

Welcome to Reception!

Early Years Foundation Stage

Through our thematic curriculum we ensure all children's experiences are challenging, realistic and enjoyable. Priors Field offers a safe environment in which children can explore, imagine and create.

In Reception our team recognise the importance of providing the children with a stimulating learning environment. This is enabled by good quality provision and clearly organised resources, both outside and in. We actively encourage children to participate in the planning process by influencing the direction that our themes take. The planning for our play based curriculum is informed by the use of observational assessment and the needs and interests of children. Building on what the children already know and understand enables them to develop and make progress at their own pace so that they can continue to enjoy learning.

The following themes are a guideline to our learning and could be rearranged or altered at any time according to what our children are passionate about.

Autumn 1

All about me and my family

This allows staff and children to learn more about each other and themselves. We promote children's self-esteem and their sense of belonging to the school community. During this topic we explore and celebrate culture, our families, our homes and where we live. The children celebrate the topic by creating a class book where they are able to share family photos and stories with each other.

Autumn Term 2: Transport

During this theme we investigate the differences between old and new transport, different methods of transport and journeys that we make. We design and construct our own methods of transport, write stories about journeys and find out about far away lands. We look into journeys that birds make when they migrate and make bird feeders for them. In our role play areas children 'work in' or 'visit' a mechanics shop and a bus station. We learn how to play new games and how important it is to take

turns and share when playing together. Nearer to Christmas we will offer a whole range of festive activities.

Spring term 1:

Pets and Local animals

We begin this topic by exploring animals that we are familiar with, such as farm animals and pets. Where do they live? Where might we see them? We use our wildlife area to look for signs of wild animals and go on mini beast hunts. We conduct surveys to find out the most popular pet of choice, write leaflets about caring for animals and open a Vets in our role play area. We use puppets to develop our writing and create stories about farm animals.

Spring term 2:

Animals of our world

Here we learn about wild animals and their habitats - from the jungle to the desert to the ocean! Lots of our work will centre around the story of 'Dear Zoo'; as we reflect on our school trip and find out where the animals we met are from. This gives us an opportunity to develop an understanding of climate, environments and habitats. We then read poems and stories about the sea and creatures that live in the ocean. We explore the depths of our imagination and creativity by creating 'under the sea' paintings and exploring sounds of the ocean.

Summer 1

Dinosaurs

For this topic we explore a variety of dinosaurs and their characteristics. We group and sort the dinosaurs and enjoy sharing facts and stories about them. We become archaeologists, digging up fossils in the sand and we use our globe to locate where other dinosaur fossils have been found. We sing songs about the dinosaurs and experiment with instruments to make dinosaur sounds. We investigate using information books and create our own factual leaflets and books.

Summer 2

Castles, Kings and Queens

This theme is a great opportunity to soak up local history and inspire imaginative play. We visit Kenilworth Castle in full Royal attire, learning about castle life and enjoying role play on the castle grounds. We work as a team to design and construct our own castle and we use our fine tuned motor skills to create furniture and small figurine people to live in the

castle. The children write about and read stories about dragons and other mythical or fantasy animals.

Daily Adult Input

Number/ Shape Space and Measure

Mathematical sessions allow the children to explore number, colour, shape, time and measure. The children are encouraged to develop their counting skills and to explore addition and subtraction practically. They are given opportunities to participate in adult initiated activities and independent tasks.

Communication, Language and Literacy

This area is developed through discussions, role-play activities, listening to and sharing their own stories, mark making (leading to writing), recreating roles and experiences. Focused activities in this area are linked to our theme.

Daily Phonics

Phonics sessions are 20 minutes long. The children are encouraged to participate in hands on activities. They are introduced to new sounds each day that contribute to the development of their reading and writing.