

## Our EYFS



The curriculum for Reception children changed in September 2021. This page will help you understand what those changes mean for your child.

### New EYFS Reforms:

#### Parent and Carer Information

You may be aware that the government has made some reforms to the curriculum that early years children experience from birth to five years old. The curriculum that your child will be taught from September 2021 will be this reformed version of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). These national changes have been made to better support all young children's learning and development in particular the outcomes for children in Communication and Language.

#### Changes to the educational programmes

Educational programmes, referred to by some people as the 'early years curriculum', are the areas of learning and development which must shape the activities and experiences that your children have in their early years setting, at all ages. At Norton and West Chinnock schools we have been working hard to use the new educational programmes to design an exciting and engaging approach to our curriculum so that is right for the children who attend our settings.

The 7 areas of learning and development remain the same.

The 3 prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

The 4 specific areas:

- literacy
- maths
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

#### The changes

Changes have been made to the wording in the educational programmes. Specifically, this means:

- they are longer, there is more depth, and they contain examples of things that we can all (staff and parents) do with children to enable them to build a depth and breadth of knowledge skills and understandings;

- there is an increased focus on early language and extending vocabulary, with more examples on how to embed and develop vocabulary skills across all 7 areas.

The aim of this is to improve outcomes for children as they progress through the EYFS and on into the next stages of education.

### **Changes to the wider EYFS**

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 which parents, carers and children may notice or experience.

- 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 the children and their learning and development needs. You may notice that the quantity of observations on Tapestry reduce. As well as documenting various activities in school, we will focus more on recording significant progression.
- Children will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category - such as 40-60+. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age.
- There are still Early Learning Goals - the assessment used at the end of the Reception year, however these have changed. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with these by looking at the statutory guidance document found on this page. Previously the assessment of the Early Learning Goals has included an 'exceeding' statement - used to indicate children who have surpassed the content of the Early Learning Goals. This has been removed in the reforms. Children will instead be challenged to have a greater depth of understandings about the concepts and skills they have built up over their time in their pre-school setting and Reception year.
- Safeguarding and welfare of children is still a priority, with the added mention of teaching children about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

