

Our children deserve an education that is full of experiences that enable them to learn and develop emotionally, socially and academically. Many of the children we work with face challenges and barriers to learning and therefore we are intentional about making our school a place of inclusivity; where all children, including those with SEND, can access learning and thrive, alongside others.



A safe place

We care deeply about the children in our school and want them to find it a haven; a safe and nurturing place where they know they will get their needs met and be able to settle to learn. Adults throughout the school are intentional about building excellent relationships with the children, as this helps a child feel safe and to learn effectively.

In our school you will see:

- Warm, nurturing relationships between adults and children;
- consistent calm adult behaviour at all times;
- children who feel safe and behave safely;
- a Rainbow Breakfast Club providing a sheltered start to the school day;
- a lunchtime Cosy Club for children to enjoy craft activities in the library as an alternative to outside play;
- 'Safe spaces' in the classrooms and school (tents, sofas, cosy corners, thrive room).

Basic Needs met

A child's basic needs must first be met before they can learn effectively. We make sure we do this whether it is bagels, toast, water, a kind word, a warm smile, a FareShare food bag; we are responsive to individual need. We want to make sure children develop a good understanding of how to be healthy; the importance of sleep, fresh air, exercise, balanced diet and personal hygiene. We need parents to partner with us in this. Our staff help children develop the knowledge and skills needed in the early years in order to develop some independence in looking after self, knowing what they need and how to communicate and socialise positively with others.



In our school you will see:

- all children enjoying a fresh bagel every morning;
- free fruit and healthy meals;
- free Breakfast Club places for children;
- FareShare food bags provided for up to 12 families each week;
- Make Lunch Holiday Lunch Club;
- daily tooth-brushing in the Nursery;
- spare clothes for inside and outside, and a busy washing machine;
- adults encouraging children to develop independence;
- children playing outside every day.

Healthy Mind & Personal Development

We teach children to name and understand emotions (knowing where we feel this in our bodies) and how to process feelings and impulses so they can develop their emotional literacy. We promote healthy minds and bodies. In order for a child to be able to learn they need a safe space to be able to explore and express feelings and learn how to respond when we have big feelings; through our Thrive approach, which we are passionate about providing.

We work to ensure that there is consistency of adult behaviour and language throughout the school, with adults using the same strategies to help children manage their feelings, self-regulate and settle to learn



We have identified [21 key character virtues](#) that we explore and celebrate across the academic year. These are taught in assemblies and discussed in Circle Time.

In our school you will see:

- personalised learning for children in response to their needs;
- daily Sunshine Circle activities in the Reception classes;
- Individual Thrive sessions with a Thrive Intervention TA for some children;
- weekly play-based 1:1 counselling for 5 children each term;
- Teacher planned and led, weekly PSHE class sessions that respond directly to the development needs of their class identified through whole-class Thrive Screening;
- effective use of scripts to help children who are struggling with managing big emotions;
- Forest School interventions to promote well-being.

Increased Vocabulary



With many children starting school with a limited understanding of language, we ensure our curriculum is language rich throughout. We recognise that a limited vocabulary can inhibit learning and children's later life choices and opportunities. We do a lot to address this language deficit from the 2 year old room upwards, and encourage parents to do the same. We build good relationships with the parents and offer opportunities for them to learn how to help their children in language and reading. In learning, both inside and outside, we ensure there is lots of focus and structured talk alongside teaching specific vocabulary. High quality reading and rich structured talk will help to close this vocabulary gap, allowing the child greater life choices.

In our school and nursery you will see:

- the WellComm Toolkit used to assess children's expressive and receptive language development;
- lots of stories being read throughout the day;
- focus language used and promoted in play and learning;
- Story vocabulary being learnt and understood through story making;
- vocabulary mats and focus vocab teaching in Explore Time;
- Tots Talking programme in nursery;
- Vocabulary and SLIP groups.

A love of reading and confidence to read



We want children to love books and love reading. This promotes reading fluency and an enjoyment and confidence in reading. To support closing the vocabulary gap, and help develop fluent readers, we ensure that children are offered a wonderful range of texts to enjoy in classes, small groups and as individuals.

In our school you will see:

- Read Write Inc. used as our systematic synthetic phonics programme;
- lots of stories being read throughout the day;
- Reading Recovery interventions for children in Year 1;
- Home Reader books that are fully decodable;
- Staff reading to children every day;
- a library full of lovely books and being used by every class on a weekly basis;
- Year 2 children leading story times in other classes;
- every child, in every class, reading to an adult at least once a week;
- a team of volunteers coming in to hear individual children read;
- Explore time supported by a range of rich non-fiction texts.

* For more information about what we do to support reading, please see our reading information booklet.

A child's progress in reading will be hugely influenced by the reading that takes place in the home as well as in school. We expect parents to be reading with their children on a daily basis and to hear them read their school reading book at least three times a week.



Creativity

Our curriculum is full of opportunity to be creative. We want children's creative, problem-solving, playful brains to continue to be stimulated and thrive. We believe that providing play in the outdoors is as important as the play that takes place indoors.

In our school you will see:

- Explore Time learning informed by children's own ideas and interests;
- a range of provocations and resources available and used to promote and nurture creativity.
- Forest School sessions five mornings each week;
- Outdoor Play And Learning at playtime and lunchtime;
- Many different sporting opportunities with teachers and coaches both on and off site;
- educational visits to experience learning in other places (such as Baskervilles, Bath City Farm, Bath Rugby, Bath Cricket, St Michael's Church and Bath Dance studio).



Child voice

Children have important, insightful and interesting things to say and as a school we ensure that the children in our care know that they are listened to and heard. We give children time and space to talk and opportunity to influence classroom decisions, learning and whole school approaches (through the CAT team).

We want our children to have the opportunity to be able to make whatever choice they want as they progress through education without anything holding them back.

In our school you will see:

- adults listening respectfully;
- children feeling confident to speak and ask questions;
- time taken to listen, hear and explain;
- children sharing ideas with each other;
- positive talk when managing behaviours;
- pupils' opinions being sought and used to inform decision-making.

Parental Engagement

Parents need to be involved in their child's learning to help them make better progress. We want all parents to be able to read with their children, sing with them, play with them and talk to them about their learning. We want to enable our parents to understand the importance of this and feel empowered to take up this role. We will continue to do what we can until all children are supported as much as is possible by adults at home.

In our school you will see:

- good relationships between parents/carers and school staff;
- teachers in the playground welcoming children and families every morning;
- members of SLT on the school gate greeting families on arrival to school;
- clear communication through regular newsletters, class letters, Facebook, SMS messages, Marvellous Me, phone calls and face to face chats;
- Parent Teacher meetings;
- an active Parent Support Advisor;
- School Nurse Coffee Mornings*;
- Tuesday and Thursday Toddlers Club;
- podcasts and clips about learning;
- information and training sessions for parents*;
- excellent transition with opportunity for parents as well as children to meet their new teacher prior to the new school year;
- information leaflets for parents about learning;
- Explore events for parents to attend and Book Looks with their children;
- Weekly Books and Bagels on a Friday*;
- Class Assemblies and Sports Days*.

** Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent recovery, some of these activities to engage parents have been temporarily suspended.*