



Preston Primary

The Foundation Stage

It is acknowledged that well-planned play is a key way in which children learn with enjoyment. To be effective the Early Years Curriculum must be carefully structured. At Preston Primary School there are ample opportunities for children to engage in such activities either planned by the staff or initiated by the children themselves.

Young children express their feelings through play. They do not make the distinction between 'play' and 'work'. PLAY IS A CHILD'S WORK.

It is through engaging children in purposeful activity with appropriate staff intervention that learning will take place.

Learning for our young children is always an enjoyable experience in which there are opportunities to explore, investigate, discover, create, practise, rehearse, repeat, revise and consolidate their developing knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes. Many of these aspects are brought about through playing and talking.





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The foundation stage curriculum is organised into six areas of learning:

- ◆ Personal, social and emotional development;
- ◆ Communication, language and literacy;
- ◆ Mathematical development;
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of the world;
- ◆ Physical development;
- ◆ Creative development.

This does not mean that all young children's learning is divided up into areas. One experience may provide a child with opportunities to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning.

For example:

Children building with blocks may co-operate in carrying the heavy and large blocks, negotiate the best place to put them, compare the weight and dimensions of different blocks and act out an imaginary scene. In this one activity they may be developing language, mathematical, physical, personal and social skills.





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How Can You Help Your Child At Home?

Include them in adult conversations whenever practical. Discuss arrangements for shopping trips, visits, meals etc. with them.

Make use of the home / school library to encourage a love of books. Become regular users of the local library.

Make scrap books with pictures. Print relevant words beneath each picture (no capital letters please except for names and the beginning of sentences). These scrapbooks can be used as simple reading books.

Encourage your child to paint, crayon and cook, indeed encourage any activities which give opportunities for conversation as these will increase your child's confidence.

Play games with your child to encourage counting and number recognition. Help your child to see how numbers occur in real life, not by 'doing sums,' but by questioning 'How many forks can you see on the table?', number rhymes and so on.

Enjoy working through the suggested activities which are sent home at the beginning of each term relating to our current topic.





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Parents Helping in the Early Years Unit

We never refuse an offer of help! Indeed, we will often ask for your help in the Early Years Unit on an occasional and regular basis.

'Help' means mums and dads and involves:

- ◆ reading stories with individual children
- ◆ topping up the glueing area
- ◆ baking with children
- ◆ putting aprons on children who need help
- ◆ playing in the areas with children
- ◆ cutting paper, materials, card etc.
- ◆ mixing paint
- ◆ labelling drawers, books etc
- ◆ dressing and undressing children for P.E.

Whether you can help for 10 minutes or for a full session, any time is appreciated by the staff and more importantly by the children!

Please note that all volunteers now go through a process of police clearance.





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Clothes

We all like our children to look clean and tidy but please remember they will be painting, climbing, digging, washing and taking part in lots of 'messy' activities for which high fashion clothes are not appropriate.

The Governors of Preston Primary School encourage children to adopt the school uniform of navy blue sweatshirt and joggers, navy skirt, pinafore or grey trousers, white polo shirt and white/blue summer dress. The uniform is available to children entering the Foundation Stage at 3 years of age. It has been tried and tested by many children and is comfortable to wear and easily washable.

Whatever your decision please dress your children in clothes that will wash easily so that staff and pupils do not need to worry about keeping them clean.

Each week children have the opportunity to access the hall for PE/movement activities. In order to comply with the school P.E. Policy, children are required to wear appropriate clothing. A named P.E. kit comprising of navy shorts, white T-shirt and gym shoes is required by all Reception children. Nursery children have the option to wear a P.E. kit, when they can change themselves independently, until then staff will help children to remove jumpers, and trousers etc.

It is important for children to bring a coat/jacket to school, as outdoor play is not restricted to warm sunny days!





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Don't Worry

Children need lots of practical experiences before they can begin more formal work such as reading, writing and number work.

We would not expect a child to walk before they had lots of practice in crawling and standing, to build up confidence and to develop the right muscles. It is just the same with 'formal' school work.

We will give your child the opportunity to develop the right 'mental muscles' through activities we provide and the support and intervention of staff at the right time.

Let's work together to help your child develop their skills and talents during these vital years.

If you do have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to discuss them with us. We are always happy to meet you.





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And finally.....

Starting school is a very exciting time for everyone concerned with your child. At Preston Primary School we wish to make the beginning of their school career as happy as possible so that they may progress into other classes as confident, willing learners. With your help we can do just that.

