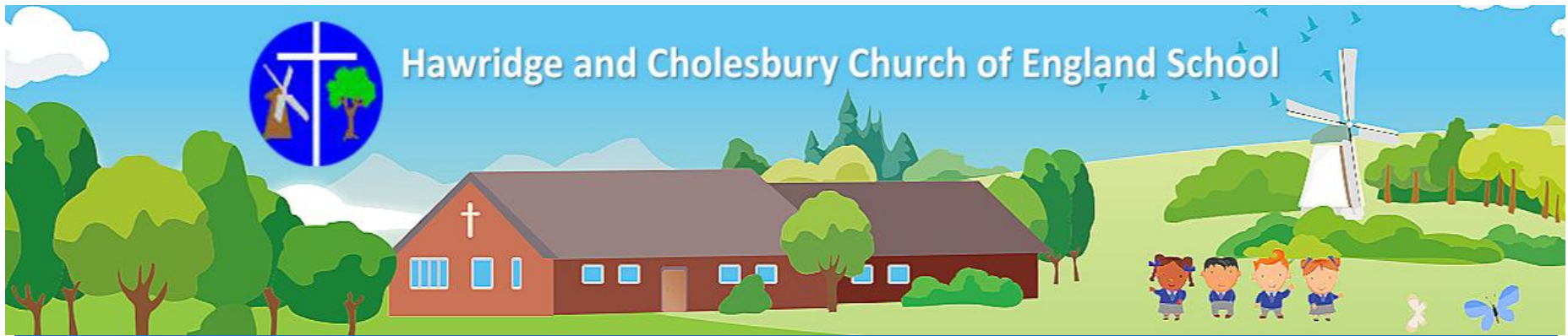




Hawridge and Cholesbury Church of England School



Windmills Class Curriculum Meeting

Thursday 11th September 2025

Early Years Staff

- * Miss Jeanes – Reception Teacher (Monday-Wednesday)
- * Mrs Tweedley – Reception Teacher (Thursday and Friday)
- * Mrs McCall– Learning Support Assistant
- * Mrs Nash - Learning Support Assistant (Monday-Friday morning)



EYFS

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage is the stage of education for children from **three** to the **end of the Reception year**.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the recognition that children learn best through **play and active learning**.



Seven Areas of Learning

3 prime areas:

1. Communication and Language
2. Physical Development
3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We also support children in these 4 areas of learning:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Our 10 Curricular Goals in EYFS

Settle in PSED	Settle in and become a confident learner
Retell CL, L	Retell a favourite story in my own words
Solve PSED, CL	Solve a problem using my words
Build PD	Build a den in Forest School
Ride PD	Ride a pedal bike* around one lap of the playground *with or without stabilisers
Read L	Read my reading book to a younger child
Write L	Write a simple character description using 'feeling words' (The Write Stuff)
Make M	Make and retell a number story
Grow UW	Grow a plant from seed and explain how it grows
Create EAD	Create a piece of artwork inspired by Matisse


Characteristics of Effective Learning

We observe children to see how they are learning and their attitudes towards learning. We look at these three areas:

- ☐ **Playing and exploring**- Engagement- Do they show curiosity and a 'can do' attitude?
- ☐ **Active Learning** - Motivation- Can they persevere when a challenge occurs? Can they concentrate and focus?
- ☐ **Creating and thinking critically**- Can they problem solve? Can they test out their ideas and review how well an approach is working?



Long Term Overview

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<p data-bbox="338 763 562 806">I Can Grow</p> 	<p data-bbox="788 763 1155 806">Fly High & Explore</p>  	<p data-bbox="1367 763 1619 806">Out & About</p> 

Autumn Term Settling in



- * Over the first half of this term the Windmills staff will be spending lots of time getting to know the children. We will be providing them with a mixture of opportunities for learning through play and adult led activities.
- * We will focus on classroom routines, developing personal, social and emotional skills as well as learning to build friendships. We will also be learning to take responsibility for our belongings and ourselves.
- * We will use our observations together with information gathered from Baseline Assessments, which are soon to be done, to identify areas of strength and areas for development for each child.

Autumn Term I Can Grow



- * Exploring Harvest and Autumn time through a range of stories and songs that explore growing fruit and vegetables and finding out about harvesting, windmills and bread making.
- * Looking at the season of Autumn, animals that hibernate and the changes taking place around us using welly walks and Forest School.
- * Exploring how we change as we grow. Learning about our bodies, exploring our senses and how we have changed since we were babies.
- * We will look at families and what makes us all special. Exploring birthdays, festivals and the way different families celebrate will help us to become rounded individuals, who understand and respect different religions and traditions.



Spring Term

Fly High & Explore



- * We will learn about space and different ways of travelling in the sky using both fiction and non-fiction books.
- * Exploring space in 'Astronaut school' will help us learn how living in space is different to living on earth. We might even meet some aliens too!
- * We will explore Winter changes and the beginnings of Spring. We are really looking forward to our bulbs turning into flowers and appearing this term!
- * We will find out about other things that fly high, learning about Owls and other birds through stories, books and hopefully meeting some real ones.
- * We will learn about eggs and Easter celebrations around the world.

Summer Term Out & About



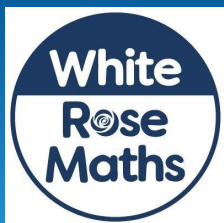
- * We will find out about the local area, where people live, different types of homes and how they are built. We will be builders and designers too and help the Three Little Pigs design a wolf-proof house!
- * We will learn about journeys and different kinds of transport and make maps to show the journeys we have been on.
- * We will notice that we need to look after our environment and be eager to make a difference in the world.
- * We will learn about the animals and mini-beasts that live near our school and in the woods and ponds.
- * The children will also learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and have the opportunity to look after some caterpillars in school.

Reading & Phonics

- * Daily RWI Phonics lessons – There will be a Reading & Phonics meeting for parents tomorrow afternoon (Friday 12th September)



- * Reading for pleasure
- * Library books
- * Weekly Read ins – Parents/carers are invited into school on Friday mornings (8.35-8.45) to share a book with their child.
- * Mystery Reader – Please sign up to come and read to the class on a Friday afternoon (3pm) shhhh it's a surprise!

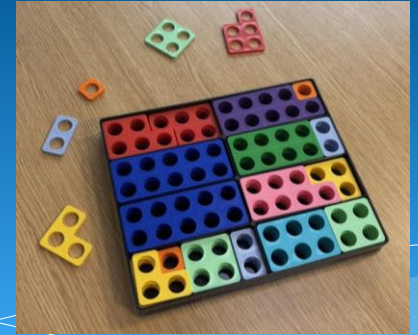


Maths



- * Throughout the year in daily maths sessions, we will be focussing on encouraging Maths Talk and building confidence to use Mathematical vocabulary to describe numbers, shapes, size and patterns. This term we will be focussing on developing key mathematical principles which will build a strong foundation for future maths learning:
 - One to One principle - one number name for each object
 - Cardinal Principle - How many? A number can be assigned to a group
 - Stable order principle - numbers have to be said in a certain order
 - Abstraction principle - Anything can be counted - concrete or imaginary
 - Subitising - recognising how many in a group without counting

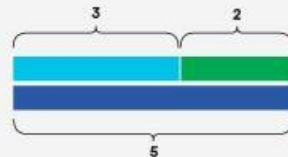
Maths



- * The children will have access to a range of manipulatives (e.g. Numicon, counting objects, bead strings) to help them explore how numbers are made (e.g. finding different ways to make 5).
- * We will develop the children's understanding of key mathematical concepts by using concrete objects in the first instance and then moving on to using pictorial representations followed by abstract examples such as number sentences e.g. $2+2=4$



Concrete



Pictorial

$$3+2=5$$

Abstract

Fun Outdoors

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- * PE sessions every **Monday** - Children to come to school wearing their PE kit.
- * Forest School every **Friday** - Please send your child into school wearing warm old clothes and with waterproofs in a bag. In addition to this, please could you send in your child's school uniform in case they need to change because of wet/muddy clothing. Wellies should be kept in school, as we are outside in the Windmills garden every day!



Monitoring progress and assessment

- * Baseline Assessment
- * Speech Link Assessment
- * Observations during Playing and Learning Time
- * Tracking progress of the seven areas of learning
- * Each of the 7 areas of learning have '**Early Learning Goals**' which determine what most children are expected to achieve by the end of reception class.
- * Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
- * *New emphasis on less paperwork for teachers and more time interacting with the children*



Communication between Home and School

- * School Newsletters
- * Class Floor Book – photos and examples of child-led learning
- * Reading record/Home Learning
- * Mystery Reader
- * Parent workshops (e.g. Phonics workshop)
- * Parent Consultation appointments
- * End of year report



***Come and talk to us –
appointments or general queries welcome***

Any questions?

