

South Failsworth Primary School

'Inspiring and Creating Lifelong Learners'



EYFS

Welcome Pack





Welcome to South Failsworth

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for deciding to send your child to South Failsworth Primary School. We are delighted that they will begin their exciting lifelong educational journey with us.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our school and share some key information with you...



How is our Foundation Unit organised?

Our Foundation Unit consists of two Reception classes and one Nursery class. The Nursery and Reception classrooms have been thoughtfully planned to support children's learning across the curriculum. There are different areas in each classroom which have focused learning opportunities and we refer to these as 'continuous provision areas.' Each room has a variety of different continuous provision areas on offer - from inviting reading areas, to exciting investigation areas and popular construction areas, as well as many more.

Complementing this, we have a large outdoor learning area where our continuous provision areas continue on a much larger scale. Here we have the ever-popular large construction, water, mud and den making areas where the children are provided with a wide range of large resources offering a wealth of new learning opportunities and possibilities.

The children have access to both the indoor and outdoor continuous provision areas as part of their play based learning. During this time, adults interact and help the children, to ensure that this is a positive and focused learning experience where learning can be consolidated and extended and next steps can be identified and addressed.

The children also engage in a number of focused group learning times each day. At these times the children take part in specific activities that support learning and build on the next steps for each individual child.



The first day of school

Starting school is an exciting new venture and although we try to make the transition into school as smooth as possible, it can still be a rather daunting time for some children. This is why we encourage you to attend a 'stay and play' session with your child. During this visit we recommend that you spend time helping your child to find their peg and supporting them as they familiarise themselves with their new learning environment. (If a child is particularly struggling to settle, further settling in arrangements will be made to meet each child's individual needs.)



What if my child has an additional need?

In accordance with the school's inclusion policy, all children will be welcomed into the Unit and will be provided with an appropriately modified or adapted curriculum, depending on their social and educational needs. This allows all children equality of opportunity to access a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with the EYFS. The school places a high priority on early identification and intervention for pupils with AEN and we will discuss any concerns with you.



Working in partnership with parents

We are committed to working closely with parents to create a partnership which enriches the experiences children have in education. We welcome any questions regarding your child's learning, well-being and development, and we encourage you to share any information with your child's key worker - however trivial it may seem! We recognise that nobody knows your child as well as you do and we value all of your contributions.



Uniform

Our Foundation uniform has been designed to enable the children to play comfortably and safely on all of the indoor and outdoor apparatus. We also ask for Velcro footwear to enable the children to change their shoes and wellies independently.

Our uniform consists of:

- Navy jog pants, navy leggings or navy shorts
- Foundation Unit red polo shirt
- South Failsworth School sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black velcro fastening shoes or trainers (no laces)
- Waterproof all-in-one suit or jacket and trousers
- Wellington boots
- A sunhat or cap in warm weather
- Hat and gloves in cold weather

Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Spare Clothes

We also request that your child has a spare set of clothes (especially knickers/pants, jogging pants/leggings and socks) in a P.E bag which they can leave on their peg.

Each child has an Ikea bag on their peg to store their wellington boots and waterproofs in.



Toilet Training

If your child is not yet toilet trained then please inform the school so that suitable arrangements can be made to meet your child's needs.



Snack Time

Water is available throughout the day and milk and fruit are provided during morning and afternoon snack times. We often find that the children use up lots of energy when exploring and learning in Foundation and they need something a little bit more substantial. Therefore we provide additional healthy food items such as toast, crackers, muffins, yoghurts and breadsticks.

To enable us to provide this snack we ask for a small voluntary contribution of £1 a week.



Session Times

Reception and full-time Nursery:

9 a.m. – 3.25 p.m.

Part time Nursery who attend the morning session:

9:00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m

Part-time Nursery who attend the afternoon session:

12.30 p.m. - 3:25 p.m



Tapestry

We use a secure online platform called 'Tapestry' to create online learning journals for every child in Foundation. It allows us to evidence and celebrate children's progress and share this learning with you. We use this facility to build strong partnerships with the parents of all our children in the Foundation Unit, allowing you an insight into their learning and play at school. It also provides parents with the opportunity to add observations from home and to comment and ask questions on the ones added by staff.



The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Our Early Years curriculum enables us to provide children with the best possible start to learning and school life. All children will be encouraged to engage in a wide and rich variety of learning opportunities, where they will learn and develop by playing and exploring, engaging in active learning, and through creative and critical thinking.

There are seven areas of learning and development, which are all important and interconnected in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas are called the **prime areas** and they are:



Communication and Language

Communication and language development 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.



Physical Development

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



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

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 abilities.

There are also four specific areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied. The **specific areas** are:



Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children need access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.



Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measure.



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 design and technology.

Enriching our curriculum

We enhance our Early Years curriculum by providing rich opportunities through programmes and experiences, such as Forest School and Dinosaur school:



Forest School

Forest School provides a learning approach that helps to nurture and develop children's confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences. It gives children the space to connect with the outdoors and studies have shown that Forest School can also help children to develop vital life skills such as communication, concentration, independence and problem-solving skills.

We are fortunate enough to have our very own woodland area on our school grounds and this enables us to make Forest School a staple of the creative curriculum we provide. In Foundation all of the children are given the opportunity to explore Forest School throughout the year. The children take it in turns to go in small groups, where they engage in planned and child-led learning opportunities led by our level 3 Forest School leader, Mrs Blair.

Every year the children thoroughly enjoy been given the freedom to explore Forest School and its many magical features, such as the tree where Flora the Tooth Fairy lives and the bridge where the Troll and the Gruffalo hide. The children also relish in having the opportunity to take supported risks - such as climbing trees, creating dens, making 'tree cookies' and using the tree swing.

We use Forest School to enhance our EYFS curriculum, by providing rich opportunities for the children to develop and learn across the 7 areas of learning. For example, when the children are learning about traditional tales they often enjoy acting out the story of the Three Billy Goats on the 'Troll bridge' or using sticks to create a house for the Three Little Pigs. During these kinds of activities the children aren't only developing their communication and expressive skills, they are developing a wide range of skills; from their mathematical understanding when choosing the length, size and amount of sticks they need, to developing their literacy skills when they are retelling stories and exploring characters and settings.

Undoubtedly, Forest School enables the children to develop a much deeper knowledge and understanding of the natural world - from learning about seasonal changes, to specific plants, trees, minibeasts and woodland animals. After engaging in a number of Forest School sessions, the children often become significantly more in tune with the natural world. For example, they will ensure they return logs to their original position after moving them to hunt for minibeasts; they will avoid disturbing natural habitats and they will have a new found respect for the world around them.

We find that Forest School offers new and exciting opportunities beyond the parameters of the Early Years classroom and this is something we feel passionate about providing for our children at South Failsworth.



Dinosaur School

Dinosaur School is a social skills and problem solving programme which is delivered to Reception aged children in our school. It is designed to teach children social skills, anger and conflict management and appropriate behaviour for school. Its aim is to support children's social and emotional well-being and competence.

Dinosaur School is taught through the use of puppets, games and discussion in a circle time setting. Each weekly session has a learning focus which is shared with parents through weekly homework. There are 4 main puppets that are used throughout the year to facilitate the learning theme. These are:

- Dina Dinosaur: she is the Headteacher and helps to guide the children through their learning.
- Wally: he is good at problem solving but sometimes can be impulsive and get into trouble at home and school.
- Molly: she is well mannered and thoughtful but sometimes she falls out with Wally.
- Tiny Turtle: is quiet and shy. He teaches the children about calming down techniques.

Wally and Molly help the children to make good choices, develop good friendships and to follow the give me five rules. The Give Me Five Rules are: think first, eyes on teacher, listening ears, quiet hand up and working hard.



Assessment

Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and teachers to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support. Ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development process. It involves teachers observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to then shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations. In their interactions with children, teachers respond to their own day-to-day observations about children's progress and observations that parents and carers share.

Parents and/or carers will be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development. Teachers will address any learning and development needs in partnership with parents and/or carers, and any relevant professionals.

In the final term of Reception the EYFS Profile will be completed for each child. The Profile provides parents and carers, practitioners and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their progress against expected levels, and their readiness for Year 1.



How can I help my child to get ready to start school?



Encourage your child to have a go!

- Develop self-help skills by encouraging your child to take off and put on their own jumper and coat. Support your child in doing up zips, buttons and poppers. We understand that these can be tricky so make it fun by dressing up toys in old clothes. Encourage your child to take their shoes on and off and practise using the Velcro fastenings independently.
- Support your child in getting to the toilet in time, wiping themselves, flushing the toilet and washing their hands. Sometimes children are so absorbed in their play that accidents can happen. Please talk to your child about what to do if an accident happens; reassuring them and explaining that they need to tell an adult.
- Encourage your child to blow their nose themselves, bin the tissue and wash their hands afterwards. If reinforced at home and school then this will become a healthy routine that your child will develop.



Teach your child to communicate their needs:

- Talk to your child without distractions from the TV, radio or tablet. Talk about shared experiences that you have enjoyed such as visits, shopping trips or things you have seen.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes together to develop their vocabulary.
- Recognise and talk through your child's feelings and different emotions, this will help them to understand and communicate how they are feeling with staff.
- It is important for children to listen and follow instructions at school; these skills can be enhanced at home by playing games such as snap and by giving simple instructions e.g. put your shoes away and wash your hands.



Help your child to feel safe and secure:

- Talk to your child about starting school. What do they think it will be like? What are they most looking forward to? Is there anything they're unsure of?
- Share books together about starting school.
- Your child will have a peg with their name on for their coat and belongings, therefore it would be helpful for your child to begin to recognise their own name. To reinforce this you could put a name card on the fridge or play a treasure hunt game; finding name cards around the house.



Encourage your child to be healthy, active, friendly and helpful:

- Establish a good sleep routine for your child.
- Talk to your child about the importance of healthy eating.
- Encourage your child to take turns when playing with other children.
- Encourage your child to help with 'special jobs' such as counting out the plates for dinner or even washing up. (You may think they're tedious jobs but your child will love the extra responsibility.)
- Enjoy days out and discuss what you can see, hear, smell and touch.



Activities to try:

- Share books together every day.
- Encourage your child to get messy digging and exploring outdoors.
- Enjoy playing with playdough to help develop and strengthen your child's hand muscles that are used for writing.
- Practise holding scissors and develop cutting skills by cutting magazines and paper.
- Complete puzzles and talk about the picture you have created.
- Encourage your child to mark-make using pencils, crayons, paints and even chalks in your garden.
- Sing simple nursery rhymes and number rhymes or simply make up your own funny songs.
- Have fun dancing to music and making up your own moves.
- Go for a picnic and encourage your child to help get the sandwiches and drinks ready.
- Point out shapes, numbers, signs and letters in the environment.
- Play simple games, such as board games or outdoor ball games to encourage sharing and turn-taking.

But most importantly...PLAY!

Thank you for taking the time to explore this pack.
We can't wait to meet your child and develop a successful partnership with your family.

For more information please visit our school website: www.southfailsworth.oldham.sch.uk

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www.facebook.com/southfailsworthprimary