

Pye Green Academy



Pye Green Academy
UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Reception

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Reception

At Pye Green, we recognise the significant impact a child's early years has on their future. We aim to provide pupils with a safe and stimulating environment that will allow them to thrive. We will provide a purposeful and engaging curriculum that maps out progress, but also recognises that learning in the early years is not always neat and orderly and takes into account that pupils learn best in different ways.

Getting to know our pupils and value them as individuals is at the heart of all that we do.

Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the new 2020 guidance - 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five (2020)'

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are seen as particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The **prime** areas are:

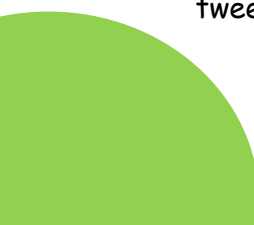
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 **specific** areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Alongside these areas of learning, sit the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' which focus on how children learn to learn, rather than what they learn. These characteristics weave through all the areas of learning tying them together. Staff recognise that nurturing these characteristics allows pupils to develop into confident learners who can cope with challenges and thrive when solving problems. These skills are transitional skills which will allow pupils to develop socially and emotionally, and become better communicators.

Characteristics of Effective Learning -

- playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
 - active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
 - creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things
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How we learn in Reception

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable them to develop and learn effectively across all areas of learning. Staff take into account the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience.

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities each day. Practitioners respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction to move their learning forwards. Pupils are given opportunity to learn and explore their ideas both indoors and outdoors on a daily basis.

As children grow older, and as their development allows, the balance gradually shifts towards more adult-led activities to help children prepare for more formal learning so that pupils are ready for Year 1.

Phonics, Maths, PE, Music and PSHE are all taught through discrete sessions.

Phonics

Phonics is the way in which we teach our pupils to read and spell. We follow 'Read Write Inc' phonics in school; sessions are purposeful, pacy and full of praise with a focus on teaching children to read and spell accurately and fluently. Some sounds are represented by one letter like the 't' in tin, whilst other sounds are represented by two or more letters like 'ck' in duck.



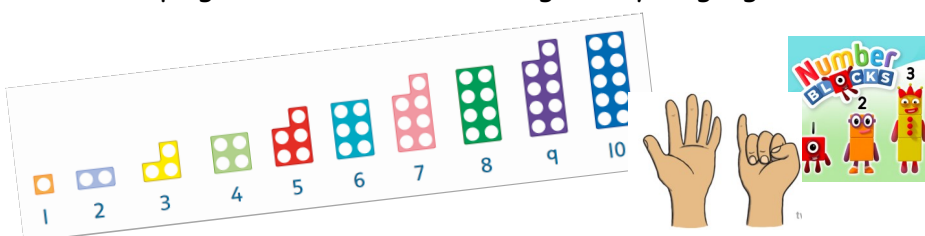
Children are taught the sounds, how to match them to letters and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling. Pupils use their FRED talking skills to sound out and blend words and their sound fingers for spelling. This allows pupils to communicate through writing and to enjoy reading books independently. More information about phonics at Pye Green Academy can be found on our school website.



Maths

A sound understanding of number is vital to future success as a Mathematician. We use lots of pictorial representations, models and images to help pupils to understand the relationship of the numbers within 10 and to quickly subitise (recognise representations of numbers without counting them). Pupils use practical apparatus to help them to explore numbers and to learn how to add, subtract, double and halve amounts. Pupils have lots of opportunities to apply their thinking to solve problems. We use White Rose Maths and Power Maths resources to support our teaching in this area.

Pupils will also have the chance to explore shape, space and measure in practical situations with a focus on developing an secure understanding of key language in these areas.



Every week, our planning is linked to a focus text to motivate and engage pupils and to enable them to get lost in their learning.

Specific details about the knowledge and understanding of each section below can be found on our website.

Autumn

We first step back in time to explore, 'Long Ago and Far Away'. Pupils explore the land of the dinosaurs through stories and non-fiction texts learning about the past. We dig for fossils, explore skeletons and see what happens when a large and mysterious egg appears in our classrooms.

We also explore caves and castles looking at changes over time. We discover who used to live and work in castles and who we might find there today. Pupils have the chance to create their own moving drawbridge and clay shields fit for a knight!

Our focus author for this term is Julia Donaldson. We explore lots of her stories and compare the Gruffalo's habitat to Cannock Chase as well as making shadow puppets of the Big Bad Mouse!



Spring

In Spring, we turn into global explorers reading stories from around the globe and find out more about the countries they're set in. We investigate how you might travel to different countries and what you might find once you're there. What would the weather be like? What wildlife might you find there? Do people there have the same traditions that we might?

In the second half-term, we explore stories that are 'everywhere' - traditional tales. Pupils explore familiar stories and retell them through role play, music and art. We make traps for the troll in the Three Billy Goats Gruff and help Jack's Mom to find him again after he disappears up the beanstalk!



Summer

In Summer, we turn our eyes upwards and shoot for the stars!

We learn about space explorers and the planets in our solar system. We investigate why we live on planet Earth and what it takes to be an astronaut! Pupils learn that the sun is our main light source and explore how other objects are powered.

In the second half-term, we dive down below to explore the commotion in our oceans. We find out more about the animals who call the oceans their home and explore how our beaches have changed over time. Pupils create their own pirate ships and test to see if they float and test their hand at making a range of sea animals for craft materials.

