**Early Years Foundation Stage**

Children in their reception year of the Early Years Foundation Stage are taught alongside our Year 1 children in our Lions Class (Class 1).

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

 Throughout your child’s Reception year, we provide a variety of both child-initiated and directed learning opportunities that will support your child's progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

There are seven areas of learning and development that make up our Early Years Foundation Stage provision. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. 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, **the prime areas**, are:

• communication and language;

• physical development;

• personal, social and emotional development.

We also support children in four **specific areas**, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

• literacy

• mathematics

• understanding the world;

• expressive arts and design.

In addition to these, we also ensure that the **Characteristics of Effective Learning** are provided for. These are the ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment by playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically. The Characteristics of Effective Learning underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

**Playing and exploring – engagement**

Finding out and exploring

Playing with what they know

Being willing to ‘have a go’

**Active learning – motivation**

Being involved and concentrating

Keeping trying

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

**Creating and thinking critically – thinking**

Having their own ideas

Making links

Choosing ways to do things