

How we teach in the EYFS at Kenningtons Primary Academy

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn” –

O.Fred Donaldson

“Play is the highest form of research” - Albert Einstein

What do Early Learners at Kenningtons do?

- Learn through play and use their imagination
- Work independently and as part of a team
- Make choices, have their own ideas and are resourceful
- Are curious about the world and investigate the things that interest them
- Persevere, take risks and are not afraid to make a mistake
- Make links between areas of learning

Intent

In the EYFS at Kenningtons, the main focus is that we are ready for the next stage of our learning, as outlined in the EYFS Statutory Framework. In the Nursery, our teachers begin by supporting us in the prime areas of learning, which underpin everything we do. They also follow our interests to help us to develop early skills in the specific areas of learning.

In Reception, the prime areas continue to be the focus, but our teachers carefully plan topics that will make sure we have a full range of skills across all of the specific areas.

Implementation

- All adults in the EYFS, think carefully about how they interact with us in our play and use special strategies to move our learning forward without interfering. Our teachers and TAs have all read ‘Interacting not Interfering’ by Julie Fisher.
- There are times when our learning is led by the adults but there are times when we are learning independently, following our interests through play. This also allows us the chance to practise the new skills we have been taught.
- In Reception, our curriculum is mapped out to make sure all the areas of learning are covered in preparation for when we study the National Curriculum in Year 1.
- In Nursery and Reception, we learn about key religious festivals so that we understand how people are different and similar to us. Every year, we focus on the seasons and how the world is changing around us.
- During activity time, there is always access to our indoor and outdoor classroom. The classrooms are organised into ‘Areas of Learning’ so that we can access the resources when we need them. Every Wednesday is ‘Welly Wednesdays’, when we use the other outdoor areas in school to explore and investigate.
- Play activities are planned carefully to ensure that we can develop good learning behaviours which my teachers call the ‘Characteristics of Effective Learning.’ Each week our teachers choose a ‘learning skill’ to focus on, which links with our learning.
- All of our learning is recorded in our own ‘Learning Journey’ book. This includes our independent work as well as observations by our Teachers and TAs have made
- Each of our Learning Journeys are very unique and our parents are invited into school to share these with us
- Our parents’ views of our learning are taken into consideration with questionnaires regularly sent out for them to complete, giving our teachers a more wholesome view of what we can do.

- The phonics programme our teachers follow is 'Monster Phonics'. Our teachers carry out regular phonics assessments to check how well we are doing and to put support in place if we need it.
- Each week we take part in a 'Helicopter Stories' session, when we can tell an adult our own stories, which are scribed by them and then acted out at the end of the afternoon. This helps our speech, imagination, confidence, writing skills. As our writing skills improve we start to write the stories ourselves.
- Any new words that link to our focus topics or books, that we do not yet know are taught and placed on our word wall. Our teachers refer to the 'Word Wall' regularly.
- Across the year, our weekly timetable changes to help us gradually prepare for learning in year 1.
- If we are finding our early reading, writing or maths, challenging, interventions are put in place to support us Children who have been identified to have additional needs get the opportunity to develop at their own pace in the NEST.
- At the beginning of the year, our teachers assess how well we understand language using Speech link. This means it is quickly identified if we need additional speech and language support.
- Trips and experts are carefully planned by our teachers and help to bring our learning to life

Impact

We will demonstrate our learning within EYFS through our learning journey books, our whole class curriculum books, displays, working walls, in our conversations with teachers and by the vocabulary we use.