

In the Early Years we pride ourselves on developing curious thinkers who notice features of the world around them.

Curriculum topics are chosen by staff based on children's interests, cultural capital and the knowledge we believe is fundamental to later learning. Children are taught pre-requisite knowledge for the key threads in the National Curriculum of Animals including Humans, Plants and Materials.

We provide active, memorable learning experiences and children have ample opportunities to be immersed in the natural world. Through weekly forest school sessions and daily outdoor learning children are given holistic opportunities to develop their scientific enquiry skills including observation, prediction and generating questions.

We value natural resources and our environment is filled with intriguing and stimulating objects which are used in a range of ways. For example, pinecones, conkers and stones are used to explore texture in the malleable area. Children have daily access to sensory play in the sand, water and mud as well as the junk modelling area which provides knowledge about materials. The small world and story areas include animals children will know by the end of the Foundation Stage.

Books are a high priority in our setting and both non-fiction and fiction texts are selected and shared with children regularly to develop their knowledge of key themes. Our class libraries are regularly stocked with high quality literature. Nursery rhymes, songs and poems are taught and learnt which develop children's scientific conceptual knowledge and vocabulary.

We anticipate children's interest in the seasons and teach knowledge regarding this throughout the year. The home corner is an example of provision which is enhanced to reflect seasonal changes. Each classroom has a yearly timetable with visuals to support children's understanding and memory of the seasons.

Practitioners undertake formative observational assessment on a daily basis in order to ensure gaps in knowledge are addressed quickly.