



## Start Point Class 2025-26

### Spring Term Curriculum Overview

Welcome to Start Point Class!

The children have a wonderful term of adventure, activities and learning awaiting them! Keep reading to see what we will be up to this term!

## The Characteristics of Effective Learning - helping us to learn!

In the EYFS, we refer to the Characteristics of Effective Learning. These characteristics detail the ways in which children should be learning from their environment, experiences and activities. Children will display these characteristics every day during their time in Start Point and beyond. The characteristics of effective learning are split into three main areas. These are:

- **Playing and Exploring:** this shows how the child *is engaging*.
- **Actively Learning:** shows the *motivation* behind the child's learning
- **Creating and Thinking Critically:** this shows the *thought* processes behind learning and new achievements

In our class, we talk about these characteristics on a daily basis with our little ones in a child-friendly way of talking about their learning and the choices they have made, as well as helping them to learn life skills and to reinforce positive values within our class and the wider academy community.

## The Prime Areas: putting in solid foundations

During the Summer term, we reflect on the fabulous foundations the Reception children have developed in their Prime Areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Communication and Language (CL) and Physical Development (PD). The Prime Areas underpin every other aspect of a child's development and learning throughout their Reception year and beyond. In Start Point, we ensure that these foundation elements are strong and well developed enabling them to shine brightly throughout a long lifetime of learning.

### PSED

PSED underpins and flows throughout all our learning in Start Point, helping us to learn and play alongside our friends. We will continue to strengthen our understanding and respect of others, as well as how we can diffuse difficult situations in a calm and fair way.

As a class, we continue to refer to and use the Class Charter we wrote in September, helping us to show the fabulous learning behaviours we are famous for. The children have several opportunities on a daily basis to undertake roles of responsibility, whether they are in charge of the timetable and class names, pouring our milk or as our daily 'Star Helpers'.

### Communication & Language

The children are taught in a language rich environment, exposing them to a plethora of vocabulary and explanations that help to deepen their learning and thinking. This area covers the skills of listening, speaking and thinking about their use of language. This is a key priority and we plan opportunities on a daily basis to enhance every child's Communication and Language.

### Physical Development

In Start Point we provide numerous daily opportunities for the children to develop their coordination, control, and movement. The children will develop their fine motor skills through activities such as Finger Gym challenges, regular scissor, brush and pencil control activities. We will also develop gross motor skills through ball control, simple gymnastic movements and coordination in our PE sessions. We help children to understand the importance of a range of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

### Mathematics



As mathematicians this term, the children will engage in a range of learning opportunities that allow them to deepen their understanding and apply their thinking to their understanding of our numbers within 10, building on the solid foundations we put in place during the Autumn term thanks to our Number Sense approach.

We will use a range of practical, real-life problems to draw out children's thinking through mathematical discussions and learning opportunities in the environment. We will also explore early addition and subtraction by looking at 1 more and 1 less, as well as delving deeper into the way numbers are made by talking about parts and wholes. The children will be encouraged to record their mathematical thinking in a way that is meaningful to them.

Years 1 and 2 will be following the White Rose maths Scheme and we will be learning about division, place value and statistics, measurements, properties of shape and fractions.

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## Early Literacy, Reading & Phonics

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The development of Literacy is focused on the immersion of the children in a language rich environment, securing their enjoyment and engagement with the written and spoken word.

We will share a variety of high-quality texts, both fiction and non-fiction to explore authorial voice and writerly craft in an age-appropriate way. The children will be introduced to and deepen their love of storytelling through our *Famous Five* books and lots of gorgeously written class novels.

Phonics is taught using the *Read Write Inc.* programme which teaches children to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. They learn to form each letter, spell correctly, and compose their ideas step-by-step. Years 1 and 2 also use *Read Wrote Inc* for their English lessons.

The children in Reception will be encouraged and supported to mark make and write by tapping into their interests through a range of learning opportunities throughout the learning environment and through their Learning Play.

## Understanding the World – Science, Geography & History



We are extremely lucky that our lovely school is set in an amazing location with our Adventure area and access to the foreshore. Over the course of the year, every child in school has the equivalent of a term at Forest School. These opportunities allow the children to engage with and explore the local area, it's the fields and hedgerows as well as visiting the

wonderful foreshore that is on our doorstep. We look at the variety of wild plants and flowers growing in the fields and hedgerows. We will also observe and describe the seasonal changes we notice over the coming months.



As scientists, the children will be developing an understanding of nature through different types of science enquiry that help them to answer scientific questions about the world and life that surrounds them. We have regular welly walks around the village to enhance and deepen the children's learning in science as well as forest school sessions which continue to support their speaking and listening skills by encouraging them to explain and reason their ideas and thoughts.

Year 1 and 2 will be learning about materials in their science lessons and in Geography we will be learning about the British Isles and London. In History we will be learning about the Royal family which links nicely with our geography leaning.

## **Religious Education**

As global citizens, the children will be learning what Christians believe God is like and



## **Expressive Arts & Design, Art and Design & Technology**

As artists and designers in Start Point, we will be investigating and experimenting with a range of drawing, painting and 3D construction materials. The children will have numerous opportunities to practise colour techniques, including colour mixing, shade and tone.

As designers and constructors, we will be empowered to be inquisitive, curious learners. We will be looking at how we can incorporate moving parts into our designs. We will evaluate the effectiveness of different joins and identify the most appropriate choice. For year 1 and 2 they will be looking at the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy and creating their own natural art and sculptures in his style. In design and technology year 1 and 2 will be looking at structures and will be designing and making a bridge.

## **PE**

As well rounded, active citizens we will have lots of opportunities for positive competition in sport and other activities to build character and self-discipline. The children will have different opportunities to explore different ways of moving aesthetically to complete a performance, as well as move and manipulate a range of apparatus, Start Point class will be having these lessons and learning opportunities with our sports specialists teaching team.

## **Christian Distinctiveness**



Through our daily Acts of Worship, we will reflect on how we demonstrate our Christian values in school and within our local and world communities. We also weave our Christian values into the children's learning opportunities and activities. We will explore our values of **Service** and **Love** before we move on to celebrating the key festivals of **Lent and Easter** with our wider church family later in the term.

### **Family Group Acts of Worship**

Each week, the children will join their friends in their Family Group to deepen their understanding of the themes covered in our whole school Acts of Worship. These sessions offer a wonderful opportunity for all children to come together and work collaboratively as a family. This term we will be deepening our understanding of our learning in Collective Worship.

### **Home Learning**

We value the support that parents and families provide from home. It enriches your child's learning and helps them achieve the best that they can. We will be sending home a weekly home learning task as well as a range of reading books and some fun activities in our Maths and Literacy Toolboxes, to support the fabulous learning they are doing at school. Occasionally, we may set a special project, investigation or experiment for you to work on together at home!

### **Reading, Reading, Reading!**

Regular reading is of HUGE importance to the Literacy and social development of our young children. In the early days of school, it is vital that we ignite the children's love of books and reading.

You can support your child's reading at home by encouraging them to:

- Name any sounds they recognise, such as the ones they see in their name.
- Ask them to predict the ending to the story and explain why.
- Ask questions to help them understand and enjoy the story.
- Listen to a wide variety of pleasurable books.
- Continue to read a variety of stories to your child so that they are hearing a variety of story language and develop a love of reading.
- Don't forget bedtime stories are still important too!