

**Welcome to EYFS**

**Your teachers are…**

EYFS Lead: Miss Delaney

Class Teachers: Mrs Stephenson

Learning Support Assistants: Miss Williams and

Our EYFS is a play-based setting, with hands-on, child-centred learning and experiences. In addition to our planned topics, we also follow children’s interests and seasonal changes. We have a strong focus on supporting our children to be confident, independent learners with high well-being.

Additional information about our setting is provided in this document.

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| **Our Topics**Below are out topics for the whole year. We offer a diverse range of activities to meet the needs of our children and to move forward their individual learning. |
| **Autumn 1** | **Autumn 2** | **Spring 1** | **Spring 2** | **Summer 1** | **Summer 2** |
| **Colour / The Creation story/ Harvest** | **Shiny things /Diwali and Bonfire Night/ Christmas** | **Traditional Tales / Chinese New Year** | **New Life / Mini beasts/ Easter** | **Our School and Village / other localities (including Homes and Houses, People who Help us, Transport)/ Buddhist stories** |

**Self-care**

As we offer hands-on play and outdoor learning, your children will sometimes get dirty. Please dress them for the weather and label all clothing with their name.

If your child is unwell or has a bump / fall, staff will fill in an accident slip or contact home if more serious. It is essential that your contact details are kept up to date with school in case of emergencies.

Children access the toilet independently, but “accidents” do occur. It may be helpful to send your child with a spare set of clothes that can be kept in school.

**Snack and Milk**

All EYFS children receive free fruit and milk daily. Children can take their snack whenever they like during the session. We ask for a contribution of £1 per week to cover weekly activities such as cooking, planting etc. Any children attending the Friday afternoon session (including Reception), also take part in tuck shop. This is 50p per week and covers an extra selection of healthy snacks, treats and a drink.



For minor issues, please feel free to see a member of EYFS staff for quick ‘catch ups’ when dropping off / collecting your child. We will try our best to make time available. For confidential or more in-depth appointments, please contact the school office on 01429 820280 to arrange a suitable time and date.

**P.E**

Both Reception and Nursery take part in PE sessions in the school hall. Our children do not require P.E. kit at this early stage; Reception children remove their shoes and socks. Please help by practising this at home.



**Curriculum**

In Nursery, our learning concentrates on speaking, listening, social skills and movement, with some basic counting, mark-making and sound awareness skills.

When they enter their Reception year, children will use synthetic phonics to read and write. Children will bring home sound books, letter formation work, high frequency words and reading books. This will be their, “homework” and needs to be practised frequently to best support the children’s progress. Further information will be provided for Reception parents in the Autumn term.

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**Behaviour**

We follow the school behaviour system. In Thornley Primary School our school motto is simple…” Work hard, be kind.” We think that if we can all do this our school will be a happy and safe place.

In the EYFS setting we have a Thornley Tree covered in stars. On each star is a face. When behaviour is good, we remain on our star on the tree and are rewarded with lots of praise, and sometimes Dojo points or messages home. Teachers will give us verbal warnings in instances of behaviour that is not kind. If this behaviour continues, our face is removed temporarily from the tree and we discuss why this has happened.

We encourage pupils to think about their own and others’ feelings and ways to resolve the situation in order to get along.

**Phonics**

During Nursery, our children will begin to play with sounds through rhythmic activities, early phonics activities and phonics games. This includes music sessions and singing each day, as well as story-telling.

In the Reception year we introduce our children to the phonemes and graphemes. We use Jolly phonics to teach our children their phonics sounds. We find that a multi-sensory approach to phonics works well and allows our children to succeed at the application of phonics.

We teach our children how to use their phonics in reading and writing from an early stage and encourage them to be used independently across all areas of learning.

**Assessment**

We assess each child throughout the year using Durham LA guidance and the statutory assessment of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the Reception Year. We hold parental consultation evenings for Reception and less formal drop-in mornings for Nursery in order to discuss your child’s progress.

**Reception Baseline**

From September 2021, pupils entering Reception year will have to undertake the Reception baseline. This is an online statutory assessment test for each individual child to complete with a member of staff. While we will not know the results of this assessment, we can assure you that we will make your child feel as comfortable and confident as possible while they are completing it.