

Early Years Foundation Stage

Intent

Our curriculum is designed to recognise each child's unique prior learning. We work in partnership with parents/carers, and other professionals. Observation of each individual child enables us to build on prior knowledge, skills and experiences to ensure the best possible start at Crowmarsh.

The EYFS curriculum is designed to develop lifelong skills and a love of learning. The three prime areas underpin all learning at Crowmarsh and our holistic curriculum reflects this. Cross-curricular links are planned across all areas of learning. Our curriculum acknowledges the importance of communication, developing and extending vocabulary as well as developing oracy skills.

At Crowmarsh, we seek to foster a lifelong love of reading; stories, rhymes, poems and songs all are used to inspire and spark a love of books and language.

The EYFS curriculum is designed to give children opportunities and experiences that develop and/or enhance those they have at home and or in other settings (if applicable).

By the end of the EYFS our intent is for all children to be resilient, curious, kind, courageous, learners who demonstrate integrity and have the skills they need to continue on their learning journey to Year One and beyond.

Implementation

At Crowmarsh, all children are allocated a key person before joining the setting. Regular routines within the EYFS meet the needs of the children by supporting them to feel safe and secure. The children know when they can eat, rest and play and they are taught why these are important.

The children are at the centre of everything we do at Crowmarsh; our learning opportunities reflect the children's questions, interests and fascinations with new concepts, and ideas are introduced largely through texts. Our children learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult-focus opportunities. During WILD (Wonder, Imagine, Learn, Discover) time, which is child-led, the children are supported by highly skilled adults to extend their learning and develop their interests. Adults observe children and offer immediate verbal feedback so that children have the opportunity to respond to the feedback straight away.

The children are provided with carefully thought out adult-focus sessions through the day with extended lengths of time devoted to child-led learning. The timetable is adapted throughout the year, in response to the children's learning needs. The learning environment at Crowmarsh is well planned to support the curriculum and the development of skills; resources are carefully chosen and enhancements are made to the provision, as needed, to support children interests and development.

The children are all taught to understand how they can be a good learner through our discussions about 'Purple Learning' in EYFS. The children are taught to use the language of learning - this is modelled to the children throughout their time in EYFS when they are ready. This develops their resilience as well as many other skills and learning behaviours.

Reading activities and phonics take place daily in EYFS. A systematic synthetic phonics programme supports the children to learn the necessary letters and sounds in order for them to be able to read words and sentences fluently by the end of EYFS.

At Crowmarsh, we understand the importance of early experiences of maths within our Early Years setting. There is a significant emphasis on developing a strong grounding in number – understanding that this is a necessary building block for children to excel in the subject.

In our setting, focus children are identified each week. Adults observe, scaffold the learning and identify next steps for learning which are then discussed with parents/carers. Learning behaviours are assessed and children are supported to develop these skills throughout their time in EYFS.

Impact

Children in EYFS at Crowmarsh show high levels of involvement and engagement. Children are able to talk about their knowledge and understanding in an age-appropriate way, holding meaningful conversations with adults and peers. The children demonstrate positive learning behaviours and all make at least good progress from their individual starting points. Children leave Crowmarsh Gifford Early Years Foundation Stage with a love of learning. They understand what it means to be a Purple Learner which in turn gives them the lifelong learning skills they need as they continue on their journey.