



### Welcome to the EYFS

At Springvale Primary School, we aim to make a difference and support everyone to reach their full potential by living out our ethos of 'Play Together, Learn Together, Achieve Together'. The Early Years Foundation Stage is crucial in securing solid foundations that children will then build upon. Our aim is for children to develop a love of learning and a confident attitude towards life at school. We believe that children learn best through **play** and that learning should be fun, exciting and engaging. Our aim is for children to become independent and creative thinkers, who will explore, take risks and learn from their mistakes.

### Our Curriculum

Children in both our Nursery and Reception class follow the EYFS curriculum, which has seven main areas of learning;

#### The Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

#### The Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts

Children gain knowledge and develop skills in these areas through play based experiences. Adults in the setting support and challenge the children as they play and explore. There is a combination of adult-led, teacher taught sessions as well as independent learning, through engaging continuous provision. Communication and language is at the heart of what we do and we develop vocabulary and conversation through a range of engaging activities. In F2 we teach phonics, Literacy and Numeracy daily in a range of fun ways. Our learning environments, both indoor and outdoor and regularly enhanced to meet the different and developing interests and needs of the children in our setting. We follow a two year topic plan but this is flexible as we like to follow the children's interests whenever we can.

At the heart of our EYFS Curriculum are the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'. These characteristics give children the skills they need to become lifelong learners; to explore, make links and explain their ideas and understanding, to take risks and discuss their successes and failures and use their experiences to change how they might approach an activity.

#### The Characteristics of Learning

Playing and Learning - children investigate and explore, and 'have a go'

Active Learning - children persevere and enjoy their achievements

Thinking Critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies

In F2 the children are introduced to these characteristics of learning through characters such as 'Persevering Parrot', 'Go For It Gorilla' or 'Creative Chameleon'. The children enjoy identifying these skills in themselves, and are highly motivating.

#### Assessment

Within our Foundation Stage children are assessed continually through observations. These provide us with information and ideas for planning the next steps in children's learning. Observations are shared regularly with parents through Tapestry.

We value parents as first educators and we value the partnership we have with parents. We aim to keep parents informed of the EYFS curriculum and we also support parents with the tools to continue learning at home. We inform and include parents through 'Welcome' Meetings, Language and Literacy Workshops, Half-Termly Topic Newsletters, Home Learning Games and Reading Diaries. Parents are also encouraged to share their child's interests and successes outside school, as Wow Moments, and these form an important part of their child's learning journey.

