



15th September 2021

Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the recent changes

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support in settling in the children this week. They are doing really well and I have already observed some wonderful learning taking place. Make sure you look on Twitter to see the amazing learning in Fig Class. I am writing to give you an overview of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and to inform you of the recent changes that came into effect this September.

What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework?

The EYFS statutory framework is a Government document that all schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England must follow. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programs. 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:

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

How Will I Know How My Child Is Doing?

Our EYFS team will use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. If we have any concerns about your child's progress, we will discuss these with you. Discussions at Parents Evenings will inform you on how your child is progressing.

Three statutory assessments take place during the EYFS:

Reception Baseline Assessment (at the start of the Reception year)

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (at the end of the EYFS)

The Reception Baseline Assessment is new for September 2021. This is administered using materials provided by the Standards and Testing Agency, however the practitioners working with your child will not tell your child they are being 'tested' and will make the experience similar to any other activity they would do as part of day to day learning. The baseline assessment does not provide the school with a 'level' but does provide a narrative statement which tells the school about the answers they provided in the assessment. The Reception teachers and practitioners will use this, alongside their observations of your child and school-based activities, to plan for your child's learning.

At the end of the academic year, a report will be given to you to inform you of your child's progress and whether they have met or are continuing to work towards their early learning goals (ELGs). There are 17 ELGs your child is expected to achieve by the end of the EYFS.

Changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

There is a new EYFS framework that all schools and settings are required to follow from September 2021. These national changes have been made to better support all pupils' learning and development. There are some elements of the EYFS that have not significantly changed and some that have.

Below are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that include relevant changes:

- Early Years staff will be spending less time on large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection. This means they can spend more time supporting and engaging with children.
- Pupils will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age.
- The early learning goals at the end of reception have been changed to become clearer and easier to understand. Staff will use their judgements to assess if pupils have met these goals at the end of the EYFS and inform parents/carers.
- There is an emphasis on improving pupils' language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.
- Literacy and numeracy skills focused on in the EYFS have been adapted to better match up with the National Curriculum that starts in year 1.
- There is no longer an exceeding judgement at the end of Reception. Pupils will instead be challenged to have a greater depth and understanding of ideas.
- Safeguarding and welfare of pupils is still of upmost priority, with the added mention of teaching pupils about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,



Daniela Rader
Head of School