

Mugginton Church of England Primary School

The Early Years

As providers of Early Years education, we aim to provide a secure foundation for children to make good progress through school and life in modern Britain. There are seven areas of learning and development.

The three Prime Areas are

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical Development

The four specific areas are

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Reception children work through the Early Learning Goals to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in the prime and specific areas. Reception children will be encouraged to think and talk about their learning and to develop confidence and resilience. They participate in a range of activities where they play and explore, have active learning and have the opportunity to develop creative and critical thinking. Approaches to teaching will include recognition of the value of providing first hand experiences, of giving clear explanations, of appropriate adult intervention and of using play and talk as media for learning.

Language has to be the starting point for all learning. Until children can master the spoken word, listen carefully, communicate with peers and adults and follow instructions, new concepts cannot be understood. Talking, listening, respecting and valuing ideas from all members of the class therefore play an important role. This is the launching pad for early phonics and writing skills. All children regularly read aloud to the class teacher. It is another benefit of small class sizes that teacher and individual child have more such opportunities for closer interaction. Children are also encouraged to see books as reliable sources of information as well as a pleasure.

Early mathematics includes working with numbers up to 20 and adding, subtracting and solving problems. Children will learn to use every day language for shapes, space and measuring. There is also an important role for structured play to give children first hand experiences in science, mathematics, creative activities and physical development activities which are essential before they can grasp the type of abstract concepts contained in the National Curriculum. Play also helps to nurture a sense of personal and social responsibility and is an integral part of a child's whole development during this formative stage of life in school.

Overall, our careful planning ensures that all children receive a well-balanced and structured start to their education, setting them confidently on their way onwards and upwards through the school.

Friday Owl Club - Held each Friday morning from 10.30 - 11.30am where we invite parents and their pre-school children to join our reception children for a range of activities.