



# Early Years Brochure



Where Every Child Matters



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.  
Colossians 3:23

We warmly welcome you and your child to our Early Years Foundation Stage Unit.

At Heddon-on-the-Wall St. Andrew's CE Primary School, we strongly believe that each child is uniquely made in the image of God with their own strengths, weaknesses, interests and personality. Our vision is to provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment where everyone loves to play, explore and learn and for children to develop new skills and be successful lifelong learners.

The school fully embraces the core Christian values, which provide the foundation for all our policy and practice meaning we aim to help children develop in all areas to enable them to become well rounded young people.

We hope that this is the beginning of an exciting, happy and rewarding shared learning journey in which the needs of your child are central. The school will work closely with not just your child but with you and will provide any support when needed.

The school is privileged to work with you and your child at this important time in their lives; Just as it takes many hands to build a house it takes many hearts to make a school!

Mr. A. Wheatley Headteacher

Mrs E Cubbage Early Years Lead/Reception Teacher

Miss Allsopp Nursery Teacher



## Our Foundation Stage Unit

As a school we recognise and value the importance of children of different ages working together. In our Foundation Stage Unit, the Nursery and Reception children have regular opportunities to mix throughout the areas, both indoors and outdoors, to gain a range of learning experiences. The children in the Nursery class are called Hedgehogs and the children in Reception are called Owls.

All children within the Unit follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the enabling environment provides opportunities for all children to learn and develop emotionally, creatively and physically through structured and free play, as well as adult led activities.

The learning in the Foundation stage is tailored towards the individual learners. We use overarching themes each half term as a vehicle to enhance the child's learning and to teach new skills.

Children's interests and ideas contribute to our planning.

The integration provided by the Early Years Unit means that children do not have to make any transitions until the beginning of Year 1. This ensures children are settled and confident in the learning environment, enabling everyone to reach their full potential and prepares them exceptionally well for the next stage in their education. The large space indoors and outdoors ensures that the children have a greater space to learn and grow.



**Admission**





At Heddon-on-the-Wall St Andrew's CE Primary School, we have three intakes of children a year into our Nursery class. We admit children at the beginning of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms, depending on spaces available.

Prior to starting Nursery, staff will offer a Home Visit, or virtual meeting, to meet you and your child at home so that they can get to know you and to find out about your child's experiences and interests and to discuss any questions you may have about starting school. Children who have not attended our Nursery and will be new into Reception will also be offered a home visit or virtual meeting.

All children who are starting in the unit will be invited to visit us on a specific day. This offers them a chance to see the school, meet their peers and the members of staff they will be working with. It is recommended that you leave your child to settle with the adults in school; if you think this will be difficult please do discuss this with us.

The criteria for admission are given in a separate document which is available on request. Northumberland County Council require parents/carers to apply for a place for their child to be in Reception and admission forms for this are available on our school website and from the school office.

### **Key Workers**

In Nursery, each child is assigned to a member of staff who is their Key Worker. The role of the Key Worker is to nurture your child's interests, enhance their learning and provide support for children when needed. The children will work on personal, social and emotional development as well as their communication and language skills with their Key Worker.



**Staff:**

Early Years Lead: Mrs. E. Cubbage

Early Years Teachers: Mrs. E. Cubbage (Reception)

Miss. L Allsopp (Nursery)

Teaching Assistants: Miss K Smith and Mrs McGurk (Reception)

Miss Ross and Miss Tweedie (Nursery)

**Timetable for Nursery Sessions - The core offer**

The school offers both the 15 hours and 30 hours extended entitlement for eligible parents. This time can be taken flexibly, at the discretion of the school, as detailed in the 30 Hours Extended Entitlement Policy.

Our sessions run from 9.00am - 12.00pm and 12.30pm -

3.30pm. Lunchtimes run from 11.30am - 12.30pm.

Lunchtimes are supervised and children can have school dinner or bring in a packed lunch (speak to the office regarding the price of lunch).

The school also offers wrap around care for children before and after school. For further details please contact the School Office.



## **The Foundation Stage Curriculum**

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is followed by Nursery and Reception children in our unit to develop knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes to enable children to achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of Early Years Foundation Stage/Reception Year.

Within the Early Years framework there are 3 Prime Areas and four Specific Areas which are enhanced by the Prime Areas.

### **Three Prime Areas**

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own ability.

#### **Physical Development**

Involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive and develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must be also learn to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

#### **Communication and Language**

Involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. Children are encouraged to speak in full sentences using a range of relevant vocabulary.





## **Four Specific Areas**

### **Literacy**

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest. In Reception we follow the Read Write Inc. phonics programme. Some children begin this programme in Nursery, if and when they are ready.

### **Mathematics**

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, subitising, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems as well as describing shapes, spaces and measures

### **Understanding The World**

Understanding The World involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Expressive Arts and Design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in Art, Music, Movement, Dance, Role-play and Technology.



## Outdoor learning

The Outdoors is an essential part of the children's time in the Early Years. When observing young children learn, it is clear that outdoor play opportunities need to be provided alongside indoor play opportunities in order to form a complementary teaching and learning experience.

The Unit has a specific and secure outdoor area for the use of the children. Learning in the outdoor classroom is not about moving what we have inside, outside. It is using nature as a rich resource to stimulate children's sense of adventure, to build their skills, and to open children's eyes and ears to the wonder of what is all around them.

Not only is the outdoors used to support learning and exploration it is also used to develop key skills and encourage team working and co-operation.

At times, the Unit operates a 'free flow' system where children can opt to learn inside or outside as they choose, regardless of the weather.



## Partnership with Parents

When your child enters our Foundation Stage Unit they are embarking on a rich and exciting learning journey. Along the way the children will need help and support to help them make the most of their time with us. We recognise the essential role parents and the wider family play in doing this. Your support of your child is invaluable and there are many things you can do to help. These include sharing books with the children, spending time talking to your child and playing games with them.

We use Tapestry, an online learning journal to observe and track children's progress. It is important that parents and carers contribute to this learning journal so that a picture of the whole child inside and outside of school can be created.

We encourage your child to bring into school anything related to the topic or other items they are interested in such as natural 'found' objects, photographs, leaflets about family visits etc. as children enjoy sharing such treasures and experiences with their peers.





## Parental Help

Parental support in the Early Years is valued and greatly appreciated by both the staff and children. If you would like to help either in the Nursery or Reception, please contact Mrs Cabbage.

## Bags

When your child starts school, you can purchase a bag for them to use to carry books, 'homework' and letters to and from school.

Children choose a book from our school library to take home to share with their family each week.



## Clothing

Children in Reception are required to wear a school uniform. Which consists of grey trousers/skirt/pinafore with a white blouse/shirt or polo shirt. Coats, jumpers, cardigans, caps and other items with the school logo can be purchased from the school office. Uniform is optional in Nursery and children are encouraged to wear clothes suitable for the time of year and for outdoors.

We provide children with a variety of experiences to stimulate all of the senses, including messy play. Occasionally children can have accidents which may mean they need to be changed. We do keep some spare clothes but it would be helpful if you could provide a spare change of clothes which can be hung on your child's peg. Please can we emphasise **naming all clothes and shoes** is essential.

## Lunchtime

Reception children may have a school meal or bring a packed lunch from home. As an accredited Healthy School we would ask that packed lunches are healthy and balanced.



Parents will be informed if there are any problems with children eating their lunches. Please could you inform us of any special dietary requirements.

At lunchtime children will have the opportunity for free play supervised by our Lunchtime Team and this is a part of their learning experience.



## Snacks

Children in Nursery are provided with a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables at snack time during every session that they attend. Children can have a drink of milk or water at any point during the session from the snack table.

Children in Reception are provided with a drink of milk or water (if you opt to have milk you begin to pay for it at the start of the term in which your child turns five). They should bring their own snack (fruit or vegetables) from home each morning but are provided with a fruit snack each afternoon.

## Health and Safety

The health and safety of every child is of paramount importance to the school. There are comprehensive Safeguarding Procedures that are known and adhered to by all members of staff, visitors and volunteers. Copies of the relevant policies are available on our website or by request.

Our environment is safe and secure. The outdoor area is surrounded by safety fencing and doors are double locked. Appropriate registration procedures are followed both in school and on educational visits.

## School Visits

School visits form an essential part of the curriculum in Early Years and are vital in enhancing the learning of the children. They are planned to link in with topics and themes of study.

All out of school visits are carefully planned by the staff and risk assessments are completed in line with school policy. Potential risks are shared with all helpers and staff prior to the visit so that all adults are aware of their role in ensuring the safety of the children.

There is always a high ratio of adults to children on school visits to ensure the safety of the children. All visits will require written consent and for some more distant visits a voluntary contribution may be requested to cover costs of transport and/or entry.



### **What Inspectors have to say about us!**

*Teachers know each pupil very well and adapt their teaching skilfully to meet pupils' individual needs.*

*The environment is secure and well looked after with an enticing range of opportunities for play and exploration.*

*Outcomes in Early Years have improved rapidly over time, resulting in the proportion of children attaining a good level of development now being higher than the national picture.*

*Enhancement in both the indoor and outdoor provision, along with leaders working relentlessly to strengthen partnerships with parents, is ensuring that improvements in outcomes are continuing.*

*Children feel safe and are safe in this deeply caring school.*

*Behaviour and conduct are exemplary.*

### **What parents have to say about us**

*"I am very happy with everything in Early Years and I think the children are progressing very well whilst enjoying their learning."*

*"My child is always excited about school and talks about what he has done."*

*"She always comes out with a smile on her face and is happy about her day at school."*

*Our Phonics Workshop - "Excellent session. Really helpful to hear how I can help my child. Great theory behind what the teachers do."*



### **We Celebrate Success in Early Years!**

