

# Goonhavern Primary School



Nurture the seed and together we will grow

## What is the Foundation Stage?

Play is children's work



# What is the Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage focuses on the distinct needs of children aged three to five or, in Goonhavern Primary School's case, until the end of the reception year.

The Foundation Stage has its own curriculum which emphasises learning based on play and experiences.

It is a broad, balanced and purposeful curriculum, delivered through planned play activities to help ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and experience the best possible start to their education.



# The Seven Areas of Learning and Development:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Physical Development



# Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Successful Personal, Social and Emotional Development is critical for very young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning. We believe that it is crucial that we provide the experiences and support to enable children to develop a positive sense of themselves.

This might be delivered through:

- Name recognition
- Reward charts
- Offering choice and fostering independence
- Circle time
- Recognising and celebrating personal achievements
- Modelling a positive, nurturing and supportive environment



# Communication and Language

Communication and Language depend on learning and being competent in a number of key skills, together with having the confidence, opportunity, encouragement, support and disposition to use them. This area of learning includes communication, speaking and listening in different situations and for different purposes, and using past, present and future forms accurately.

This might be delivered through:

- Opportunities for purposeful talk
- Role Play
- Circle time
- Listening corner



# Literacy

Reading- children read and understand simple sentences.

They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud. Children enjoy and recognise a wide range of texts, including, signs labels, instructions, stories and information books.

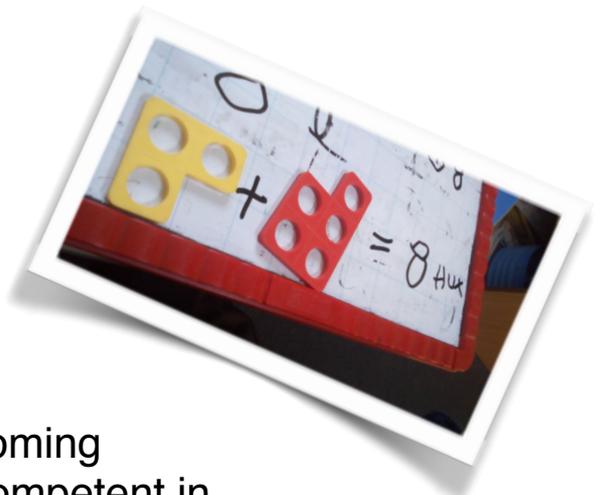


## Writing-

Children use their phonic knowledge to write words which match their spoken sounds. Children write for a variety of purposes.



# Mathematics



Mathematical development depends on becoming confident and competent in learning and using key skills. This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns, making connections, recognising relationships and working with numbers, shapes, space and measures. Mathematical understanding should be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, so that children can enjoy using and experimenting with numbers. This includes numbers with two digits.

This might be delivered through:

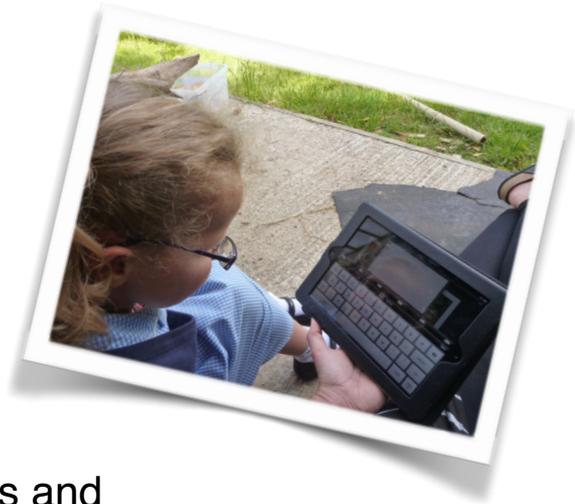
- Play dough, making numbers, making shapes
- Mathematical games
- Shape pictures
- Number puzzles
- Problem solving
- Application through 'everyday' situations
- Role play, timing, measuring, recording, counting and using mathematical language
- Mathematical challenges, including doubling, halving and sharing



# Understanding of the World

In Understanding of the World children are developing the crucial knowledge, skills and understanding

that help them to make sense of the world. It includes helping children develop the skills of observing, predicting, exploring, investigating, interpreting, discussing, decision-making and using tools and materials appropriately.



This might be delivered through:

- Real experiences
- Technology and its uses
- Role play
- Map work through stories
- Exploring the school and local environment
- Learning about ourselves, how we have grown and changes
- Looking at similarities and differences



# Physical Development

Physical development in the Foundation Stage is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement (*Fine and Gross motor skills*). Physical development has two other very important aspects. It helps children gain confidence in what they can do and enables them to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active.

This might be delivered through:

- PE sessions - gym, dance, games
- Exploring the outside area
- Pencil control
- Developing gross and fine motor skills
- Talking about diet and ways to keep healthy
- Supporting children to manage their own basic hygiene



# Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design is fundamental to successful learning. Being creative enables children to make connections between one area of learning and another and so extend their understanding. This area of learning includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play.

This might be delivered through:

- Songs
- Using instruments and making music
- Painting, collage, clay, junk modelling, chalking...
- Drama and role play



# Why Play?

At Goonhavern Primary School we believe that play is a vital component of children's lives, without which their potential for healthy mental and physical development is undermined.

Play helps children to:

- Be whole people
- Be physically healthy
- Be physically co-ordinated
- Be mentally healthy
- Co-ordinate ideas
- Deal with feelings and relationships



# How do we show the children that we value their **play**?

- We plan for play
- We plan for space both indoors and outdoors to be optimised for learning through play
- Children have the opportunity to talk about their play or display their own special work and pictures in the classroom
- We extend and support children's spontaneous play
- We develop and extend children's language and communication in their play



# Assessment

- All children are assessed through observation when they start school to find out what they 'can do'.
- This feeds into the Foundation Stage Profile- which is the assessment which is completed throughout the year for all children in Reception.
- At Goonhavern Primary School we keep a comprehensive record of your child's year in Reception in their 'Learning Journal'. This takes the form of photographs, children's work and written observations.



## Parents as partners

At Goonhavern Primary School we recognise that parents and the wider family are essential for effective learning to take place. We are always looking for ways to keep parents informed about and involve parents in their child's education. Your child's Learning Journal will be available for you to look through and add to. You can also download a 'Look at what my child can do' form from our website, these forms are an important part of the assessment process and help children share successes that as practitioners we may not see, for example swimming. We offer an 'open door policy' where parents must feel free to drop in and speak to one of the team should they have any concerns or queries

# Uniform



In the reception class the minimum of a navy sweatshirt is acceptable. Suitable accompaniments to this are grey shorts or trousers, jogging pants and a white polo shirt. School jumpers and cardigans can be purchased from the uniform shop. Just ask one of the team!

## PE Kit

White t-shirt, shorts, socks and Velcro trainers.



## Other Essentials

At Goonhavern Primary School we value the outdoors as an essential part of our learning environment and as a result spent time outside every-day, no matter what the weather! Your child **MUST** have **named** wellington boots and a waterproof to keep in school every-day. There is no need to send your child with sun cream as we will provide this, however a hat for sunny days is essential.

## Spare Clothing

Children's learning experiences each day may include mud, sand, water, paint and other messy materials. We do have aprons and waterproof suits and will try to keep the children as clean as possible, however children are likely to get messy or wet and will need a complete change of **named** clothes. This should include clean socks, underwear, trousers and jumpers!



## Snacks and drinks

Children are given a piece of fruit or vegetable every day and a cup of milk or water. There is no need to bring an additional drink, water is on offer for children to help themselves to throughout the day. Should you wish for your child to bring an additional drink for lunchtimes this needs to be in a clearly **named** refillable bottle. We ask that your child does not drink squash, juice or other sugary drinks at school.

## Lunches

All children are entitled to a free school lunch and menus are made available on a termly basis.



If your child prefers a packed lunch, we politely ask that it not contain any chocolate or sweets. We also hold a 'no nuts' policy due to allergy concerns and ask that you kindly respect this.

Our school holds Healthy Schools status, which means we actively support the health and well-being of our children and recommend a healthy balanced lunchbox. If you need any further advice or ideas to achieve this, please speak to Class R staff.

# Health and absence

Please notify us as soon as possible if your child will be absent from school due to illness. You can telephone the school and leave a message if you call outside of office hours. If your child has been ill with a stomach related illness we ask that they stay off school for 48 hours from the last bout of illness. If a child is taken ill at school, parents will be notified so that they can be collected, so please ensure your contact details are up to date.

# Medication

If your child requires medication for a short term condition to be administered during school hours you must complete the relevant form which is available at the office.



The medication must be clearly marked with your child's name, date of birth and the dosage required.

# Transition from Pre-School

At Goonhavern Primary School we understand that starting school can be daunting for both children and parents. We offer a range of opportunities to ensure that the transition into school life is as smooth as possible:

- We work with our feeder pre-schools to gather as much information as possible about your child before they start school.
- We like to give parents a comprehensive form to fill in which gives us a good picture of your child's preferences and abilities.
- You and your child will be invited to stay and play together in the classroom during the summer term before starting school. This is a good chance for your child to experience the classroom, play with their new class mates and meet the staff and the importantly see the toilets! You will also get a chance to meet other parents and the Class R Team.
- We offer a chance for you and your child to join us for school lunch in the summer term before starting school and have a guided tour of the school from our school council. Some families find this useful for future discussions with their child around school lunch times.
- All children are offered a home visit in September. Visiting a child in their own home before they start school can help to achieve a smooth transition for children, parents and staff. The home visit can make the first week seem far less scary, offering your child and teacher the common ground of a shared experience in their own home. It is also an opportunity for you to learn more about the school setting. We also recognise that as the parents and carers it is you who knows your child best and we welcome your insight into your child's development and skills.
- We stagger start times in September so that all children spend their first few days of school part time. We see this time as a real investment into the rest of the year. Having smaller groups in the



classroom at one time help to give the children more adult attention, giving the staff a chance to really get to know your child and importantly your child the chance to get to know us and the routines of school life.

- We offer part time places for children who might find a full day difficult initially. We are always happy discuss any individual needs your child might have at home visits or at any of our transition events, or individual appointments. School life is very different to pre-school and many children find keeping up with a full time timetable difficult in the first few weeks.



# What can I do at home?

It is totally normal for a class of reception children to start school with a wide range of skills and abilities. There are some things you can be doing to help your child to be ready for school:



- **Help your child learn to go to the toilet independently** and clean themselves afterwards, including washing hands.
- **Help your child learn to put their coat on and change their shoes to wellies ready to work outside.** Teachers and teaching assistants will help with tricky buttons/ zips but the more your child can do for themselves the better.
- **Help your child to understand sharing and listening** for a short time when asked to.
- Share books, talk with your child, count together during everyday activities.
- Ensure your child gets enough sleep.
- We do not expect children to start school knowing numbers and letters, however, if your child is keen you may wish to start writing their name with them or simple letter formation (in **lower case** letters). You can see our class blog for more information about early reading and writing, look for the link on the class page of our website.
- Don't worry! There are no problems or issues that cannot be resolved.

We are a very happy and open team at Goonhavern Primary School and would like to think that you could feel able to approach us with any concerns or queries. We feel very privileged to be entrusted with the care and education of your child and appreciate that for school life to be successful for your child it is essential that we work in partnership with parents and carers. Please feel free to call in and speak to one of the team should you have any queries.

A copy of our school prospectus can be downloaded from our school website

<http://www.goonhavern.cornwall.sch.uk>

Kirsty Fairclough and the Early Years Team