

# Nursery Curriculum Newsletter

## January 2022, Development of Ben Jonson's new EYFS curriculum

Welcome to Ben Jonson Nursery! We are now very much part of the school.

It has been wonderful welcoming all children into school and we extend a special welcome to the families joining us this term. Last term we spent the time getting to know your children and helping them to settle in. The children have been learning to make friends and to share with their friends. We have been observing the children so that we can plan learning to meet their needs and interests. We have been 'establishing' expectations, routines and the relationships that we know will support learning in the coming year. This is critical for children's personal, social and emotional development. Thank you for all your support with the settling process.

Now it is time to start our learning across the wider curriculum so we can develop your child's speech and language, their physical development, reading, writing, number and a range of other areas we know young children are interested in. We use the curriculum guidance document, 'Development Matters' 2020 which provide advice on providing a rich curriculum from children from birth up to 5 years old. We also have our own nursery curriculum document called 'Weaving the Web'.

## Our Vision

- Every child is appreciated as an individual **unique learner**, accesses the range of provision, and achieves their full potential. We aim for our children to develop a range of qualities including resilience, care for others, curiosity, confidence and self-assurance.
- All practitioners do the best for all children and are responsive and consistent. **Strong positive relationships** are at the heart of our teaching and learning and support children through changes and transitions.
- Our curriculum is a top-level ambitious plan of everything we want children to learn. It is creative, rich and inspirational and fosters high quality **learning and development**. Crucially, it ensures our children become confident effective communicators.
- Our children are powerful learners and every child makes progress. Learning through play is at the heart of our practice alongside guided learning and direct teaching. We have carefully organised **enabling environments** for high-quality play.

We are really excited to develop our new curriculum this year and look forward to seeing it in action and being driven by the values of being *brave*, *kind* and *curious*, ensuring all our children realise their potential.

## Key information about The Nursery

- We will work a lot on the characteristics of effective learning – Playing and Exploring, Active Learning and Creative and Critical Thinking
- The children will learn through play. They will select from a range of play experiences that the staff have thought carefully about. Staff will play and learn alongside your children developing their learning and talk.
- Book borrowing will be re-established this term. When your child brings a book home, please read this to them or talk to them about the book. Talk about the pictures, if you prefer not to read the text.

## What you can do to help

- Tell us what your child is interested in so that we can follow up their interests.
- Talk to them about school, their interests and talk to them when they play.  
*“Reading and writing floats on a sea of talk.” James Britton*
- Talking to your children lots will help develop their reading and writing.

Have a look at these websites which contain useful information

[lovemybooks.co.uk](http://lovemybooks.co.uk)

[WWW.bbc.co.uk/tinyhappypeople](http://WWW.bbc.co.uk/tinyhappypeople)

[WWW.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk](http://WWW.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk)

[WWW.ican.org.uk](http://WWW.ican.org.uk)

## Can you also support your children with...?

- Toilet training
- Putting their coats on
- Learning to do things for themselves like getting their shoes and coat or putting their toys away by themselves

By doing these things, you will help your child to become a good learner. You will be getting them to think for themselves and this will help with all of their learning.

## Books of the week topics

Every week we focus on a book. We will do some learning on this book each day at story time and provide related learning experiences to develop your children’s knowledge and skills, especially their language and vocabulary.

When we do the book of the week, we will:

- Inspire a love of stories and books
- Develop good listening skills
- Extend and develop a rich vocabulary
- Ask questions about the story
- Develop phonological awareness (phonics)
- Promote early reading skills such as where to start reading.

The follow up learning experiences might include:

- Role play to act out the story so there might be dressing up clothes, or small world toys to allow the children to do this
- Puppet making, painting or book making so that the children can retell the story
- Cooking or food tasting related to the story so that we give the children real life experiences related to the story.

Some of the books we will be looking at this term include



We have book lists for each term (which may be subject to slight changes). We can share these lists with you on request. If your child does not already know the book, please wait until after we have introduced the book to your child so that we can support with it. This means that they can enjoy the surprise that each text brings. There are also some recordings of these stories on YouTube or the lovemybooks website.