

Early Years Foundation Stage

Intent

At Longleaze Primary School we are dedicated to creating a caring and enabling environment that values and supports our youngest children as they start their school journey. Our ethos in the Early Years is to inspire our pupils to be curious, confident, and independent lifelong learners who are 'Learning for Life'. We facilitate this by placing their needs at the center of the curriculum to ensure all children achieve the essential knowledge and skills they need to thrive and achieve as a Longleaze Learner.

Implementation

At Longleaze we offer a curriculum that is broad and balanced. It is designed to build on the key skills, knowledge and understanding of all our children and includes meaningful learning experiences and cross curricular links delivered through a topic-based approach.

We use Development Matters to support our curriculum delivery and planning. We evaluate how the children are learning and adapt our enhanced provision to respond to their needs and interests. This results in effective and engaging learning experiences that are embedded through enriched play-based provision.

Our pupils learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult directed activities. The timetable is carefully structured so that children have directed daily teaching in literacy, mathematics and phonics. These sessions are followed by group work which enable the teachers to model, scaffold and embed the learning and the children to apply the skills and knowledge they have learnt. Our enabling environment and warm, skillful adult interactions support our children to make purposeful links to their learning through play and exploration. Children work individually, in a pair or within a group.

Phonics and reading skills are taught daily through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds. This is supported with fully phonically decodable Collins Big Cat reading scheme books. This reading scheme helps children to progress quickly from decoding words to reading fluently by the end of Year 2. There is dedicated story, singing and rhyme time every day and the reading areas are stocked with high quality picture books from the reading spine. Different learning environments around the classroom are also supported with books to enhance the provision.

At Longleaze we use the Talk for Writing approach. Children learn the creative process involved in 'being a writer,' including generating ideas, drawing on their experiences of what has been read and understanding how to change and improve their written work. This approach promotes language acquisition through the rehearsal of model texts and the oral development of new versions. Children internalise the language patterns that they need for writing, and this supports their confidence in early writing.

Our mathematics curriculum is based on the White Rose Hub and is supplemented by the Mastering Number programme (a new nationwide initiative from the NCTEM). These daily sessions are designed to develop a strong sense of number using concrete and pictorial resources, starting with mastering numbers 1-5 and then progressing through to 10 and then 20.

Parental engagement plays a key part in the teaching and learning of our pupils. We share information through termly knowledge organisers, weekly learning overviews and via Tapestry (our online learning journal). We run workshops for parents and carers on how they support their children with phonics. The children's next steps are shared with our families and they are also encouraged to upload regular observations of their child to Tapestry.

Impact

The aim of our curriculum is to inspire and ignite a love of learning. We aim for our children to leave the foundation stage as resilient independent learners who have confidently secured the early foundations for reading, writing and mathematics. In addition to this, we strive to ensure that our children have a strong sense of what is right and wrong and understand how to be safe in their choices and behaviour. We aim to ensure that all children develop the key characteristics of learning and can embrace new experiences, are interested in the world around them, take responsibility for their learning and ask and answer 'big' questions. We encourage the children to be able to reflect upon their learning and be able to recognise and be proud of their successes. Our children are encouraged to aim high and experience many exciting and enriching learning opportunities. We aim to ensure that all our Longleaze Learners have a positive and happy start to school life.