

FOUNDATION STAGE

Welcome to Oxford Grove School Foundation Stage

At Oxford Grove School we believe that a happy, stimulating and safe environment is essential for the education of children. We aim to develop independence, self-esteem and an enthusiasm for learning through skilled direct teaching and well-planned, purposeful play. Our high quality teaching builds upon what children already know. We plan a range of exciting and challenging experiences to motivate, encourage concentration and promote learning.

'Happy children become willing learners'

We are committed to creating a friendly, caring and exciting learning environment where:-

- Each child is valued as an individual and empowered to learn and develop to achieve their potential;
- Parents/carers are respected for the key role they play and are involved as partners in their child's learning;
- The importance of play to engage, support and extend children's learning, is recognised.

How learning is organised in the Foundation Stage

What and how the children learn in Nursery and Reception is based on the Statutory Framework for Foundation Stage. A range of learning experiences and activities reflect the children's interests and build on their knowledge and skills through play. For most of the sessions, children have access to the indoor and outdoor areas and are guided to specific tasks as well as being provided with short bursts of intensive focused teaching. Equipment is organised and labelled so that children know where to find what they need to develop independence. All areas of the curriculum are delivered through different



experiences and activities that reflect the children's interests and build on their knowledge and skills.

The indoor and outdoor spaces are organised to allow children to move around safely, to work on the floor and on table tops, individually and in small or large groups. The Foundation stage children are taught to work co-operatively with their friends in reception and nursery.

Included within our Foundation Stage are these learning areas:

Role play	Reading
Small world	Construction
Sand and water	Cooking
Computers	Maths
Painting and collage	Writing
P.E.	Box modelling
Music and instruments	Clay and playdough
Scissor skills	Investigating area

If you are interested in finding out more about our Foundation Stage Unit and would like to visit us, please do not hesitate to call and make an appointment to come along and see us in action!



OXFORD GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Miss Harvey

OUR FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

The Curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:-

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children need to have self-esteem, confidence, motivation and be able to self-regulate their emotions to be successful learners. They need to develop concentration and learn how to co-operate. We encourage these skills and promote respect for others. Children learn to care for the environment and respect both their own culture and that of other people. They develop independence and the ability to take turns and to share through a variety of activities.

Communication and Language

In the Foundation Stage, we develop children's speaking, listening and understanding. We recognise the importance of the adult role in modelling, encouraging and supporting children's language development, expanding their vocabulary on a daily basis. We aim to create a language rich environment which provides children opportunities for speaking, listening and sharing ideas. To support long-term memory, each classroom is rich with vocabulary and sticky knowledge stations to encourage children to recall their experiences.

Physical development

We plan varied activities, both indoors and outdoors, which help children to develop physical



control, awareness of space and manipulative skills. Our Foundation Stage has the benefit of a purpose built outdoor learning environment. This area is well resourced and secure so that children can develop the same skills and knowledge that we are promoting inside. They develop gross motor skills as well as building upon personal and social skills as the children learn to take turns, share and develop a sense of fair play. Fine motor skills are developed in preparation for writing.

English

Our school has adopted a systematic synthetic daily phonics programme. This programme is based on the sounds that letters make and how they blend together to make words and how words can be segmented so that we can spell them.

'From the beginning of the Nursery class, children are introduced to a well-designed phonics curriculum that sparks their interest in language and sounds.' (Ofsted 2023)

Whilst at Nursery, children prepare for this by developing their listening skills and their ability to distinguish different sounds all around them before they begin to learn about letters. In Reception the work moves on to recognising and using letters as children begin to apply their knowledge to their reading and writing.

Mathematics

To develop a deep understanding of maths we use practical activities to develop mathematical skills and language. The children gain experience in counting, matching, sorting, ordering and comparing. They learn about shape and pattern and about ways of measuring time, length, mass and capacity. We play games which involve number and devise activities which enable children to explore shapes and measures, discussing what they are doing so that the appropriate vocabulary is absorbed.

Understanding the World

Children are encouraged to find out about other people and the world around them. Work in this area of learning provides the foundation for later study of subjects such as science, history, technology and geography. We plan activities which enable the children to explore a range of materials and living things, encouraging the children to question and investigate. Examples of activities are when the children plant and water seeds and we discuss how these grow; we undertake water and sand investigations; we observe caterpillars transform into butterflies and help children to use computer and touchscreen games and puzzles.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children develop their creative skills through art, music, dance and drama. They will sing and use simple musical instruments. By using a wide variety of art materials, they can explore colour and texture and practice the skills needed to express themselves creatively. This may be through painting and drawing or modelling with clay, dough and other materials.



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