



Our EYFS Curriculum at Vale Primary School

This is a brief guide to our EYFS Curriculum at Vale Primary School and is designed to be read in conjunction with our long-term plans.

- The EYFS framework sets out the statutory requirements for learning and development for children up to and including Reception Year, (birth to 5). Our curriculum is built around this framework.
- Up to the end of Year Reception, the EYFS curriculum should cover the 7 areas of learning and at Vale we have planned an ambitious curriculum that covers the 7 areas of learning, (17 aspects) and prepares our pupils for their on-going learning journey into Year 1 and beyond.
- We have a balance between teacher-led discrete lessons on the carpet and child-led learning through play throughout each day.
- We believe that it is age appropriate and effective for our Reception pupils to **learn through play**. We don't have playtime breaks so that we can give our pupils time to engage with their self-chosen, child-initiated play activities and have sustained, uninterrupted play. For this reason our timetable is different to that in KS1.
- In order to facilitate **learning through play** we spend a long time creating our indoor and outdoor environments providing the children with a range of open-ended resources and quality **continuous provision** that they can select each day.
- **Enhanced Provision:** We also spend time planning enhancements to our provision which can be linked to our discrete planned lessons or added to enable our pupils to follow their own interests.
- In the Autumn Term we use a **focus child approach** to ensure that all of our pupils have time to work with their class teacher and follow their interests.
- In the Spring and Summer Terms we use a group **project approach** so that in addition to our planned lessons we are able to follow the interests of our children. This approach is very much child-centred.
- We have backwards planned so that we ensure that the learning in Year R prepares the children for the planned learning experiences in KS1. Through our discrete lessons and planned enhanced provision we ensure that our pupils have the pre-requisite skills and knowledge to allow them to be successful in their transition to KS1 and that we have built strong foundations in terms of pupils' attitudes to learning so that they are enabled to be successful, independent learners.
- Although our 7 areas of learning do not directly map to the subjects in KS1 following our Bailiwick Curriculum, The Big Picture, our Year Reception pupils begin their learning in those subjects when they start with us in September. We have a carefully sequenced curriculum map that demonstrates how what we learn in Year R continues and is built on in KS1.
- The following discrete, teacher-led lessons take place each week:



Daily Phonics lessons following the SSP Little Wandle, Revised Letters and Sounds.

Daily maths lessons which follow a mastery approach.

Literacy Lessons three times a week. These lessons are focused on quality texts. Phonics is applied in these lessons with teachers modelling blending to read and segmenting to spell in shared reading and writing sessions. Talk for Writing is used to build pupils' love of stories, ability to retell stories and use story language and to support pupils in innovating stories.

As we move through the year there are increased expectations of what our pupils are able to do in response to the texts we are studying with follow-up group and individual work including varied writing tasks such as speech bubbles, letters, invitations and character descriptions. We aim that at the end of the year our pupils can independently write sentences that can be read by others as spelling is phonetically plausible and some high frequency words are spelt correctly.

Weekly music lessons. This year we using music planning from Kapow. The children enjoy learning about music from different cultures and celebrations.

Weekly Circle Time lessons (PSED). These link to the whole school Values and the Vale Promise as well as introducing the children to Growth Mindset and The Decider Skills. We recognize that we are providing the children with the necessary skills to equip them to manage their feelings and behaviour and to keep healthy, (physical, emotional and mental health). Whist we have weekly discrete circle time lessons our learning linked to PSED occurs throughout the day, every day.

Our other discrete lessons each week form the foundations for Art, Design and Technology, History, Geography and Science. These lessons are delivered through teacher-led carpet sessions but learning continues with hands-on follow up tasks (for example all of the children experiencing colour mixing paints on Perspex or testing objects to see if they sink or float). Learning continues through the use of enhanced provision added to our quality offer of indoors and outdoors continuous provision.

Weekly PE lessons which include dance, using small equipment, climbing on large apparatus, games as well as swimming lessons in the summer term.

Vale's EYFS Team 2021