Early Years Foundation Stage

Early Years at Monken Hadley

Curriculum Intent

At Monken Hadley our aim is to create a learning environment and build relationships which support, enhance and invite a child's curiosity, confidence and individual competency to flourish regardless of backgrounds, circumstances or needs. We work collaboratively with parents and carers to encourage independent, enthusiastic learners who thrive and reach their full potential. It is our intent that children who enter our EYFS begin their lifelong learning journey by developing physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally whilst also embedding a positive attitude to school and a love of learning.

To ensure children make outstanding progress at Monken Hadley we take into consideration their starting points and needs as they begin their learning journey. Every child has access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum which prepares them for now and for the future in terms of opportunities and experiences.

Our EYFS curriculum enables our children to be:

- Competent and creative learners; who are curious about the world around them.
- Secure and confident; who enjoy coming to school and learning new skills and knowledge building on their existing learning.
- Skillful communicators; who connect with others through language and play, ensuring that they play in a vocab rich environment.

Curriculum Implementation

Our EYFS curriculum adapted from Cornerstones has been developed to enable all our children to flourish. It is designed to recognise children's prior learning, to develop children's resilience and to enable them to become independent thinkers and problem solvers. In our mixed age setting children are given the opportunities to work collaboratively with the older children, are exposed to the KS 1 curriculum and when ready, are given opportunities to record their learning in a variety of imaginative ways.

In addition to delivering the requirements for the EYFS framework through creative teaching which engages the children, life as reception child at Monken hadley is further enhanced through the pastoral support given by the older children in the class.

The mixed age setting allows for close partnership with the Year 1/ 2 teacher enabling focused transition to year 1 or 2. Our practitioners work closely together sharing best practice, knowledge of the children and even a linking class room door allowing for a carefully managed transition from EYFS to Key stage 1

We record the children's work in a range of ways that include photographic evidence on Tapestry (online profile), Class books for RE and PSHE, and special books.

Year 1 children who are in the Reception /year 1 class are taught the year 1 curriculum in small groups. The reception children are invited to join the Year 1 groups.

Curriculum Impact

Our goal is for children to leave reception ready for their Key stage 1 experience.
We measure progress of children's learning through formative and summative assessment. This is captured from staff knowledge , the childrens books and the children's online profiles
At the end of EYFS the staff complete the EYFS for each child. We, of course, aim to exceed national and local authority level of children achieving a good level of development AND we ensure the children are ready socially and emotionally prepared for Key Stage 1
The EYFS class teacher meets regularly with the Head of School to evaluate progress and teaching and learning. They meet with other EYFS leads, partake in external moderation and attend appropriate training.

Our children leave reception as confident and articulate children. They are able to communicate with a range of people, including their peers, older children in the school and adults. If they are stuck they ask for help but also are showing increased resilience.
They are able to share stories, use phonics skills to both read and write sentences and can share and perform poems with gusto!
Our children leave reception with a curiosity about numbers, notice patterns and use maths in their school life.

Our children understand kindness and sharing. They are able to follow rules and routines. They are growing in independence, they know there is a world around them, their place in it and that they belong to our community.

As children make the move to Year 1, they are continuing their Monken Hadley Journey developing curiosity, a love of learning and a sense of social responsibility.