

## The Teaching and Learning Environment in EYFS at Thorp

The Early Years Foundation Stage at Thorp covers the part-time Nursery provision (children join in the September after they are 3) and the full time Reception provision (children join in the September after they are 4). At Thorp there is a teacher leading the 26 place nursery provision, supported by a HLTA, and a teacher leading the 30 place reception provision, supported by a TA.

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage children are working towards the Early Learning Goals as set out by the government in the **statutory framework for the early years foundation stage**. This document states there are 7 areas of learning. There are 3 prime areas-Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Alongside the prime areas providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design.

Both the reception and nursery classes share a large indoor base, an uncovered outdoor area incorporating hard tarmac with markings, a grassed area and a soft ground/barked area with large fixed apparatus and a covered outdoor area. The indoor base is broken down into learning areas such as construction, creativity, role-play and small world. There are dedicated maths, writing and reading spaces, but these key development areas are also interwoven into all indoor and outdoor learning spaces. Fine and gross motor skills and language development are also interwoven into all spaces, ensuring that the prime areas for learning are incorporated in such a way that all children are given the opportunity for a good level of development.

At Thorp we believe that our youngest children learn best with a mixture of play based child led experiences, adult led small group experiences, and whole class adult led inputs. Each half term there is a broad theme that supports and directs teaching and learning experiences across all areas of the foundation stage. However, there are opportunities for mini topics that come from the children's own interests and local events. The pupils are given daily input in phonics, literacy and maths, and are then set learning challenges to complete within the base. They are also given the opportunity to take part in whole school learning experiences such as assemblies and outside visitors, and also go on visits of their own within the community and wider area. Children in EYFS are given a voice within the school community by having representatives on the school council and taking part in whole school voting and school council led events.

Children are assessed through formal and informal methods; during focus tasks and their play based learning. It is in their purposeful play that they put into practice their learnt skills and knowledge, and staff capture this through the use of photographs, written observation notes and the child's finished pieces. These then form their Learning Journeys that evidence the learning that has taken place throughout the year.