Early Years Foundation Stage Prospectus



Dear Parents/Carers,

The first five years of life are the most significant years your child will have, as in this period children learn faster than at any other time. The kind of experiences a child has will help to shape their future life.

Our aim is to build a strong foundation for our children's education by providing a carefully planned and delivered Foundation Stage education. We are an integral part of school and our classes are structured to stimulate the development of skills and knowledge that will enable our children to develop socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically.

The Foundation Stage begins at three years and lasts until the end of the Reception year when children are five years old. During this time, children usually see learning as fun. They learn with enjoyment and challenge as they make progress towards achieving the Early Learning Goals.

This booklet is intended to give you an insight into the Nursery and Reception classes in our Foundation Stage and the work your child will do each day. We trust you will find it helpful and informative but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Watson
Head Teacher

Miss J Booth
Assistant Head Teacher
EYFS Lead

Meet the Early Years Foundation Stage team:
Nursery and Reception

Nursery Staff

Mrs Owens



Miss Dunn



Mrs Spry



Reception Staff

Miss Firman



Miss Walker



Mrs Stone



Starting Nursery

Children can come to our Nursery as soon as we have a place available after their third birthday. This may be the start of the next academic year if places have been in high demand especially if their third birthday falls in the spring/summer term. Prior to that staff will arrange a home visit and you are welcome to visit the Nursery to have a look around the classroom and outdoor area. We would like the opportunity to spend a little time exclusively getting to know you and your child and to answer any questions you may have. Meeting children in their own home forges a bond between Nursery and home and goes a long way to reassuring your child.

When places become available children are admitted a few at a time. The settling in period varies depending on the individual child. Some children may settle within a few days and others may take a few weeks. We will work alongside you and your child to ensure a smooth transition into Nursery based on their needs.

If you have any worries or concerns about your child the Foundation Stage staff are more than happy to discuss these with you.

Mrs Palmer in the office co-ordinates all Nursey admission. If you would like to register your child or have any further questions please pop in or ring Mrs Palmer.

Nursery Class Time

The Nursery class is open for two sessions each day. Your child may attend either the morning or afternoon session, subject to a place being available. The teaching times for this are:

Morning	8:45 a.m.	-	11.45 a.m.
Afternoon	12. 30 p.m.	-	3.30 p.m.

Transition into Reception

As the Foundation Stage is a unit the transition into Reception is a smooth one for the children. During the academic year the Nursery and Reception staff and children take part in curriculum activities together and in various assemblies including the Christmas performance. In the summer term parents are invited to attend a transition meeting where they will get to meet the Reception team. During this meeting the Reception team will give a short presentation about Reception including daily routines, the differences between Nursery and Reception expectations regarding the curriculum, and will answer any questions parents may have. The meeting will end with a trip to the dining hall where parents and children can enjoy a

meal together with the Reception staff. Towards the end of the summer term, the Nursery children visit the playground in groups in preparation for moving into Reception. They also have transition sessions, spending time in the Reception classrooms and getting to know the Reception staff.

Reception Daily Routine

8:50 Doors Open
9:00 Register
9:05 Phonics
9:35 Area time
10:15 Literacy
10:40 Playtime
11:00 Numeracy
11:25 Area time
12:00 Lunchtime
12:45 Afternoon focus
1:20 Area time
2:50 Storytime
3:05-3.15 Doors Open

Parents can come into the cloakroom with their children and encourage children to become more independent. When we feel the children are ready, we will ask parents to stay outside and allow the children to develop their independence.

Collection of Children

At the end of the session it is very important that your child is collected by a responsible adult and that we are informed of any changes in collection arrangements.

If in an emergency you or the usual person, are unable to collect your child and someone is coming who we do not know, we would expect you to inform us by ringing the school office with the name of the adult collecting your child. If we are ever unsure of who has come to collect your child, we would contact you by telephone to obtain your permission.





In EYFS, we plan, deliver and assess around the 7 areas of learning and development.

- **Prime areas:** Personal, Social and Emotional Development
  Physical Development
  Communication and Language

- **Specific areas**: Literacy
  Mathematics
  Understanding the World
  Expressive Arts and Design

Often these areas overlap and are not taught in isolation. All the areas are delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child- initiated activities, which take place indoors and outdoors. We do this by planning a play based curriculum linked to the Cornerstones topics in line with the rest of the school.

Observations

We regularly observe children as they work independently in the areas of learning. As a result, we gain a clear understanding of how the children are applying the knowledge and skills they have gained during adult-led activities into their independent learning. We use the findings of these observations to inform planning for future learning opportunities to ensure they are closely matched to the child's learning needs. Observations will be shared with parents at parent consultation evenings to ensure that there is a good working partnership between home and school. At the beginning of both Nursery and Reception the children will be assessed and this gives staff an accurate picture of what children can do. Staff can then focus on children's next steps and move their learning forwards across all areas of the curriculum.

Outdoor provision

The children will have regular access to the Foundation Stage outdoor area, which is supervised at all times. The activities that are available in the outdoor provision are carefully planned and reflect what is being taught in the classroom. There are lots of different resources and opportunities provided to enhance the children's experiences.



Phonics

Developing an understanding of phonics is what underpins the learning needed to become independent readers and writers. In Nursery we begin with Phase 1 Letters and Sounds which includes listening to environmental sounds and exploring instruments, singing songs and rhymes and focusing on animal sounds as a way of fine tuning the children's listening skills. The Nursery children move on to Phase 2 Letters and Sounds before starting Reception, learning letter sounds and focusing on hearing initial sounds in words. In the Reception year we continue following the Letters and Sounds programme and build upon children's phonic knowledge gained in Nursery. Children will take part in a phonics session every day which will last for 20 minutes. These sessions will provide a fun and engaging way to practise reading and writing new sounds and words, moving on to reading captions and sentences as the year progresses. Children are also taught to recognise, by sight, the 'tricky' words that cannot be sounded out. When children are confident in hearing, recognising and using the sounds we then teach the children the names of each letter in the alphabet as well as the sound they make.

Writing

In Nursery and Reception we provide lots of opportunities for children to write independently and practise the skills they have learnt in phonics sessions and in adult-directed writing activities. All the areas of the classroom provide opportunities for writing such as making a shopping list in the role play area. In EYFS we begin to develop fine motor skills using finger exercises and other manipulating skills such as threading and rolling dough to ensure the children develop muscles that allow them to hold a pencil. As the children become more skilled at holding a pencil we then move onto letter formation. We begin this in Nursery by supporting the children when writing their name on their work (both adult led and child initiated work) When the children move into Reception we practise letter formation through daily handwriting sessions as well as adult directed writing activities where the children are supported with their pencil grip and letter formation. Once children have a secure understanding of phase 2 phonics, they can begin to write labels and captions. This will then progress to writing simple sentences using finger spaces.



Reading



Encouraging children to have a love of reading is very important in the Foundation Stage and this begins by sharing a story with the children every day, whether that is during a shared reading session in Literacy or at the end of the day. The children will have access to books in the reading areas and these will be a mixture of fiction and non-fiction. We also have a class library in both Nursery and Reception where the children will have the opportunity to take home books for you to share together. In Reception the children will take home a school reading book, which will be a picture book to begin with. This is to encourage the children to talk in sentences and use the pictures to tell you the story, predict what they think may happen and explain to you why they think something has happened or how characters are feeling. As the children learn letter sounds during their phonics sessions and begin to practise the skills of decoding and blending words they will be given a book with simple CVC words in. This will then progress to books with simple sentences and eventually to more complex sentences and stories. Sharing their school reading book as often as possible will help your child practise their decoding and blending skills, which will help them to become a competent and independent reader and develop a love of reading.

Mathematics

In Nursery the children will experience number through counting objects, counting songs and matching games and many more. In Reception children will build on the skills and experiences gained in Nursery. Your child will gain a secure knowledge of numbers up to 20 to begin with, ensuring they can recognise the numbers in and out of sequence, count out objects to match to the correct number, order the numbers and accurately write the numbers using the correct number formation. Later in the year we move on to looking at addition and subtraction in a practical sense before moving onto a more formalised method of writing these calculations. The children will be able to access a range of Numeracy activities in all



classrooms. By immersing the children in both numbers and shape, space and measures in all areas of the Foundation Stage they will begin to see that mathematics is all around us and not just something that is done in isolation.

ICT



ICT plays a very important role in supporting and developing children's learning. In the Foundation Stage we aim to develop children's experience of ICT across the curriculum. The children have regular use of an interactive whiteboard in all the EYFS classrooms and we use a range of programmes to support children's learning. During the year the children will have access to IPads, Beebots, Talking Daisies and other electronic equipment designed to support and enhance their learning and development. There are two computers in the Reception classrooms so that the children can independently use a range of programmes to support their learning and develop their mouse control. Throughout the year the Reception children also have access to the ICT suite.

Foundation Stage Uniform

The school uniform policy states that children should wear; blue sweatshirts and cardigans; white polo shirts; black/grey trousers/skirts/dresses. They are reasonably priced as follows:

Sweatshirts		£8.50
V-neck Sweatshirt Cardigan		£9.50
White Polo shirts		£6.50
Gym Kit (T shirt, shorts & P.E. bag)		£11.00
Initials	(per garment up to 3 letters)	£1.00

Blue and white checked dresses can be worn for the summer.

We would like pupils to wear black school shoes, not trainers. We expect children to wear uniform on visits unless you are otherwise notified.

Occasionally we may have non-uniform days where children bring a donation into school. The money is donated to a charity that we are supporting.

School Website

www.theavenueprimaryschool.co.uk
@AvenuePrimaryUK

Our twitter feed and website are updated regularly. As well as these you will receive information about events and notices through school letters and newsletters.

Marvellous Me

Marvellous Me is a fantastic app for parents/school communication. You can be updated about your child's achievements weekly and find out about their current learning.

Enrichment activities

We try to enrich our curriculum with additional activities such as visits out of school, visitors to class or the whole school and theatre groups. These sometimes happen in school as part of planned activities or they may be in addition. If the latter is the case you will be notified by letter.

Medication in school

In the case of sufferers from asthma or other related allergies, we will support the recommended treatment from your family doctor within school.

We keep a school record of all children with medical needs. Please go to the school office to complete a medical form if your child requires medication to be administered during the school day due to a prescription of four times a day. This includes inhalers. School will administer the medication when needed. Only medicine prescribed by the doctor can be administered by school. For additional guidance please see Mrs Palmer in the school office. Inhalers are stored in an appropriate safe place, inside a medical bag in the children's classrooms.

Our medical records are updated every September, but we rely on parents to inform us of any major change that occurs during the year.

Contact details

If your contact details change (home phone number, mobile phone number, house address) please inform the school office. It is essential that we have accurate and up to date records in case we need to get in touch with a parent or carer, for example if your child is ill.

Safeguarding Children

All staff within school, volunteers and people from outside agencies are DBS checked. A copy of the safeguarding/child protection policy is on the school website.

School meals (Reception class)

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal as part of the Universal Free School Meal scheme. If you would like your child to receive a free school meal please indicate this on the front of the school dinner envelopes which you will receive at the Reception transition meeting. If you intend for your child to have a packed lunch please indicate this on the envelope also as this will help the school kitchen to provide a calculation of the number of children who will be having a school meal.

If your child decides to change from a school meal or a packed lunch we ask that parents do so on a half termly basis. It is very difficult to arrange for children to have a combination of school meals and packed lunches.

We would only ask that canned or bottled drinks are not included for safety reasons. Drinks in cardboard cartons would be preferred and water for those who require it will still be provided. We also recommend that grapes and nuts are avoided for health and safety reasons. All children will need to take away wrappings etc. Packed lunch boxes are stored in boxes labelled with each class in the dining hall. You can put your child's packed lunch in the Reception box in the morning. After they have finished their packed lunch the children put their empty lunch box on the trolley outside the Reception classroom.

Thank you for taking the time to read our EYFS Prospectus. This provides only a snapshot of what our EYFS is all about. For further information, please look at our school website.