



Being the Best you can Be

Welcome to Willow Class



Mrs J James



Early Years Foundation Stage

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 is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.

It is the same curriculum as in pre-reception settings.



There are seven areas of learning and development:

Prime areas

Communication and Language

Personal Social and Emotional development

Physical Development

Specific Areas

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

There are 17 Early Learning Goals against which each child is assessed at the end of the reception year.



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



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.



- Our curriculum gives us the opportunity to spend lots of time interacting and playing with the children.
- This means that we will not be completing lots of written observations and putting them into a Learning Journey.
- This does mean that we will know your children very well and be able to share observations verbally with you.





Learning in The Foundation Stage
is exciting and fun,
challenging and engaging.

Children select their own independent activities
each day in our wide variety of learning areas,
both indoors and out...



In Willow Class you will see....
Modelling, Explaining, Demonstrating,
Exploring ideas, Encouraging, Questioning,
Learning through play, Outdoor Learning



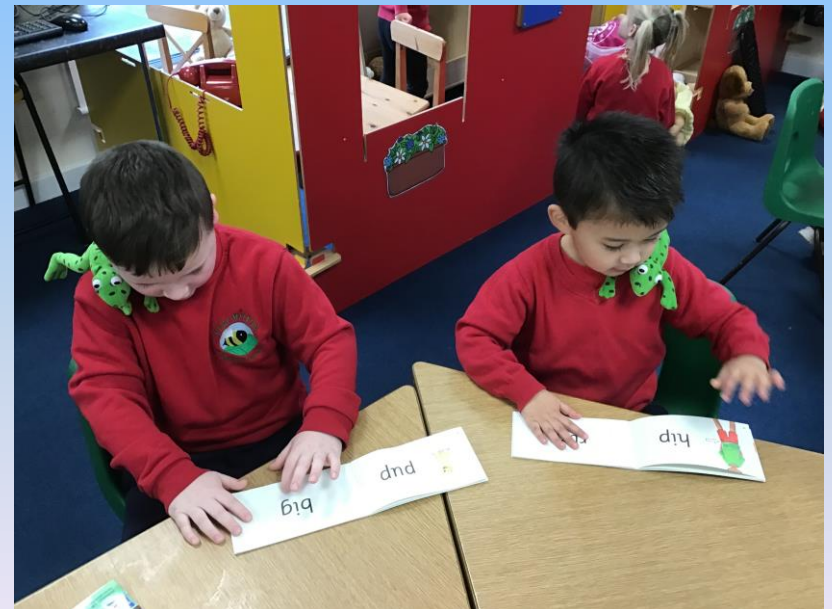


We use a whole school phonics programme called 'Read Write Inc'. This programme ensures that all children receive the correct targeted support that they need to become a confident and fluent reader.

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.



Children learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down.



Developing children's language and vocabulary


There is a big focus on early language and **extending** vocabulary. We will do this by:

- Having quality learning conversations and interactions with the children
- Reading a range of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts
- Teaching new words and vocabulary
- Sharing what we are doing with you

Our Curriculum









Willow Class Curriculum Overview

	Autumn 1  Me and My Community Exploring Autumn	Autumn 2  Once upon a Time Celebrations	Spring 1  Long Ago Stories and Rhymes	Spring 2  Ready, Steady Grow Spring	Summer 1  Animal Safari Minibeasts	Summer 2  Dangerous Dinosaurs Summer
Understanding The World	People who are special to us, our family and friends Our home and our school Our community People who help us. Signs of Autumn Hibernating animals ICT - Click and Drag	Traditional Stories and settings Castles Making bread Kings and Queens Old clothes and new Fireworks, Diwali, Hannukah, Christmas ICT - Click and Drag/ Digital Cameras	Putting things in order Babies How we have changed since we were a baby. My family tree Objects from the past Now and Then ICT - 2Paint Progression	What plants need to grow Exploring seeds Fruits and vegetables Where food comes from Farm Animals Growing Plants and Crops Life cycles Signs of Spring ICT - Programmable Toys	Mammals, reptiles and birds Animal habitats Deserts, Rainforests and the Arctic Animals camouflage Caring for our environment Minibeasts ICT - Using Word	Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago Herbivores and carnivores Exploring fossils Animals that are now extinct The natural world in summer ICT - Using Word/2 Paint
Expressive Arts and Design	Self portraits Colour mixing Autumn craft Clay animals Music -Singing familiar rhymes Role Play house	Story character paintings Making masks Castle building Christmas crafts Music - Traditional rhymes Nativity Performance	Family paintings Observational drawings Peg dolls Clay tiles Music: Lullabies and Nursery Rhymes	Fruit and vegetable printing Seed shakers Making scarecrows Junk Modelling tractors Easter crafts	Animal paintings Camouflage patterns Animal collage Outdoor Art Music Charanga: Big Bear Funk! Walking through the Jungle	Dinosaur collage Junk modelling dinosaurs Printing Summer crafts Music Charanga: Our World



EYFS English Overview

	 Me and My Community	 Once Upon a Time	 Long Ago	 Ready, Steady Grow	 Animal Safari	 Dangerous Dinosaurs
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Read Write Inc	Learning Speed Set One sounds and how to write them mas d tin p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x Reading and Writing CVC words		Learning Set One Special Friends sh th ch qu ng nk ck Reading and writing captions Ditties	Recapping Speed sounds Set One Reading and Writing simple sentences Red Story Books	Learning Speed Set Two sounds and how to write them ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy Reading and Writing words containing these sounds Green and Purple Storybooks	
Core Texts	Once There Were Giants by Martin Waddell Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers Emergency by Margaret May Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert		The Baby's catalogue by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Peepo! by Janet and Allan Ahlberg Oi Frog by Kes Gray Information texts about life in the past	Jack and the Beanstalk by Iona Treahey Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins Tadpole Diary Spring Poems	Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle Minibeast Riddles Information texts about Rainforest Animals	Dear Dinosaur by Chae Strathie Cave Baby by Julia Donaldson Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs by Catherine D Hughes Dinosaur Roar! by Henrietta Stickland
Links to Wider Curriculum	Role play and small world linked to topics to develop Communication and Language skills Theatre Visit		Farm Visit Easter poem performed at the church Spring Walk		Minibeast Hunt Dinosaur Park visit Summer Walk	

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

The road to school map on the following page also has some useful ideas.

The Road To School

This tracker helps you and your child prepare for school.

Speaking & literacy

- I like to read stories & look at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
- I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
- I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy making marks
- I am practising holding a pencil

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I like playing games with others
- I like interacting with other children

Everyone starts school with different abilities - your teacher will help you progress at your own level.

Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
- I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
- I like asking questions

Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
- I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash and dry my hands without any help

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days

What are you looking forward to the most?
Is there anything you're unsure of?

Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
- I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my shirt & use a zip
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can change into my PE kit & put my coat on

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

School bus

Remember - learning is not a competition; children learn at different rates. For more ideas to help prepare your child for school, talk to your childcare practitioner.