

In Partnership with

TRANSFORM TRUST

"Together we Achieve"



"Starting School"

A welcome booklet for parents and children



SOUTH WILFORD
Endowed C of E Primary School

Meet the EYFS team...

Attenborough teacher:

Miss Albans-Marriott

Attenborough teacher:

Miss Gibbons

Donaldson teacher:



EYFS TA:

Miss Frankish

EYFS TA

Mrs Williams



Our School Day



8:45am Your teacher will open the door for you to come into the EYFS unit. You put your book bag in the box and hang up your coat. Then go into your classroom to put your water bottle in the tray.



8:55am You sit on your carpet space doing your Morning Work, whilst we do the register and calendar together, and talk about what we will be doing today.



9:10am Now it is Literacy time, when we read stories linked to our Topic. We sequence and retell the events; discuss the characters and settings; and practise our reading and writing. It is also when we learn about people, places, animals and objects linked to the Topic.



9:40am Snack, milk and 'Rhyme Time'! We practise our rhyme of the week, which links to our topic and eat our FREE piece of fruit. Now is a good time to go to the toilet and have a drink from your water bottle.



9:50am Next it is Challenge Time, when you can explore learning activities inside or outside, while your teacher and teaching assistant work with individuals or groups of children.



11:15am It's time for Phonics, when you will learn to read and write letter shapes and tricky words in simple sentences. We use the *Jolly Phonics* songs and actions to help remember the different sounds.



11:45am We go to the toilet and wash our hands to get ready for lunchtime.



12:00pm We eat lunch in the hall. Nearly all of the children have a FREE hot school dinner but you can bring a packed lunch if you prefer. We also do PE in this hall! After lunch, you can go and play outside with your friends.



13:00pm After taking the register again, your teacher will lead a short, interactive Maths session, and then there will be more Challenge Time to explore the classroom activities. The adults might support you in your play or guide you in some work.



2:30pm After we have all tidied up together, we gather back on the carpet for enrichment time. This session is a mixture across the week of collective worship, votes for schools, RE lessons, Be at our Best assembly, or 'What's in the Box'. At 3:00 we have our daily storytime. Children can bring in books from home for this.



3:15pm It's home time so get all of your belongings ready! Then line up in the corridor and the teacher will call your name when she sees your parent or childminder waiting in the playground. If you go to after-school club, then they will come to collect you.

What you will be learning at school

The Early Years curriculum is split into seven areas of learning:

Communication and language: You will grow in confidence when talking to other people and will learn the skills to speak and listen well in different situations.



Physical development: You will have lots of chances to be active and to develop control in your movement. We also talk about why exercise is important and how to keep healthy.



Personal, social and emotional development: You will learn how to get on well with others and show respect for them. You explore ways to manage different feelings and how we should behave when we are with other people.



Literacy: You will learn to link sounds and letters and start to read and write words and sentences. You will read a range of poetry, stories and information books and write for lots of different reasons.



Mathematics: You will practise counting, recognising, ordering and using numbers. You will also solve problems involving addition, subtraction, doubling, halving and sharing amounts, and begin to learn about shapes, measures, money and time.



Understanding the World: You will have opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the living world around you.



Expressive arts and design: You will imagine, play, create and perform, sharing your ideas and feelings through art, music, dance movement, role-play, and design technology.



Topics

Each half term we focus our stories, resources and activities on a different exciting topic, and then plan our learning experiences around it. These topics are called:

- ⇒ **Super Me!**
- ⇒ **Let's Celebrate!**
- ⇒ **Dress to Impress**
- ⇒ **Once Upon a Time...**
- ⇒ **Amazing Animals**
- ⇒ **All Aboard!**



School Rule



At our school, we only have one rule: **"Be At Our Best"**. This applies to everything we do including our work, behaviour, relationships and attitudes. In EYFS, we also find it useful to follow these six guidelines:

1. **We are gentle** (We don't hurt anyone)
2. **We are kind and helpful** (We don't hurt anybody's feelings)
3. **We listen** (We don't interrupt)
4. **We are honest** (We don't cover up the truth)
5. **We work hard** (We don't waste our own or other's time)
6. **We look after everything** (We don't waste or damage things)

Learning through Play

- Children learn most effectively through a mixture of self-initiated exploration and adult-planned experiences, and so we provide many opportunities for them to investigate their world in free play situations in between the more formal teaching inputs.
- In purposeful play children explore, develop and consolidate new ideas. They are relaxed and enjoying themselves, so they aren't afraid to try new things or make mistakes, and learning is most memorable.
- To summarise, pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will learn through:
 - Whole class teaching sessions
 - Small group adult-led focused activities
 - Child-initiated activities/free play
 - Weekly 'Learning Challenges' which they complete independently
- We informally observe and assess the children daily through a balance of their child-initiated activities and play, and their adult-guided work, in order to monitor their progress and plan for next steps.
- The whole Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum can be discovered in a well planned and resourced classroom, so please don't be alarmed if your child tells you that they have just 'played all day'. We can assure you that they are 'learning through play'!

Classroom Areas

To provide a learning environment that enables pupils to develop in all seven areas of learning, our EYFS unit is divided into different learning zones. After each teaching input, we have 'Challenge Time'. This is when pupils choose their own learning activity or game, or independently complete one of the five weekly 'Learning Challenges', or work in a group on an adult-led focused task. Our policy for making sure resources don't get messy or damaged is "*Choose it, Use it, Put It Away*", and you can help your child by ensuring they are involved in tidying up at home.

Role Play Area We set up different role play areas (inside and outside) depending on our topic. These include a shop, home, explorers, post office, jungle, space centre, airport, doctors, farm, Chinese restaurant, garden centre and the seaside. You can let your imagination run wild, dressing up and acting out roles and experiences with your friends!



Computing Area In this area you can access software on the classroom computer, iPads, CD player, digital microphone, camera and Beebots. You have the chance to practise some of the skills that you have been learning in ICT sessions. We use a five minute timer to help us take turns and make sure we don't have too much screen time.



Investigation Station You can explore the world using all of your senses with magnifying glasses, magnets, colour fans, mirrors, torches, shells, conkers and pinecones. You can show your curiosity about a variety of natural and man-made objects and materials and find out about their features and differences.



Construction Area In this area you can choose to design and build from a range of construction toys like Lego, Marble Run, Magnetix and K'Nex, or loose parts such as tubes, pegs, corks and sticks. If you want to save your model, you can write a label for it and leave it on the shelf to show your friends, or improve it later on in the week.



Small world Playing with small world toys will help you develop your imagination, language and communication skills, as well as improving your small motor control. Sometimes the teachers will set up a small world linked to the topic, like an airport, but there are also toys such as dinosaurs, dolls house, farm, cars, and trees that you can choose.



Book corner In this area you can develop your interest in books and learn to handle them correctly and with care. You can explore the pictures and words in fiction and non-fiction books, and retell stories using the small world props or the puppet theatre. It is a lovely, quiet place to relax with a friend, and find out about authors and illustrators.



Maths Area Here you are able to select from a wide range of open-ended numeracy resources, including 2D and 3D shapes, pattern peg boards, sorting hoops, counting objects, magnetic numbers and boards, number lines, dominoes, dice, money, balance scales, calculators, clocks, rulers, and many more!



Outside Area Outside, you can play imaginatively whilst developing your physical skills, exploring nature and interacting with others. There is water and sand, a play kitchen, climbing frame and tunnel, role play house, big wooden blocks, musical instruments and a stage to perform on, nature area, a bike track, balls, skipping ropes, cones and hoops.



Literacy Area On the shelves here you can choose from pencils, felt tips, crayons, biros, chalk, paper, notepads, whiteboards and envelopes. You can write for various purposes, enjoying creative mark-making, and developing your handwriting skills and fine motor control. There is also a table here for Phonics reading and spelling activities.



Creative Area You are able to access a huge variety of art and craft tools and materials here, including paper and card, paints, chalk, fabric, buttons, pipe cleaners, art straws, lollipop sticks, boxes, tubes, wheels, string, ribbon, scissors, glue, and sellotape. There is also a large painting easel. You can draw, paint, design or make anything that you want to!



Prayer Area In this area you can write or say your own prayer, or talk to your friends about what you have learnt in our RE lessons. Sometimes you might just want to have some quiet time for reflection, or to look at the stories in some of the religious books we have. You could also look at our display think about the Christian Value that we are focusing on.



Learning Heroes

In EYFS, we help our children to develop the Characteristics of Effective Learning by encouraging them to be like our five 'Learning Heroes'. These are called 'Have a Go Hero', 'Link and Learn Legend', 'Agent Concentrate', 'Captain Curiosity' and 'Professor Perseverance'. At the start of the school year, we introduce each Learning Hero one at a time and focus on it for a week. We then refer to them at appropriate moments during lessons and 'Challenge Time' to motivate the children.

Communication with home

We send home half-termly newsletters via email to inform you of the upcoming topic we will be exploring at school, along with ideas of how you could enrich your child's learning at home. These newsletters also include any important information and diary dates specific to the EYFS children. You will also receive whole-school letters via email which will discuss news and events which are relevant to all of the children in school. Reminders will be sent out by text message from the school office. We upload photos of the children's learning experiences on the school website regularly and you can also see what your child has been up to using Class Dojo or looking at our website.

To ensure that your child is school-ready, help them to become independent in...

- Getting dressed and undressed by themselves
- Using a knife and fork to eat with
- Going to the toilet and wiping themselves independently
- Holding a pencil using a tripod grip, and using scissors
- Recognising and writing their own name
- Taking turns and sharing with other children
- Tidying up after themselves

We hope you have found this booklet helpful. If you have any further queries or questions, please contact us and we will endeavour to answer them for you.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child.



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