



EYFS Workshop for parents.

What is the EYFS?

- The EYFS stands for the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage is **how the Government and early year's professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5** (or end of the Reception year).
- This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 onwards) as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes.

Aims of the meeting

- Our approach to the EYFS
- Brief outline of the EYFS curriculum
- Changes to the EYFS curriculum this year.
- The Reception Baseline Assessment
- What you can do to help.



Our approach to the EYFS

At Wootton Bassett Infants' our motto is 'Where learning is fun'.

As a school our approach to learning is practical and play based. This is the case in all year groups, but especially in the EYFS - our Reception classes.

There is a mix of teacher led and more independent play based activities which can be teacher directed or child led. Some activities are indoors but we also use the outdoor area to support our learning.

The children enjoy a mix of activities such as sand and water as well active play outside. This supports all areas of learning, for example, the children learn about numbers and letters through using chinks, brushes and water as well as more messy play – shaving foam, bubbles, paint etc.



Brief outline of the EYFS curriculum

The EYFS curriculum is divided into 7 areas of learning which are

- Communication and language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical development.

These first three areas are the Prime areas and children need to be secure in these areas in order for their learning to develop in the remaining four areas. These are

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Another very important part of the EYFS is the partnership with parents and carers. You must remember that you are your child's first educator. You encourage, chat and play with your children and this is so important for their development.

Changes to the EYFS curriculum this year.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been reformed and there is a new EYFS framework that all schools are following from this September. These national changes have been made to better support all young children's learning and development. It is also the aim that the new framework will better prepare children for the transition into key stage 1.

There are some elements of the EYFS that have not significantly changed and some that have. Below are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that parents, carers and children may notice or experience.

- Staff will be spending less time on large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection. This means they can spend more time supporting and engaging with the children and their learning and development needs.
- Children will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age.

- The early learning goals at the end of reception have been changed to become more clear and easier to understand. Staff will use their judgements to assess if the children have met these goals at the end of the EYFS and inform parents and carers.
- There is an emphasis on improving children's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.
- Literacy and numeracy skills focused on in the EYFS have been adapted to better match up with the national curriculum that starts in year 1.
- There is no longer an exceeding judgement at the end of reception. Children will instead be challenged to have a greater depth and understanding of ideas.
- Safeguarding and welfare of children is still a priority, with the added mention of teaching children about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

RBA – Reception Baseline assessment

This is a national statutory assessment that is completed by all schools during the first six weeks. It must be done by a teacher or known adult.

All the resources are provided and also the questions that the children are asked.

It is a 'snapshot' of each child on entry and includes an interactive and practical assessment of early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills.

Your child's teacher will receive a set of statements which will be used at parents evening to form part of the discussion about your child. Numerical scores will not be shared.



What you can do to help.

Communication and Language is at the heart of children's learning.

At school we provide a language rich environment. This is something that you can build on at home.

At school we

- Engage in interactions/conversations with children
- Provide provocations that promote talk
- Read good quality texts to children frequently
- Use songs, poems and rhymes
- Model good language/vocabulary
- Use and embed the use of new words.
- Provide a language rich environment.
- Provide play based learning, following the children's interests.



Obviously we would also love you to hear your child read their reading books regularly, go through their letter sounds with them saying the sounds clearly and correctly. But just taking time to have conversations with your child will make a massive difference.

Talk about what you can see on the way home – look out for numbers or letters on a walk, talk about how the seasons change or about the clouds in the sky! Anything!

Talk is central to children's learning and listening to and using new words and phrases, singing Nursery Rhymes, and reading books to them that develop their vocabulary are all things that will make a big difference to your child and to their development.



Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

Information for Parents and Carers

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is a government document that all schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England must follow. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

★ What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programmes. There are three **prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

communication and language personal, social and emotional development physical development

There are four **specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

literacy mathematics understanding the world expressive arts and design

Early years practitioners also use your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences.

★ How Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of play in your child's development. It is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others. Through play, EYFS practitioners will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills.

The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

playing and exploring active learning creating and thinking critically

A greater focus on teaching specific skills will occur as your child progresses through their reception year, which will help them to prepare for year one.

★ How Will I Know How My Child is Doing?

Each child in the EYFS has a key person who will work in partnership with you, sharing information about your child. EYFS settings may also use observations to share your child's key achievements.

EYFS practitioners use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. If they have any concerns about your child's progress, they will discuss these with you.

Three formal assessments take place during the EYFS:

- Two-Year Progress Check (this will happen between the ages of 24 to 36 months)
- Reception Baseline Assessment (at the start of the reception year)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (at the end of the EYFS)

Your child's Early Years Foundation Stage Profile will be shared with you at the end of the EYFS. This will inform you of your child's progress and whether they have met or are continuing to work towards their early learning goals (ELGs). There are 17 ELGs your child is expected to achieve by the end of the EYFS.



Information for parents: Reception baseline assessment



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Useful website links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

- This has activities and play ideas to develop communication skills.
- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk>
- This is a charity which promotes reading with books, resources and support.