



ROWLATTS MEAD

PRIMARY ACADEMY



WELCOME TO THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Our Team Nursery

Miss Smith
Class teacher

Miss Spencer
Teaching assistant



Reception

Mrs Audley
Class Teacher
Assistant Principal

Miss Barratt
Class teacher

Mrs Carvell
Teaching assistant

Mrs Chavda
Teaching assistant

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HOW TO SUPPORT AT HOME

- Letter Formation
- Number Formation
- Makaton
- Best Preparation for School

TERM DATES



Autumn term:

Starts: Tuesday 29th August 2023

Half Term: Monday 16th October to Friday 20th October 2023

Ends: Thursday 21st December 2023

Spring term:

Starts: Tuesday 8h January 2023

Half Term: Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2023

Ends: Friday 22nd March 2023

Summer term:

Starts: Monday 8th April 2023

Half Term: Monday 3h May to Friday 31st May 2023

Ends: Friday 12th July 2023

**** The school will be closed on the following dates:**

Monday 6th May 2023 – Bank Holiday

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

O. Fred Donaldson

INDOOR PROVISION

- Sand
- Water
- Creative Area
- Role Play
- Construction
- Small World
- Malleable
- Investigation Area
- Mark making/ writing
- Reading

OUTDOOR PROVISION

- Den Building
- Mud Kitchen
- Climbing Equipment
- Tyre swing/ monkey bars
- Gardening
- Sand
- Water
- Bikes, Scooters and Skates

INDOOR CLASSROOM

We offer children many broad and varied learning opportunities within an **enriching environment**. Our classrooms promote **curiosity** and children are encouraged to follow their interests, have their own ideas and **independently access the resources** available.

Through careful planning and levelling, we have ensured that our provision **meets the needs of all learners**, across a broad and balanced curriculum.

We are a 2-form entry school with a total year group of 45 pupils. This means we can offer smaller than average class sizes.

In **Reception** there are 2 classes Both classes share the same large and airy Reception base. **The classes are Class Nightingale and Class Jemison**, named after inspirational figures from history.

Smaller rooms within the base are used for separate class registration and adult inputs such as Phonics, Maths and shared reading. During continuous provision they can mix freely across the whole area which supports relationships and independence.

The class teachers work with all pupils across both classes which enables consistency of teaching and for all pupils to benefit from a spread of experience, expertise and strengths.

In **Nursery** we have 1 class of 23 that attends mornings only and are based in a separate base which is again large and airy. Our Nursery class is called **Class Sharman**, again named after an inspirational figure



QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or concerns throughout your child's time in school, please see your child's class teacher in the morning or at the end of the day.

Please be aware that these are busy times of the day and allow the teacher to meet all of the children's needs before approaching.

If you require any further clarification on these matters then you may arrange a conversation via telephone or after school meeting with the EYFS Assistant Principal, Mrs Audley.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

At Rowlatts Mead, we value the benefits that **outdoor learning** has on children's **development** and **wellbeing**.

We encourage children to play outside all year round and therefore it is essential that the clothing provided is suitable e.g. **wellies** and a **waterproof coat**.

Our outdoor space is large and offers a broad range of learning opportunities. Children will have access to the **mud kitchen, sand and water, container gardening, large scale construction, resources to build dens and a variety of bikes and scooters**. By using these resources teachers are able to support the learning and development of children across **all areas of learning** such as their physical development, creativity, problem solving, mathematical skills, reading and writing and many more.

Our **Reception classes and Nursery** have their own separate and secure outside areas which allows provision to be tailored to both age ranges.

The Reception area includes, tunnels, a climbing wall, tyre swings, picnic tables and a play house.

The Nursery area includes a play house, and a slide built into the grassed slope.

Both Reception and Nursery have regular access to the rest of the school grounds which include a wildlife area, large grassed playing field, sensory garden, willow den, bandstand, and a small orchard and allotment area.



SCHOOL DINNERS

Children in Reception are entitled to our healthy Universal Free School Meals. There is a form you will need to complete to ensure the kitchen can provide your child with a hot dinner suitable for their needs.

Alternatively, you may choose to provide your child with a packed lunch. At Rowlatts Mead, we promote well-balanced diets and ask that all packed lunches consist of a variety of healthy snacks and a bottle of water.

“The more risks you allow your children to make, the better they learn to look after themselves.”

Roald Dahl

ATTENDANCE

Everybody on time and in school everyday. Every day counts...

As we want the best for our children, we would like to work with you to achieve 100% attendance. **Young brains develop rapidly which is why poor attendance quickly affects your child's progress.** Holidays in term will not be authorised under any circumstances.

There may be a time when your child is unwell, please call the school office as early as possible on the first day of absence, stating the reason your child is not in school.

High attendance is rewarded in school. The class with the highest weekly attendance is awarded with the 'Attendance Trophy'

Please see page 8 for further information and guidance.

UNIFORM

- Trousers/skirts/dresses can be worn in black or grey.
- Jumpers and cardigans must be royal blue.
- Polo shirts must be white.
- Coats must be warm and waterproof.
- Shoes/trainers must be black and where possible have velcro straps.
- Summer dresses should be blue check (gingham).
- PE kit is a white t-shirt and black shorts or jogging bottoms
- A named pair of wellies must be provided and left at school.

Please put your child's name in all their clothes.



1ST DAY & WEEK AT SCHOOL

At Rowllatts Mead our Reception and Nursery children have a staggered start when they begin and you will be given the dates and times at our induction meeting and in your induction pack. Starting school is a huge milestone and for some children can be an anxious time. The staggered start allows them to a gentle introduction to their new class, teachers and environment. Most children respond well to this and quickly settle and are happy to leave their parents and carers.

If a child struggles to settle we will work closely with their parents/carers on an individual basis which may include continuing with a shorter session.

Our doors open at 8:35am and children are encouraged to engage in a daily morning task until registration begins. Please make sure your child arrives on time every day.

In Reception the school day ends at 2.55 pm .

In Nursery the morning session finishes at 11.35 am.

The children will be dismissed from their morning entrance and will only be allowed to leave with their parent or an adult who has been given permission to collect from their parent.

Children find it distressing if their parent or carer is late so please avoid this. Doors close 10 minutes after the finish time and after this any remaining children will be collected via the school office. We understand that urgent life matters can sometimes interfere and if this is the case please call the school to inform us as soon as possible.

By the time your child starts Reception your child should be able to:

1. Separate from carer easily.
2. Move independently around the playground and class (both indoor and outdoor areas).
3. Stay awake and energetic throughout the day.
4. Cope with changes of adults in the classroom without distress.
5. Stay within set boundaries of the playground and class (both indoor and outdoor areas).
6. Behave appropriately (and non-aggressively) for the majority of time.
7. Manage their own personal hygiene. This area can be supported for children with significant developmental delay.

AIMS OF EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE



- To provide a welcoming and caring environment where every child is valued as an individual.
- To encourage fluency, coherence and understanding of speech.
- To develop independence, self-confidence and self regulation.
- To help each child interact with their peers and teachers.
- To encourage awareness of and sensitivity towards the needs of others.
- To ensure good relationships between home, school and the community.
- To foster initiative, curiosity and good humour.
- To promote intellectual development through looking, listening and doing.
- To develop an enquiring mind, an interest in learning and enthusiasm towards the next stage of school life.

“To learn to read is to light a fire”

Victor Hugo, Les Miserables



OUR CURRICULUM

At Rowllatts Mead Primary Academy we deliver a curriculum based on the **framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage**. This describes the seven areas of learning and development which “**must be implemented through planned, purposeful play**”. See page 13 for further information about these different areas of learning.

The framework also states that “**practitioners must respond to each child’s emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.**” We have a fantastic team of teachers who put this into practice every day.

In addition, the framework describes “**three characteristics of effective teaching and learning**”

- **Playing & Exploring**
- **Active Learning**
- **Creating & Thinking Critically**

We believe whole-heartedly in these approaches to learning and use them to guide our practice.

Throughout the year the Reception and Nursery children **play, make friends, develop and learn**. They have great fun, exploring and creating, indoors and outside. They gain independence and confidence and their natural curiosity is encouraged at all times.



LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE

PHONICS

At Rowlatts Mead we base our phonics teaching on a successful scheme called 'Read Write Inc' In **Reception** the children take part in a **daily phonics session** which provides them with the necessary skills and knowledge to become confident readers and writers.

In **Nursery** we focus on developing the crucial skills on which more formal phonics teaching is based on. This includes most importantly, developing the ability to listen carefully and confidence to speak and a wide vocabulary.

During the school year we hold a number of workshops for parents and carers in order for them to support their child at home.

Daily story

At Rowlatts Mead we aim for the children to have at least one high quality story time each day. During this the adults model the skills and strategies needed when reading. This time is also invaluable in extending the children's vocabulary and developing a love of books.

The adults also take every opportunity to model purposeful writing throughout the day.

DEVELOPING MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

MATHS MASTERY

At Rowlatts Mead, we provide a mathematically rich **environment** whereby children are encouraged to **solve** a variety of mathematical **problems** in a range of contexts. Children are given time to **explore** and **develop** their depth of understanding and enjoyment of mathematical ideas through **purposeful interactions** with confident adults.

Children will take part in a **daily maths lesson**. During this lesson children will develop their concept of number, accuracy of counting and ability to solve problems which involve addition, subtraction, doubling, halving and sharing. Following on from the daily maths lesson children consolidate and develop their mathematical thinking through continuous provision activities.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOUR CHILD STARTS SCHOOL

Have **conversations** with your child as often as possible. This may seem obvious but it is the most valuable thing you can do.

Read to your child every day if possible. Look through this booklet with your child.

Enjoy sharing **stories, songs and rhymes** with your child, both in English and your home language.

Encourage your child to rhyme. These can be nonsense such as "door, poor, toor, loor..." Hearing **rhyme is a brilliant foundation** to build reading and writing skills on.

Make good use of outings with your child e.g. **parks, shops, libraries, swimming pools** etc. Talk about their interests and things they enjoy.

Encourage your child to **look for numbers and words** in their local environment e.g. door numbers, bus numbers, shop names and food labels.

If you would like to bring in any **creative** models, paintings or drawings, we would be happy to display them in the classroom to celebrate your child's achievements.

Encourage your child to be **independent** when putting on their coats and shoes and when going to the toilet.

ONLINE LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION

Class Dojo

is a social media style communication app which allows staff and parents to send and receive messages, set and submit homework and share important information.

Microsoft Teams

In the event of school closing during term time we use Microsoft Teams as an online learning platform. This allows us to continue to deliver face to face teaching when working from home.

You will be given all the information you need to create an account and access both Class Dojo and our online learning platforms when your child starts school. It is really important that you register for both so that you and your child can benefit from all the advantages that online learning brings.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
Nelson Mandela

TAPESTRY

Tapestry is an **easy-to-use online learning journal** which enables educators and parents to record, track and celebrate children's progress in early years education.

At Rowlatts Mead we use Tapestry to create a record of your child's progress throughout the year. At the end of the year we will send you a downloadable copy of your child's learning journal which is a lasting memento of their first years at school. .





OUR OUTDOOR POLICY

All children will be given the opportunity to play outside throughout most of the day whatever the weather.

It is important that you dress your child for school appropriately: warm clothes and waterproof coat when it's cold and wet; sun hat and sun screen when it's sunny.

Children get wet, muddy and messy when they play outside. Please provide protective clothing for them to wear, including **wellington boots and a waterproof coat.**

We teach children how to minimise how messy they get and they do get better at this as they get older, but it's part of their learning and development – they will get a bit dirty when they are playing in mud.

Playing outdoors is an essential component of young children's learning and development. Children must be allowed to experience the world around them in a full, messy, muddy, wet environment if they are to make useful meaning of it. Getting wet does not cause us to catch a cold. If the cold virus is around, we will pick it up regardless of whether we are wet or dry.

RESEARCH INTO THE BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR LEARNING



A study of school children shows evidence that outdoor education improves student outcomes. After studying on an outdoor curriculum basis, students scored higher than students of traditional systems in 72% of assessments in everything from maths and science to attendance. (1)

Outdoor learning and activities promote the release of Dopamine and Serotonin which decrease stress and increase sensations of safety and well being. (2)



"Children have been found to more easily move away from confrontation with peers in an outdoor environment." (3)



"Students that were engaged in outdoor learning experiences became more aware of personal and social developments in their lives." (4)



A study in 2004 suggested that students could expect increased levels of motivation after taking a part in an outdoor education programme. (5)

"Various developmental benefits are associated with regular physical exercise (such as regular outdoor adventure experiences can provide)" (6)



INTERNET RESOURCES

Below are some websites for you and your child to access a variety of educational games.

Letter sounds:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.phonicsbloom

Number games:

www.ictgames.com/resources

www.topmarks.co.uk/interactive

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

AREAS OF LEARNING IN THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the prime and specific Areas of Learning and Development are all interconnected.

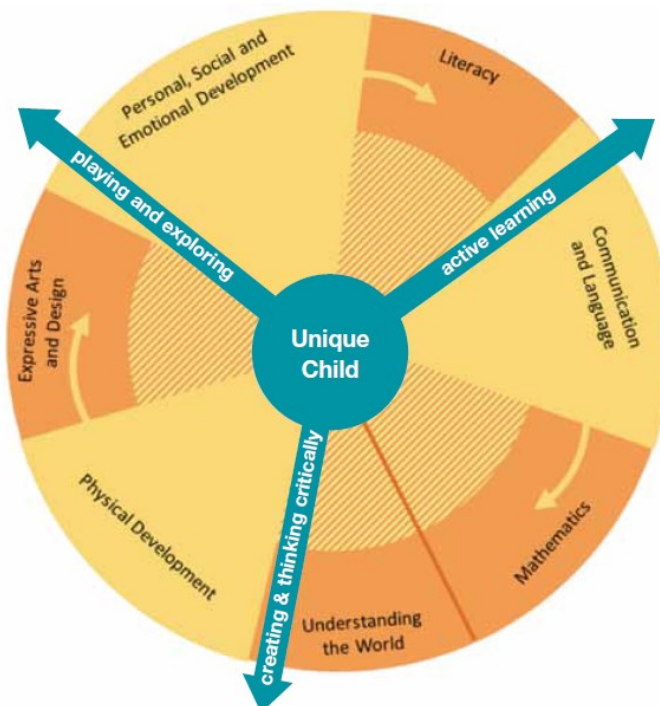
- The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically – underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.
- The **prime** areas begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences, and run through and support learning in all other areas. The prime areas continue to be fundamental throughout the EYFS.
- The **specific** areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas, and provide important contexts for learning.

The Unique Child reaches out to relate to people and things through the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**, which move through all areas of learning.

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically

Children develop in the context of relationships and the environment around them.

This is unique to each family, and reflects individual communities and cultures.



Prime areas are fundamental, work together, and move through to support development in all other areas.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific areas include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Further information on the Early Years Foundation Stage can be found at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>



Thank you for choosing Rowlatts Mead Primary Academy for your child. We look forward to meeting you very soon.

If you have any questions about what we can provide for you and your child please contact the school office in the first instance on:

Telephone 0116 276112

Email office@rowlatts-tmet.uk

Address

Balderstone Close

Leicester

LE5 4ES



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