

Sherwood Class

Here in Sherwood class we have both Reception and Year One children.

We love how enthusiastically the children come into school and how excited they are to learn.

We have 3 members of staff within our class, Mrs Whitaker is the class teacher, Mrs De Prez is the class teaching assistant and Miss Cora who is a one to one support for one of the children within our class but who also gets involved in all aspects of classroom life.

In our class our education looks a little different to the rest of the school. This is due to the fact that we learn through play based learning.

Learning through play

Play underpins the EYFS. It also underpins learning and all aspects of children's development. Through play, children develop language skills, their emotions and creativity, social and intellectual skills. For most children their play is natural and spontaneous although some children may need extra help from adults. Play takes place indoors and outdoors and it is in these different environments that children explore and discover their immediate world. It is here they practise new ideas and skills; they take risks, show imagination and solve problems on their own or with others. The role that adults have is crucial. Adults provide time and space and appropriate resources. These might include clothes, boxes, buckets, old blankets that will inspire play and fire children's imaginations. They observe play and join in when invited, watching and listening before intervening. They value play and provide safe but challenging environments that support and extend learning and development.



Therefore if, when you ask your child what they have been doing in school all day and they reply with "oh, I've just played", that is ok. To them that is what they have been doing, when in actual fact they are learning.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

There is a strong emphasis on learning through play experiences. The curriculum is based on the new Early Years Foundation Stage and the staff work together to ensure that all areas are covered through first hand, practical learning experiences.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government guidance and is divided in to areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We help children to develop respect for themselves and others whilst building positive relationships with adults and peers. All children will be encouraged to increase their independence skills, whilst developing a positive attitude to learning.

Communication and Language

Children are encouraged to listen attentively, talk about their experiences and use language in a variety of ways to communicate with adults and peers.

Literacy

Reading skills will be taught using a variety of books, text and print in their environment. In writing children will be taught to use pictures, symbols, letters and familiar words to communicate meaning. Children will learn to write their name using appropriate upper and lower case letters and correct letter formation.

Mathematics

Maths is taught through stories, songs, games, imaginative and practical activities. Children are taught to use mathematical language to describe and compare shapes, position, size and quantity. Through a variety of activities, children will be taught to count, write and use numbers to at least 20.

Understanding of the World

This area of learning develops the children's understanding of the environment, people around them and features of the natural and man-made world. Children will be encouraged to be curious, ask questions, investigate and explore different aspects of the curriculum. This will provide a foundation for historical, geographical, scientific and technological learning.

Physical Development

Children will be taught to move confidently and imaginatively with increasing control and coordination during outdoor play activities and in P.E. lessons. They will develop increasing skill and control with small apparatus such as bats, balls, hoops, beanbags and quoits. Fine motor control will be developed using tools, scissors, small construction equipment and malleable materials.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will be encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas and feelings using a wide range of materials. In dance, drama and music, children will express and develop their creative and artistic skills.

All the areas of learning are linked to topics lasting 6 – 12 weeks. Topics are likely to include ‘Me and my world’ ‘Fairytale’ ‘growing’, as well as seasonal focuses on Autumn, Spring, Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year etc.