



## Welcome to St Gabriel's Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Meeting

The Foundation Stage is a very important part of a child's education as it provides the building blocks for future learning.

At St Gabriel's we want to ensure that we develop firm foundations, and that children have the opportunity to develop skills across the curriculum.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is different to the National Curriculum taught from Y1 upwards.

The Foundation Stage curriculum has 7 areas of learning and development.

## 7 Areas of Learning

### Personal Social and Emotional Development

Building relationships

Managing self

Self regulation



### Communication Language and Literacy

Listening, attention and understanding

Speaking

Comprehension



### Physical Development

Gross motor

Fine motor



### Literacy

Reading

Writing



### Mathematics

Number

Numerical patterns



### Understanding of the World

People, culture and communities

The natural world

Past and present



### Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials

Being Imaginative and expressive

Our learning environment provides opportunities to develop skills in all of these areas.

The children learn through carefully planned purposeful play and adult directed activities.

We also gather information about how your child learns. This is important for future teaching. We look at what makes an effective learner and try to develop these skills with the children.

### Characteristics of Effective Learning

#### Playing and exploring – engagement

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to 'have a go'

#### Active learning – motivation

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

#### Creating and thinking critically – thinking

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things



### How do we assess where children are?

Children are assessed against age related expectations

The expectations for each area of learning are divided into age bands which track learning from birth to age 5. The final expectation is for children to meet the 'Early Learning Goal'.

Children entering their Nursery year are generally expected to be working in the 3-4 age range or Range 5

Children entering their Reception year are generally expected to be working in the Reception age band or Range 6

By the end of Reception children are expected to achieve the Early Learning Goal for each of the areas of learning.

Reading is a fundamental part of the curriculum. Children who struggle with reading will often struggle to access other areas of the curriculum.

In Nursery the focus is on preparation for reading activities which are essential if children are to grasp the basics.

These include singing Nursery Rhymes , looking at picture books, completing jigsaws and playing simple matching games.



Nursery children will bring home a library book each week for you to share with them .

In school Nursery children also take part in daily phonic sessions where we explore listening skills, everyday sounds, building towards introducing letter names and the sound that corresponds to that letter.



## Beginning to read in Reception Class

### What we do and how you can help



Children are taught a daily phonics lesson, using our **Little Wandle Phonics scheme** where we look at the letters of the alphabet and how they go together to make words. Phonemes and Graphemes are taught in a set sequence. Children are introduced to the vocabulary of phonics from the very start of Reception.

There are some very important changes here to how we pronounce the sounds. Things have changed a great deal from when we were taught to read!

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



### Expectations for Reception Class

Children will be taught to recognise the grapheme and use the following phonemes in words

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We have a daily phonics lesson where we play games and explore the graphemes and phonemes

When your child begins to bring home a reading folder they will bring home a weekly phonics homework activity to be completed with your help. The phonics homework will be sent home each Friday.





**Their reading folder will contain the following activities:**

**Reading folder with a blue read together record**

• **On Mondays**

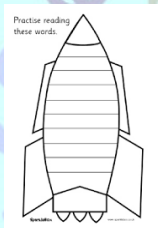
A free choice sharing book for you to read to your child and talk about the story, their favourite bits, the characters etc.... It is very important that you share this book with your child as it will give them the opportunity to talk about characters, plots, and to make predictions about what might happen next in the story. These books are intended to foster a love of reading

Children will take part in guided reading activities every week. On a Wednesday children will take part in a Little Wandle guided reading session with an adult. The focus for this session will be decoding

On a Friday they will take part in a guided reading session with an adult. The focus for this session will be fluency and comprehension using the same book they have decoded on Wednesday. Children will then bring this same book home to continue reading for fluency and comprehension with you. they will keep this book until the following Wednesday.

**Thursdays**

Your child will also bring home a set of keywords in their folder to learn, these should be practiced as many times as possible during the week. These words are high frequency words that occur in your child's reading books so learning them will give them the confidence to begin reading more independently. We will go through these words with them on a Thursday, as each set of words is learnt a new set will be given. Your child will receive a certificate each time they learn a set of words, these will be presented *in whole school assembly* on a Friday. There are 11 sets of words to learn to read in Reception, each set contains 5 words. It is essential that you practice reading these words with your child. The quicker they learn them the better their progress in reading will be.



**Please ensure your child brings their folder into school every day**





### Spelling expectations for Reception Class.



In addition to learning to read high frequency words the children must also learn to spell all of the words on the Reception class spelling list.



We will send home the sets of words to read first. Once the children have completed these they will bring home the sets of words to spell.



It is essential that you help your child with these activities at home. We will practice the words in class **BUT** this is not enough for your child to grasp them fully. Regular practice works best so the more you can do at home the quicker their progress will be.



### Reading with your child

The help you give them at home is very important. The more chances your child has to enjoy reading at home the better. Little and often works best.



### Here are 8 top tips for helping your child to read

1. Make sure you choose a time that is convenient to your family, reading with your child should be a calm and pleasant experience.
2. Give time to talk about the front cover, the pictures, what the story is going to be about, flick through the pages with them and have a chat before beginning to read.
3. The book your child brings home on a Wednesday and Friday is at their level to begin to read. The best approach is to support them by reading together initially, encouraging your child to point to the words. You can gradually encourage your child to "take over" on familiar repeated words as they gain in confidence.
4. Encourage your child to use the picture to help with decoding words. With your help they can also begin to use the initial letter sound of words. Once they have learnt some letter sounds they can have a go at sounding out regular words, they should also recognise some of their keywords in the text.
5. Give lots of praise and encouragement, remember it may seem easy to us but reading is a difficult skill to master.
6. Ensure your child brings their folder into school **every day**
7. Remember to practice your child's keywords with them as learning these will give them more confidence when reading their reading book.
8. Please **sign your child's blue reading record book** and comment on their reading at home, this could be as little as 'read well' or you can comment further on their progress. **This is very important as we do value your input.**

### Using the keywords packs

- The sets come with a base board, the first skill is for your child to look at the words and match them to the baseboard, with you reading each word to them.
- As they become more confident with matching encourage them to have a go at reading one or two of the words. Each pack has 5 **words to learn**. Some of the words can be decoded by sounding them out i.e. 'm-u-m', some need to be learnt by sight such as 'the'
- You will need to model sounding out the words i.e. /c-a-t. The letter sounds within these words are the sounds we are learning in class.
- When your child is reading their reading book look for keywords in the story.

*If you have any difficulties or questions about reading please don't hesitate to ask, if we work together your child will succeed.*

**Thank you for your support**



### Changes to the style of handwriting taught at St Gabriel's

At St Gabriel's in FSU we teach the pre cursive script to improve the standard of handwriting across the school.

In Nursery we will be exploring writing patterns and taking part in finger exercises which strengthen their arm, hand and finger muscles ready for securing the correct pencil grip for writing effectively as they progress through school.

Children are encouraged to have a go at writing ,using their name as a starting point.

Correct letter formation is taught.

This means that our Nursery children will learn to form letters with a final flick called the 'lead out'.

This will continue in Reception.



### Homework

Homework for Nursery will be sent home on a Tuesday, when children will also bring home a library book to share with you.

Homework will consist of writing pattern practise and some simple maths work. This should be returned the following Tuesday with their library book.

In Reception Homework will be sent home on a Friday and should be completed and returned by the following Thursday.



### Your Role

Please make sure you read every day with your child and in Reception, practise their keywords.

Book bags should be brought to school every day.

Ensure your child completes their homework and that their work is neat and they work carefully.

Ensure your child has the correct P.E kit in school.

Make sure your have completed all relevant paperwork and returned it to school.

## Attachments

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