

Foundation Stage Understanding the World

Intent

Children starting school with us often have very mixed prior learning experiences relating to this area of learning. It is our intention to provide all our children with the opportunities to explore and find out about their environment. This will enable them to develop their senses and understanding of their physical world, as well as extending their language, problem solving skills and independence.

Implementation

In Foundation Stage we have put the children at the heart of our newly developed curriculum so that we can focus on what is important to them. As a result we have started the year looking at what makes them unique, including asking our families to send in a Chatterbox of special items that the children can share with us. The children have been encouraged to discuss similarities and differences about themselves and others as we drew and painted self-portraits. All children have had the opportunity to explore the whole school, and we have learnt what makes their class creature special. The outside learning environment is being further developed to provide growing opportunities throughout the year as well as being used as a space for independent investigation as they play.

By engaging with our families through our online Learning Journal our children are set challenges to do at home and around the local area, such as collecting Autumn leaves or looking for road signs as they walk home. As the year develops the children are taught to respect nature as we look after our school chickens and watch caterpillars turn into butterflies. We also spend time at Forest School, learning more about another location as well as exploring and investigating.

ICT is used by our children as part of everyday learning, using iPads to record what they are doing through photos and apps such as Seesaw. The children also get experiences of other forms of technology in school by using the remote controls, washing machine, toasters and computers.

Impact

All our children are encouraged to be curious about themselves and their environment and are taught the necessary language and questioning skills. They are given many opportunities to explore and understand the world around them that they may not have had previously. We want our children to be confident, aware and caring members of the community who can articulate about themselves, their families and the wider world.