



[Early Years Foundation Stage \(Nursery-Reception\)](#)

Nursery and Reception have a wonderful state of the art learning space, encompassing sliding doors between the classrooms to create a large free-flow area. Children learn best when they are able to decide where to learn so the outdoor area also becomes a learning environment with a large canopy to ensure learning can take place in all types of weather. The areas are shared between Nursery and Reception which creates a lovely atmosphere of older children playing with the younger ones, the staff knowing all of the children across the classes and also helps with the transition from Nursery to Reception.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), is how the Government and Early Years' professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

How will my child be learning?

As well as following the EYFS framework here at Hermitage we also follow the principles of 'Making Learning Visible (MLV)' which aims to create innovative, flexible learning spaces, responsive to the needs of the children, which invite curiosity and discovery.

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The teachers make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. Through play young children learn in an imaginative and spontaneous way that has a purpose for them, they are free to explore and experiment and learn a great deal about problem solving and working with others. This also links into the MLV initiative that we follow.

It is essential that this important learning process takes place in a happy, stimulating environment. At Hermitage we will provide the material, time and space for children to play with a purpose in both an indoor and outdoor environment. Explorative play helps to compare size, texture, shape, to discriminate, discover properties and principles of cause and effect. Early mathematical concepts and linguistic skills are founded in play.

Planned activities and play structured by the Reception staff gives children the opportunity to consolidate learning experiences, practise skills and develop the ability to reason and solve problems. Challenging activities which arouse the children's curiosity are planned around a theme or topic and, as children learn best from first hand experiences, every effort is made to provide them.

We also use the local environment, take the children on visits and invite members of the community into school to ensure the learning for our youngest children enables them to understand what they are learning and why.

Following both initiatives allows pupils make rapid progress, surpassing national expectations.

How can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to talk and read with your child it will make a real difference to your child's vocabulary and confidence as a learner.

Parent Partnerships

We pride ourselves at Hermitage in the way we build relationships with parents from day one. We carry out home visits in both Nursery and Reception, we find that this is the initial brick being laid in the foundations of a strong parent – school relationship. We learn about your child and what they like and build a bond between parent and teacher. This initial meeting allows your child to see that you are comfortable with us and this allows for a smooth transition from home to school life. We build the trust and attachment with your child and you so that they will feel safe and will be ready to learn.

Communication

Communication is another important brick in the partnership. We communicate in several ways, face to face at the door in the morning and afternoon. We have School Money an email system which is how the school will communicate to you instead of lots of letters. There is the website with a parent notice board, curriculum maps giving you all the learning information for that term. There will be newsletters termly and best of all DOJO – the innovative way we communicate to you about our classes and school activities. Your child can earn DOJO points linked to the expectations in their class.

Every week on a Friday nursery have an open door where you come in and share 15 minutes of what your child has been learning. These sessions build confidence in the children performing in front of an audience and also make them proud of their achievements. In Reception these sessions continue fortnightly or monthly depending on the parents' wishes of each cohort.

Emotional Literacy and Growth Mindset

Here at Hermitage we encourage all our pupils to be able to express themselves and say how they feel and this journey begins in Nursery. We give them the vocabulary for their feelings and explain what they can do when they feel that way. This also helps the children with their peers and is a lifelong skill.

The power of YET! When children first start their learning journey they will require lots of support from staff and you as parents. At Hermitage the staff and pupils have adopted Growth Mindset, which has allowed them to build their confidence to try new things without the fear of failure as they know you have to keep trying and build up your resilience. With our youngest children we use the word YET a lot. When they say "I can't do it" we say "You can't do it yet!" We show them and they practise and they do get it, it's all about perseverance and resilience bouncing back and learning how to get out of negative feelings.

Discovery Days

These are days that are dedicated to one theme and occur every half term. We have had a Science one, Growth Mindset, Number's Day, Art Day. These experience days bring excitement and learning opportunities shared throughout the school. They bring a learning buzz and children talk about them for weeks.

Every child deserves the best possible start to their education and lifelong learning journey.