults for support.
- Encourages children to adapt their behaviour to different situations and tolerate delay when their needs are not met immediately.





Communication and Language

- Encourages children to take part in conversations and join in with the repeated parts in stories and rhymes.
- Develops children's listening and concentration skills.
- Enables children to understand the use of objects (e.g. soap dispenser, scissors, pencil sharpener) and use simple prepositions in speech (e.g. under, next to, behind etc.)
- Enables children to understand 'why' and 'how' questions.
- Expects children to use more complex sentences using 'and' and 'because' to talk about an event in the correct order.
- Children are expected to ask questions using 'who', 'what', 'when' and 'how' and give simple explanations, using a range of tenses.
- Enables children to use talk to pretend and build up a wide vocabulary for naming and categorising (e.g. sorting farm animals, wild animals and pets).





Physical Development

- Requires children to move freely in lots of different ways e.g. rolling, sliding, skipping, hopping and running while negotiating space to avoid bumps.
- Enables children to learn to catch a ball.
- Expects children to draw lines and circles using big movements, cut along a line with scissors, use a pencil holding it between thumb and fingers.
- Helps children to begin to write letters, numbers, their name and short, familiar words.
- Encourages children to tell an adult when they are hungry or thirsty and manage their own toileting routine most of the time, washing and drying their hands.
- Expects that children can dress themselves with only a little help.



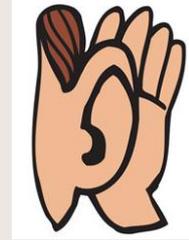


Literacy

- Supports children to enjoy rhyme and rhythm.
- Expects them to listen to and join in with stories, especially the repeated parts. Children should begin to be aware of where stories happen (the setting), the main characters and should know that stories have a beginning, a middle where the main event happens and an ending.
- Expects children to look at books independently and carefully, knowing that information is relayed in print and is read from left to right and top to bottom (in English).
- Encourages children to give meaning to the marks they make and give meaning to some of the letters, words and numbers they see around them.



Phonics



- Phonics teaches children to listen carefully, differentiate between sounds and recognise the sounds that make up words.
- At Newsham, we follow a phonics teaching programme called 'Letters and Sounds' which is split into six phases.
- In Nursery, we focus on mainly on Phase 1. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. Recognising and identifying sounds in the environment, voice sounds, sounds that are produced from musical instruments and body percussion form the basis of the learning. This together with emphasis on teaching rhyme, rhythm, beat and alliteration give the children the skills to confidently move onto Phase 2 when they move to Reception.

What can you do to help your child's Literacy development???

- Share books and talk about the pictures everyday for at least 10 minutes.
- Talk to your child using a varied vocabulary for children to copy.
- Play with different sounds e.g. listening and naming the different sounds around you.
- Encourage mark-making e.g. writing shopping lists etc.
- Ask your child questions that get open ended responses not just yes and no - use 'how' and 'why'.
- Make sure your child sees you read and write every day.

Mathematics

- Helps children to use some number names accurately in play, count in order to at least 10 and know that the last number that is said tells us how many objects or movements there are.
- Encourages children to represent numbers using fingers or marks on paper, and sometimes match numerals correctly.
- Supports children's interest in number problems and understanding that all kinds of things can be counted.
- Develops skills in comparing and sorting sets of objects.
- Helps children use positional language.
- Supports children's interest in shapes through sustained play, expecting children to use shapes appropriately for a task.
- Enables the use of mathematical language such as 'round' and 'tall' or words to describe time.



What can you do to help your child's Mathematical development???

- Look out for numbers around you.
- Practise counting at any time e.g. climbing the stairs, out shopping etc.
- Play simple board games or snap games.
- Sing number rhymes and songs together.



Understanding the World

- Helps children show an interest in the lives of others and talk about their own experiences, including birthdays and family customs.
- Enables children to find out about different occupations and ways of life.
- Encourages children to recognise that they are unique.
- Helps children to show care and concern for the environment developing an understanding of growth and decay.
- Provides children with the opportunity to talk about how things work and name and describe the natural and man-made world around them.
- Supports children's learning around how to operate and play with ICT toys and equipment, e.g. computers, cameras, tablets etc.
- Helps children to know that information can be retrieved from computers and be aware of internet safety.





Expressive Arts and Design

- Inspires children to enjoy singing, dancing and ring games, beginning to move rhythmically.
- Helps them to explore how sounds and colours can be changed.
- Develops an interest in creating own made up songs and rhythms.
- Supports children to draw, use construction materials and talk about different textures.
- Develops children's understanding of how pieces are joined and the purpose of different tools (joining two boxes with tape is a skill that has to be taught to children).
- Enables children to take part in role-play and pretend, based on their own first hand experiences, making use of resources to create their own props (e.g. making a telephone from a box).
- Develops confidence and imagination, including children's ability to capture their experiences using different media.



Learning Journals - Tapestry

- In the past, evidence of children's achievement and assessments has been recorded in the form of photographs and written observations by staff and stuck in learning journal files.
- This year at Newsham we have decided to join lots of other schools and settings and have moved to online learning journals using a programme called 'Tapestry'.
- We will be setting up log in details for all parents so that you can access your child's learning journal at home 24/7 on your computer, tablet or mobile phone.
- We will be holding a separate meeting for parents after half-term to explain more about 'Tapestry' and give you all the information you need to enable you to access it from home.

Homework

- Homework in Nursery this year will be sent home on a termly basis and will include 30 fun activities (10 each term) for you to do with your child.
- The activities cover all areas of learning but some have a particular focus on the prime areas of the Early Years curriculum.
- Evidence to show that the tasks have been completed can be in the form of photographs, drawings or written comments in the homework book. Alternatively you might want to upload photographs on to Tapestry once we are up and running.

Please support us by completing homework with your child and returning the book on time. We give out homework trophies to two children each term and all children who complete the activities and hand them in on time will receive a certificate and be entered into a prize draw.

What can you do to help your child's learning generally???

- Make sure you set clear boundaries for behaviour. In school we expect children to do as an adult asks.
- Make sure that they have a wide range of play experiences and don't spend too much time on tablets or watching the T.V.
- Talk and listen to your child and expect them to answer questions so that you and they direct the conversation.
- Be clear that Nursery is school.
- Please read newsletters, posters on the noticeboard and visit our website regularly - www.newshamprimary.co.uk

A typical day in our Nursery...

8.30am - Doors open, self-registration, welcome, register.

8.40am - 8.55am - Phonics/Maths activities - small groups.

8.55am - 9.10am - Milk and snack time.

9.10am - 11.00am - Child-initiated play and independent learning.

11.00am - 11.15am - Five minute warning then tidy-up time.

11.15am - 11.30am - Whole class - story or singing then home time.

12.15pm - Doors open, self-registration, welcome, register.

12.25pm - 12.40pm - Phonics/Maths activities - small groups.

12.40pm - 12.55pm - Milk and snack time.

12.55pm - 2.45pm - Child-initiated play and independent learning.

2.45pm - 3.00pm - Five minute warning then tidy-up time.

3.00pm - 3.15pm - Whole class - story or singing then home time.

Uniform

- Please ensure that names are in **EVERYTHING!!!**
- Send your child with a coat **EVERYDAY.**
- Sensible black shoes and no jewellery.
- Send spare clothes in the event of an accident.

Other matters...

- Please let us know if someone different is collecting your child and give them and school a password if we don't know them.
- Let us know as soon as possible if your contact details change.
- Apply for school place of your choice as soon as you receive the forms.
- Talk to us about any concerns, however small they may be.