

Learning in Foundation Stage At Anchorsholme Academy 2022



Please read alongside our
Induction Booklet

Early Years Foundation Stage

This is a very important stage as it helps your child prepare for their future learning and successes. Your child's early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

We can promise to provide this for your child at Anchorsholme Academy.

All Reception classes must follow a legal document which is called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS).

It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements we must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare,
- The 7 areas of learning and development which guide our engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge,
- Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals (ELGs)".

Learning in the Foundation Stage

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 **prime** areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development;
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in the 4 **specific** areas.

These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world;
- Expressive arts and design

Learning in the Foundation Stage

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. We will teach and support your child and make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs and interests. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. We call these the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

You may or may not be familiar with these terms from your child's nursery setting. We will be speaking to the staff at your child's nursery setting and ensuring that we know which developmental stage your child is already at so that we can build upon it.

Our Exciting System

There will be up to 90 children, 3 teachers and 3 learning assistants within the Foundation Stage. Your child will be in a class of up to 30. Your child will have their own class teacher who will be your first point of contact if you have any queries.

At Anchorsholme we have developed a fabulous learning environment for the children. We are lucky enough to have five learning spaces. We have a Numeracy room, a Literacy room, a Creative room, an Art room and a large Outdoor area. Staff will be based in each of these areas to support and extend learning. Activities will be both adult and child led. The system we have enables the children to access all of these areas every week, thus providing them with a wealth of open ended activities. They move around the Literacy, Numeracy and Creative rooms, with their class teacher, on a rota system, whilst also having the option to choose to play outside or work in the Art room. This ensures that all the children have access to every area of the curriculum. This system has been very successful. We have had very positive feedback from our current reception parents and from the children themselves. During the course of the day milk, water and fruit is available for the children.

Please note our wonderful system will be suitably adapted to comply with up to date DFE guidance for Covid 19.

Our 'Growth Mindset' Approach to Learning

Here at Anchorsholme, we believe in the 'Growth Mindset' approach to Learning'.

If you have a 'Growth Mindset', you believe that with work, practice, and perseverance, you can improve - whether it's your academic performance, or any other skill.

We encourage this approach to learning from day one in Foundation Stage, using child-friendly language to instill this attitude into our children.

We talk about being in the 'Learning Pit', which is the point when we are challenged and find something tricky or hard to do/understand. We explain to the children that if you don't go in the 'Learning Pit' you don't learn anything new. If you don't learn anything new - your brain doesn't grow.

We have a visual aid and hand sign that helps us to explain this.

We often find that attempting new tasks in a new environment can be quite daunting for some children, so saying to them 'come on it's time to go in the Learning Pit' really helps. We say 'if it's not tricky - you're not learning!'

The children really like this way of thinking and it helps them to have the confidence to try new things without worrying about failure. We believe that the word fail means First Atttempt In Learning!

The Learning Pit!



Not sure



Got it! Let's learn something new



Learning - it's not easy!

Our 'Growth Mindset' Approach to Learning

We would really appreciate it if you could support us with our 'Growth Mindset' Approach, at home.

Here are some ways you could do this.

Always praise your children for:

Effort - embrace challenges

Finding and using strategies to help them learn

Focus and concentration

Perseverance - keep going even when things get tough - you only fail if you give up

Improvement

Talking about the process of learning and not the outcome is key.

Tracking Your Child

Our fantastic assessment tool is called Tapestry. It contains all the Early Learning Goals. It easily allows the staff to track the progress of all the children. We can use it to gather evidence of every child's learning journey with either an annotated photograph, a comment or quote. You will be able to have access to your own child's Tapestry Journal, so that you can enjoy looking at their photographs at home.

We will also use Tapestry as our way of communicating home learning tasks with you and parents can add photos of home activities.

***You should have already received your Tapestry activation email. Please activate your account as the team will be posting virtual induction material onto Tapestry.**

Medical/ Specific Learning needs

Mrs Foster and Mrs Carter are our school special needs co-ordinators.

Please make them aware of ANY existing medical conditions that school will need to be aware of e.g. asthma, allergies, hearing, vision problems, English as a second language or premature birth.

If there are specific learning difficulties that have already been identified please also let Mrs Foster or Mrs Carter know so that staff can ensure the appropriate support.

You can ring our school office on 01253 855215 and ask to speak to Mrs Foster or Mrs Carter.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We like all our children to wear the school uniform, which is as follows:

Winter: October - Easter Grey skirt/pinafore or grey tailored trousers (girls) Grey trousers (boys) White blouse/shirt School tie Navy blue cardigan/pullover/or school sweatshirt Black school shoes

Summer: Easter to October half term Blue and white gingham dress or jumpsuits (Girls) Short sleeved polo shirt sky blue, grey trousers/shorts (Boys) Black school shoes

Each child should also have a pump bag, dark blue shorts, a school T-shirt (in the appropriate house colour - of which you will be advised) and plimsolls. Any item containing a school logo is available to purchase from Bispham Clothing, All Hallows Road, Bispham. Please ensure that your child's name is **CLEARLY MARKED** on all his/her belongings.

Routines

Children should be able to dress and undress themselves- please use the summer to practise zips and buttons!

Please make sure your child can do up their own coat!

Velcro shoes are preferable to lace-ups

Please make sure your child can manage their own personal hygiene. It is particularly important that your child is able to use the toilet independently.

Your child will have been allocated a 'House Team' - Dahl (Red), Shakespeare (Green), Blyton (Yellow) , Rowling (Blue), make sure you buy the correct colour t-shirt for PE. We will let you know your child's house team when we tell you their class. Children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE so please remove on PE day.

Wellies are provided for when needed.

Please read our starting school checklist for ideas on how to prepare your child for school.

Requests From School

If your child is absent please contact the school office before 9.30 am.

Please carefully label all your child's belongings (including shoes).

Please make sure school has at least two up to date emergency contact numbers.

All payments to school must be made via the ParentPay system. A letter will be sent home with log in details after your child starts school with us. If you need further information, please contact the school office.

COLLECTION OF A CHILD BY ANOTHER

ADULT - School must have written permission from parents where children are to be collected by another adult.

Whole School Communication

Parent App is our school communication system and all newsletters and information will be sent to you on this App.

Our weekly school newsletter Anchornews will be sent out via Parent App each week. Paper copies can also be requested from the office.

Alongside Tapestry we have a Foundation Stage Blog where you can read about our class learning and see photos too. You will find this on our school website www.anchorholme.co.uk

Termly Parents Evenings to discuss your child's progress.

Staff are available at the end of each day.

We can't wait to meet you and welcome you into our school family.

Please take time to read our Induction Booklet and look at the links for induction 2022 on our school website.

www.anchorholme.co.uk