

Thistly Meadow Primary School

Parents guide to Early Years

At Thistly Meadow our school ethos is centred around a love for lifelong learning. This starts with our youngest children in Reception. We believe strongly that all children have the ability to make good progress and reach their full potential in a caring, supportive and nurturing environment. We recognise that all children are unique and come to school with their own set of experiences, interests and needs which we build upon to help them learn, develop and flourish. We build positive relationships with the children, working closely with parents and carers, to help children become strong, resilient and independent learners.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is the curriculum that your child will follow from birth until the end of Reception year. It outlines what adults must do to help children learn and develop and to be healthy and safe.

It is split into 7 areas of learning and development (prime and specific areas):

*The **three prime areas** are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.*



Communication and Language



Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Physical Development

*The three prime areas are strengthened and applied through the **four specific areas**.*



Literacy



Mathematics



Understanding the World



Expressive Arts and Design

Children learn key skills, knowledge and gain understanding through a mixture of both direct teaching and independent learning. Activities and opportunities in our continuous provision are planned carefully for all areas of learning, both inside and outside; outdoor learning is extremely beneficial and important for young children and we continue to go outside in all weather! We have a broad, varied and exciting curriculum!

The diagram below gives examples for each of the areas of learning to show the link between the way in which children learn and what they learn.



Adults play a central role to aid children’s progress and development and building positive relationships is fundamental to this. We interact and play alongside children, making observations to ensure that learning opportunities are tailored to their interests and build on their next steps to help each child make good progress. We encourage children to ‘have a go’ by playing and exploring and help to build their resilience and confidence by supporting them to persevere and ‘keep on trying’ when something becomes challenging, celebrating

their achievements. We help children foster their own ideas and use these to make links in their learning and come up with their own way of doing things.

We recognise that parents are the first educators in children's lives and know their children best. We work closely with parents from the beginning to help support children's transition to school and value their input and judgements on children's learning and development throughout their Reception year. There are regular opportunities to communicate with your child's teacher such as at the beginning and end of each school day as well as scheduled parent's evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms where we will share children's next steps to help them thrive and make good progress.

At the end of the Reception Year the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is completed for each child. This provides a well-rounded picture of the child's knowledge, understanding and abilities and their attainment against expected levels, as well as their readiness for Year 1. This is shared with parents and carers as well as Year 1 teachers.