



Foundation Stage

When children come to St James' at the beginning of the academic year in which they are 5, they enter the Reception or Foundation year. They bring a great deal of valuable knowledge and experience with them and through the foundation stage curriculum we continue to develop this by means of carefully planned activities.

There are three prime areas of learning: personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development.

There are four specific areas of learning: literacy, mathematics, expressive arts and design and understanding of the world.

Key Stage 1

In years 1 and 2, children have daily English sessions which include a daily phonics programme to support reading and spelling. Their maths skills are developed and extended with links to 'real life' problem solving. They will be encouraged to be interested in everything around them and find learning exciting and fun. As well as developing their confidence and independence they will also be achieving their potential across a wide range of skills in all subjects with many opportunities for extended learning.

The children's progress is assessed on a regular basis to ensure teachers know how well they are doing at any given time. This also enables teachers to provide challenge and support when necessary.

During Year 2 children are assessed by their teacher and take national tasks and tests in reading, writing and maths, also known as SATs.

Key Stage 2

Children in Years 3 to 6 build on all they have achieved in the previous years and through good differentiation of work we ensure all children are challenged. They are taught to become more responsible for their own learning and behaviour as they develop an increasing ability to co-operate with each other and show greater initiative and creativity in all aspects of school life.

All opportunities for learning are valued at every stage and the school looks to extend children's love of learning through a rich curriculum and by providing a large variety of choices through extra curricular clubs and activities. All children go on day visits related to the curriculum. Parents and visitors also bring their knowledge and expertise into school.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful environment and local area to support and enrich our learning.

English

The development of the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing and drama are essential for children to be able to use language effectively and access the whole curriculum. Learning objectives for these are cross curricular and are included throughout the planning. Children are taught cursive handwriting from Reception onwards.

Pleasure in reading is developed at an early stage and children listen to stories and share books at school and with parents at home. We use a very successful phonics scheme called 'Read, write, Inc'. We also use a range of other strategies to help children to develop excellence in literacy. A wide range of fiction and non-fiction books is available in our school.

Children are expected to write for a range of purposes and audiences. Specific language skills are taught and applied in the English sessions and are developed through cross curricular links.

Many ICT resources are available to extend and develop children's knowledge and understanding. Children can develop their skills to enable them to present their work orally, in writing, or through graphics and use of ICT.

Mathematics

Mathematics sessions begin each day with a lively mental starter.

Children are encouraged to recognise patterns in numbers and be able to estimate.

The areas of study include number, shape, space and measures and data handling. Children will have the opportunity to discuss and present their methods and reasoning using a range of mathematical language, diagrams and charts.

A range of teaching styles including whole class teaching, group work and one to one teaching are used so that each child has the opportunity to acquire the skills they will need to apply to solving everyday situations.

Science

Through guidance and practical activity children learn to apply the scientific skills of observing, classifying, hypothesising, testing ideas, recording and looking for possible solutions.

They learn to use appropriate scientific equipment accurately and safely to study physical processes including electricity, forces and motion, light and sound.

Our school's grounds and the village are a wonderful resource to stimulate and excite the children's curiosity when studying aspects such as living things and materials.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Children will use ICT throughout the school, having access to computers and netbooks in the classrooms. They will be taught to use a wide range of ICT tools including the use of the interactive whiteboards, programmable toys, digital cameras and sensors and will use appropriate software to improve their learning achievements. They will learn to make decisions about how, when and where to use ICT effectively.

The school has a use of internet policy which must always be followed.

Design and Technology

By studying everyday designs and artefacts and through designing and making their own, our children will learn to control and use a range of tools and materials safely, appropriately and economically.

They will learn to investigate, design, plan, make, evaluate and improve on their own designs.

History

In order to develop a sense of the past, children are encouraged to investigate their own experiences and those of their families before gaining deeper historical understanding of local and world events. Our study of a historical period is often accompanied by a visit, visitor or costume/activity day to give insight into the lives of the people of that time.

Geography

Our extensive grounds, village and surrounding area make an ideal starting point for Key Stage 1 children to study a locality and the people who live and work in it.

Key Stage 2 children extend their studies and also look at more global issues. Children make informed use of secondary sources such as the internet and DVDs to develop an understanding of other cultures and countries from a geographical context.

Music

Performing Arts are a strength of the school and music is a strong aspect of school life. Children learn to recognise the musical features in differing pieces of music as well as to sing and compose on a range of percussion instruments.

Peripatetic music teachers can visit the school each week to give tuition to groups and individuals. Details are available at the school office.

Art and Design

We aim to encourage all creative activities by teaching children skills and giving them the experiences that will enable them to express their ideas. They will use a range of media and techniques to create 2D and 3D exhibits. Careful observation and attention to detail is required so that work of quality is produced and our displays reflect a wide range of medium.

Physical Education

The development of physical skills and fitness in gymnastics, dance, athletics, swimming and games is of great importance for each child and children receive two hours curriculum time per week. Team participation and sportsmanship are encouraged at all times through a programme of inter school competitions and tournaments.

Religious Education

The school follows the West Sussex agreed syllabus for R.E. Children are encouraged to take a full part in termly church services whilst learning about comparative religions: Judaism, Islam and Hinduism as well as Christianity. Parents may withdraw their children from all or part of religious education and/or collective worship if they wish. In this instance, alternative educational provision will be made.

Personal Development

The personal development of pupils and the establishment of attitudes of mind are important features during the primary years. The school's daily act of worship and religious education provide an opportunity to learn about the Christian faith and to gain an understanding of the children's responsibilities as members of a Christian community. There is a strong link with St. Giles Church and regular participation in services.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

We aim to give children the knowledge and understanding that they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. SEAL resources are used throughout the school. We use Circle Time as a means of helping children to understand how to explore their thinking personally and socially. Other resources like DVDs and visitors (e.g. religious leaders, police and fire service) contribute to children's awareness of their responsibilities, rights and duties.

Children are involved in the decision making in the school through the very active School Council.

Sex and Relationships Education

Aspects of the programme are taught throughout the school and are linked with both the PSHCE and Science curriculum. Young children learn about life cycles and reproduction through observing the natural world: the life of plants and animals. Older children learn about the human body, reproduction and the changes that occur during puberty. Children are expected to develop awareness, respect and responsibility for themselves and others and to be able to cope with the physical and emotional changes of growing up. They are encouraged to develop their values and attitudes to relationships in a responsible manner.

Collective Worship

This short daily period of reflection and worship is held each day. Our Vicar attends once each week. These times help to promote the children's spiritual development and enable our school community to come together to reinforce our values.

Special Educational Needs

At our School we are committed to providing an inclusive education for all children and believe that all children can achieve success in a supportive but challenging environment. Children with Special Educational Needs are monitored through regular assessment and targets set for their Personal Learning Plan. They may receive support in some aspects of their learning in a small group or individually.

Support may be given by the teacher or teaching assistant and may take place in the classroom or group teaching area. The class teacher and SENDCO work closely with the child and parents and value their partnership. We work to the requirements of the Code of Practice and

fully utilise all the support services available through the Local Authority and Health Authority.

More able children are identified through regular assessment and supported through extension groups within the classroom, across year groups, and with some opportunities to work with children from other local schools. We provide many opportunities for our Gifted and Talented children to develop their thinking skills with open ended activities.

All children are encouraged to be fully engaged with the curriculum at an appropriate level and their contribution to the school is valued.

Modern Foreign Languages

French is taught systematically to years 2 - 6 and informally to Reception and Year 1.

Links with the Community

The school is a focus for a number of events in the local community and these are excellent opportunities for the school and community to work together and share special occasions. We have close links with the church in the village and. We maintain close contact with other services such as the police, through our neighbourhood police representative and local businesses. The school PTA, FOSJ organise many events during the year. Each year we support local, national and/or worldwide charities to develop an understanding of, and responsibility for, others.