

Early Years Foundation Stage

Intent

At Crosby-on-Eden C of E Primary School we offer a rich, ambitious curriculum within a safe, supportive and inspiring environment. Our church school values of respect, trust, friendship and perseverance are at the heart of everything we do. We value each child as an individual, celebrate their achievements and inspire them to have high aspirations for themselves and others. We aim to ignite and develop a lifelong love of learning and a 'can do' attitude. This builds the foundation for our children to go on to be happy and successful learners in key stage one and beyond.

Our curriculum ensures that children make excellent progress towards all 3 Prime Areas of the EYFS curriculum: Communication and language, Personal, social and emotional development and Physical development. Our educational programmes go on to include 4 Specific Areas: Literacy, Maths, Understanding the world and Expressive arts and design, as set out in the 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage'.

Children at Crosby-on-Eden school have a passion for the outdoors and a curiosity about the world around them. We value and nurture this by providing a program of Forest School which continues season to season. Our Forest School provision supports learning in all 7 areas of the EYFS curriculum and allows children to develop a deep connection with nature, which will indeed grow as their forest school journey continues in key stages 1 and 2.

Outdoor play is prioritised at Crosby-on-Eden School as many of our children are at their optimum when learning outdoors. Learning through play - both indoors and out is an integral approach here, alongside carefully planned adult directed teaching to inspire, spark interest and teach essential skills and content. Emphasis is placed on the characteristics of effective learning as we want to support children to reflect on their learning from a young age. This will prepare children with the early tools they need to go on to secure the skills and characteristics essential to effective learning beyond the Early Years.

By the end of the Reception year, our intent is that all children make good progress from their individual starting points and that many children will make excellent progress. Children will meet the Early Learning Goals, with some children exceeding the goals in the areas of reading, PSED, Physical Development and Understanding the

Early Years Foundation Stage

world. Children will be equipped with the firm foundations needed for a smooth transition into Year 1.

Implementation

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced so that children can progress at a rapid rate. Learning is broken down into small steps which fit in well alongside the Essentials Milestones used further up the school. Small steps are delivered in the context of a topic where appropriate, unless delivered discreetly such as maths, handwriting or phonics. Our topics are carefully chosen to ensure coverage in all 7 of the educational programmes. Subtopics remain flexible to cater for children's interests. The prime areas are threaded through everything we do- our daily routines, our continuous provision, our teacher led activities and in our interactions with the children.

Class 1 benefit from highly experienced and skilled staff who know how to move learning forward effectively. The children learn through a balance of adult-directed and child-initiated activities. The timetable changes as the year progresses, to cater for the developing needs of the children as they grow and move forward in their learning. The timetable is structured to allow plenty of time for uninterrupted periods of play where children can become immersed in learning. Our learning environment is adapted regularly to reflect children's current interests, to support progression in learning and to address any gaps in learning that are identified.

We provide a 'language rich' environment through quality interactions between our adults and children, daily phonics sessions, story sessions and rhyme sessions. Books are carefully selected, and quality texts that promote a love of reading are enjoyed 1-1, and in small and large groups. Children take library books home every week to read for pleasure alongside their reading scheme books. Children are introduced to a range of genres and engage in regular story mapping and storytelling. We aim to widen the children's vocabulary through displaying and discussing the meaning of new words that we come across on our word wall. We model this language in different contexts, encouraging the children to use it too. Our daily phonics sessions follow the 'Little Wandle' accredited synthetic phonics scheme, using their resources. They start using this scheme in class 1 and continue in key stage 1. Speech and

Early Years Foundation Stage

language levels are screened using the NELI program. The NELI program is then delivered to children identified as needing more support in this area.

Maths is all around us and children are encouraged to develop their mathematical thinking through direct teaching, games and exploration. We provide opportunities for children to apply what they have learnt in meaningful, often real-life experiences. We use the NCETM Mastering Number Program alongside the White Rose Maths Scheme as a basis for our planning. This starts in EYFS and continues throughout school.

The children attend weekly Forest School sessions in a local woodland, a short bus journey from school. The children benefit from the teachings of 2 level 3 Forest School leaders. Sessions continue throughout the year and allow children to experience the changes in the seasons first hand. The children learn a range of skills such as resilience, perseverance and working as a team, as well as learning first-hand about the world around them.

The outdoor environment is rich in opportunities to develop gross motor control, strengthen children's core muscles and to contribute to children's daily 'active minutes'. Our areas include a wellbeing den, growing area, water play equipment, a mud kitchen, climbing and riding equipment, digging area, music area and a den making area. We are well equipped to take learning outdoors in all weathers, and the children learn that a change in weather does not stop our play - it simply provides us with new and different opportunities. We also make use of the wider school environment which includes the fruit and vegetable garden and bug hotel, and we often take learning beyond the school grounds to our local church and our village.

The children in class 1 have a wealth of opportunity to explore the wider locality such as our enchanting forest school setting on a weekly basis and through visits to places including Susan's Farm and Tullie House. We also benefit from a range of visitors including parents and members of the local community talking about the jobs they do, poets, artists and other inspiring individuals.

Children's achievements are celebrated in our weekly whole school celebration worship. We award children for displaying our core values. Children's achievements at home and school are also documented and celebrated through 'Tapestry.' Here parents can also communicate with staff and learn about what their child has been doing in class/how they might support learning. Parent contribution is extremely high at Crosby-On-Eden School, this is because we prioritise the development of strong, mutually supportive relationships with families. We work in partnership with

Early Years Foundation Stage

parents from the initial drop-in sessions through to the end of a child's EYFS journey. Meetings are held termly so that parents and teachers come together to share information about the child's current interests, next steps, progress and development, and to talk about any concerns and to celebrate achievements. Parents and grandparents enjoy coming into class 1 to hear readers and to join us at Forest School.

Ongoing assessments are used to inform planning and next steps in teaching and learning. Those at danger of falling behind are identified early and measures are put in place to help children catch up. Parents are consulted as soon as concerns are identified.

Impact

Our curriculum, delivered by our well skilled, experienced team, ensures that children make good and often excellent progress from their individual starting points. Almost all children achieve the national expectation of a 'good level of development' at the end of their Reception year. Children are well equipped to thrive in year 1 as they have acquired solid foundations. Whole school cohesion with regards to practices and curriculum ensure that their transition into key stage one is smooth. Children develop a wealth of characteristics of learning which enables them to continue their journey as independent, creative, confident learners. The seeds sown in their early years at Crosby-on Eden, will help them go on to appreciate the wonder of the natural world in their later years and to live happy, active, fulfilled lives.