

Foundation Stage Curriculum Meeting

- The Foundation Stage curriculum is a play based curriculum. There are seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage. The three Prime learning areas are Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, and Physical Development; and the four specific areas of learning are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Many of the areas cross over/integrate with each other.
- Reading books are changed every day. Please ensure you read with your child every night – children need regular practice, reinforcement and support from home to make progress in reading. Sign your child's reading record and ensure they have their reading folder at school each day (so children can change their book, teachers can write in their reading record when your child has guided reading, and so that notices can be put in the reading folder for you to read). An alphabet card and word tin is also part of your child's homework – please also ensure your child's word tin is at school every day in their bag, so we can test them and 'top' the words up when your child knows all of them in their tin. As you are reading with your child discuss the title, author, pictures, characters and blurb. Also discuss what happened in the story.
- A curriculum newsletter is sent out every half term – this details what the children will be learning in each of the seven areas. It also includes information about which sounds we will be covering and ideas for how to support your child at home.
- In the attached pack there is a handwriting pamphlet that outlines the school handwriting font. The letters have dots on them to show you where each letter starts. The children will be bringing home laminated name writing sheets to help them practise writing their name in the school script. The school script is called 'boring boring', this can be downloaded onto your computer at home – there are also instructions for doing this in the attached pack (it is a free download).
- Children learn to write in many different ways – we do lots of modelling of writing at school and encourage children to 'have a go' at writing. At home you can also be modelling writing – letting children help to write the shopping list, writing their name in the Christmas cards, using chalk outside, writing with markers etc. Again there are some ideas in your pack to help your child at home.
- Maths in the Foundation Stage is very practical. We model and encourage the children to use mathematical language (such as more, less, longer, shorter, big, small, forwards, backwards etc) as they are playing in the different areas of the classroom. Children learn to read, write and order numbers to at least 20. At home a good way of reinforcing number knowledge is to sing number rhymes, counting as you are walking to school or tidying up, noticing numbers in the environment – door numbers, bus numbers, or playing board games with your child.
- We teach the children to be reverent while praying and at mass. We would like you to reinforce how to make the Sign of the Cross and when saying prayers at home.
- Please ensure all clothing is named – very important now that we have started doing PE. Also ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform (including jackets/coats – navy blue or black). You can help your child at home to get themselves undressed and dressed for PE independently by teaching them how to do up buttons and put on their own jumpers.
- Water is important for children to drink throughout the day – please ensure your child has a named water bottle at school every day – ensure they only have water – no juice or flavoured water please.

We hope these ideas help. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask your class teacher.