

Holy Trinity C E Primary School

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Foundation Stage—Our Team



We have 5 members of staff who work across the Foundation Stage at Holy Trinity School. Ilga and Meghan are the teachers who work together with Maria, Rachel and Dave to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum to your child.

How does the Foundation Stage work at Holy Trinity?

We have a Nursery Class with spaces for 26 children in the morning as part of the 15 hour free Nursery Hours. We also offer paid provision for extended time in the Nursery in the afternoon. We also have a Reception class for 30 children. Both of these classes make up the 'Foundation Stage'.

As with previous years, the staff work very closely together across the Foundation Stage, ensuring planning and provision are closely matched to the children's needs.

How is the day set up for Foundation Stage?

A number of years ago the Nursery area was moved into the main school so that Reception and Nursery could work as a Foundation Stage. This means that there are many opportunities for Foundation Stage children (Reception and Nursery) to have free flow in the outdoor area and throughout the two classrooms both morning and afternoon.

This year we have been particularly fortunate as the children attending the afternoon Nursery already attend the Foundation Stage in the morning.

How does learning work in the Foundation Stage?

As there are different age ranges of the children throughout the Foundation Stage, the teachers plan carefully to ensure that the opportunities and experiences that are available for the children are matched to each child's individual needs. We do this through careful observations, questioning, planning and reviewing learning to ensure that next steps are identified and followed through.

In the Foundation Stage 80% of all activities are child led, 20% are adult guided which can include setting up a particular activity, playing alongside children, personalised questioning and adult-led activities where an adult is working with a group of children.

Do Nursery children and Reception children work together?

In our Foundation Stage the children work throughout the outside area, Reception and Nursery Classrooms. There are times when Reception or Nursery may work as a class group to extend their learning for example maths or English. However there may be children who will work in smaller groups during this time to extend their learning.

During the afternoon, the Foundation stage continue to work in the outside area, Reception and Nursery Classrooms. This gives us the opportunity to have a higher child to adult ratio which enable us to run even more groups and an even more personalised learning.



What are the staff ratios? Who is in the classroom?

There are 5 members of staff who work across Foundation Stage. In the morning the Foundation Stage has up to 56 children. We have at least 4 members of staff supporting the children's learning in the morning.

In the afternoon we currently have between 32 and 36 children in the Foundation Stage. In line with the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, we have at least 3 members of staff. This will be a combination of Meghan, Ilga, Maria and Rachel. There will always be a qualified teacher in the classroom. Each afternoon Dave is also timetabled to work in the Foundation Stage. For 2 afternoons there is an additional adult timetabled to support in the Foundation Stage, which means that on two days a week there are 5 members of staff timetabled to support the children across the Foundation Stage.

How do we ensure we support and challenge the children throughout Foundation Stage ?

We are aware of different abilities, terms of birth and needs of all the children in Foundation Stage across Nursery and Reception classes. The Foundation Stage curriculum and learning objectives are delivered through both adult led and self initiated activities (20/80%), supporting the most youngest ones and challenging more able ones. We are very lucky to have an experienced team, who work very hard to ensure this.

We identify individual children's needs and the outdoor and indoor environments are set up to ensure all children are challenged for their particular ability and needs.

We also identify children to challenge and support through adult-led activities. This way we can target and focus on groups of children with similar strengths or areas to develop.

How does phonics work in Foundation Stage at Holy Trinity?

As we have such a high ratio of adults in the afternoon, we run our phonics at this time in addition to English work in the morning. Synthetic phonics (we use Read Write Inc) is delivered in groups across Year 2, Year 1 and in the Foundation Stage. The adults work in small groups with children that have been identified to have similar needs, including those across Foundation Stage who are still working at pre-letter learning stage.

Tapestry

Please make sure you login to your Tapestry account to find out what your child is learning. Thank you to those parents who are engaging with this and posting home observations. It is always helpful for the staff to find out all about your child's home learning and experiences outside school. If you do not know your login, please speak to one of the team.

Stay and Play

Please come and join Stay and Play on Tuesdays. As we have settled our new joiners in Nursery, they will be 'Staying and Playing' from the 7th March. Please join us.

Where can I get more information?

The Foundation Stage section on our website has information and links. We will be producing a half-termly Foundation Stage Newsletter which will give you more information about what is happening and events. We hold regular focus child meetings where you can ask questions. The class reps also can help share information. **Most importantly please speak to any member of the Foundation Stage team if you have questions or concerns.**