

STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Part of Anglian Learning

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Reception Class, September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope our current families have had a wonderful summer break and to those joining our community, we warmly welcome you to Stapleford Primary School.

This half term is very focused on personal development and learning the rules, routines and expectations of school life. For children to learn and be successful, it is vital that they understand what is expected of them, what regular routines are so they can anticipate what will happen next and build positive, secure relationships with their peers and teachers. Therefore the majority of our time is spent explicitly teaching this and modeling skills in communication, social skills, problem solving and conflict resolution. We also teach children how to use and care for the classroom and resources effectively and appropriately.

Please take a look at our curriculum document to give you information on what the children will be learning in phonics, maths and topic as well as our key texts, nursery rhymes and vocabulary.

Below you will find practical information regarding timetabling, dates and our behaviour policy.

In Reception we view parents/carers as the first educators of children. We hope to work in partnership with you. We have an open door policy and are there to support you and your child/ren. If you wish to discuss anything, please do speak to us to make an appointment. If it is important information, for example an alternative collection arrangement, please do pass this to the member of staff welcoming children in or email office@staplefordprimary.org and the message will get through to Mrs Wild or Mrs Pugh.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ellie Wild, Mrs Lavinia Pugh and Mrs Becca Cootes

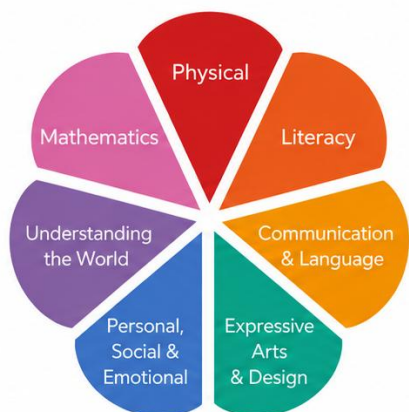


The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – 2021

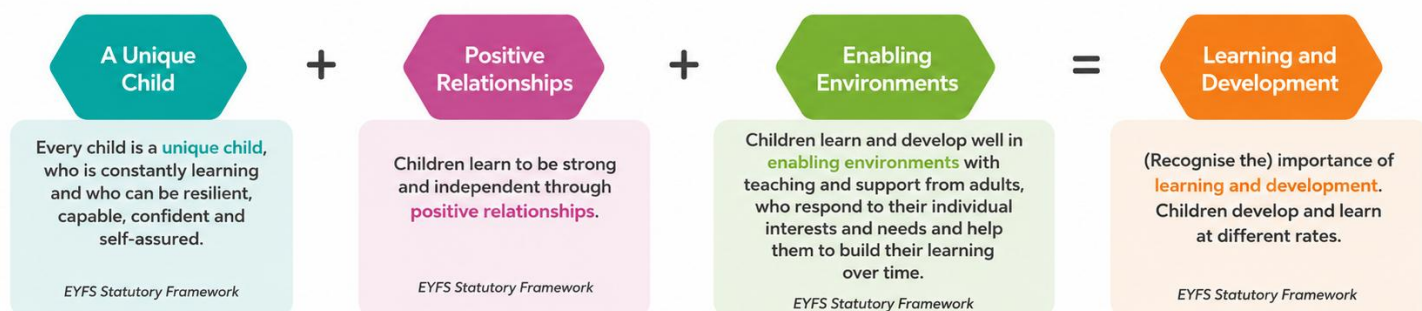
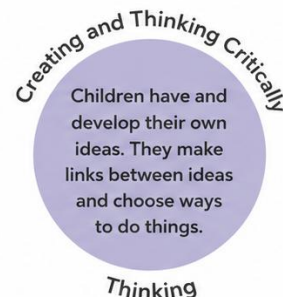
The current EYFS framework was revised by the DFE in September 2021. This framework must be followed by providers of care for children up to five years old. There are seven areas of learning and development. We use these areas of learning and development when we are observing, assessing and planning for your child's individual needs. The areas of learning and development ensure that we are constantly challenging your child and helping them to develop and succeed. The seven areas of learning are split into two parts: three prime areas, and four specific areas.

At the end of Reception, we will use our observations and knowledge of your child to assess them against the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). These goals are short statements for each area of learning. You will be informed whether your child has reached these ELGs in their end of year report.

Our Early Years team use a 'focus week' approach to our observations. Each term your child will be one of 3 'focus children' for a week where the team will closely observe their learning and identify their next steps. We share with parents/carers the week prior to this and request any additional information that you would like us to know about your child. At the end of the week you will see a 'Learning Story' for your child's focus week.



The Three Characteristics of Effective Learning of the Early Years Foundation Stage



Our Learning

This year the EYFS classes are following our brand new curriculum. This is designed to organize specific skills and knowledge that we will explicitly teach children according to the statutory EYFS framework and child development. In order for every child to receive high quality education we have chosen core texts and nursery rhymes, key vocabulary and specific skills. We have ensured that all other areas and schemes are aligned and have also looked ahead at possible experiences. Rather than having specific 'topics' and 'themes', we are concept led. This means the children can inspire our planning and we can use any stimulus or interest as a vehicle for skills and knowledge.

In order to support families' understanding of our curriculum, we will provide a curriculum web with a summary for each half term.

Learning through Play

The learning in Reception is through exploration and play with some discrete adult led teaching, for example: Phonics and concepts and skills in Maths. We encourage children to reflect and question the world around them and provide quality first hand experiences to help with this. We experiment with different art media, enjoy listening to and making music and moving to music. We enjoy activities to develop our fine motor skills and have an excellent outdoor learning environment in which we can practise gross motor skills and where there are many child initiated play opportunities. These are predominantly on a larger scale than activities inside.

Phonics

We aim to start daily Phonics lessons the 2nd full week if children are settled and ready. Four days a week the children will be taught a new letter/phoneme. The fifth day is a revision of the sounds or words taught. We will give you a weekly summary of what has been taught.

Home reading books

Every week children will bring home;

- **a library book and sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer. These books will be your child's choice and are to help develop a love of reading!
- **a reading practice book** (from our 4th week) matched to your child's phonic stage that they can read independently. They will have already read this book in school before bringing it home. In the early weeks, these books will be wordless to establish book behaviours, book talk and to grow vocabulary. Once children are able to blend sounds, they will have decodable books. They should be able to read at least 95% of the words in these books.

Please visit [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#) for information regarding Little Wandle phonics and how to use the books/support at home.

These books are costly and so it is important that they are cared for at home. We appreciate your support with this.

P.E

Lessons will be on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs Pugh. Please ensure your child comes to school in their P.E. kit each Tuesday (red t-shirt, navy/black shorts or joggers and trainers).

The Moat

Moat sessions will be on a Tuesday morning. Please ensure your child has wellies and a waterproof coat. These can be kept at school if you would prefer. Waterproof trousers are provided.

For health and safety, children MUST wear long sleeves and trousers/leggings on these days so that if they remove their coat/waterproof trousers they are protected.

Library

We will go to the library once a week on a Friday morning. Please make sure to return the books every week.

WOW Cards and Tapestry

We would love to hear from you about the things your child enjoys or achieves. It helps us to create a 'well-rounded' picture of who your child really is.

On these "WOW cards" you can share with us any WOW moments in your child's life. For example, they shared their toys with a friend, they read road signs, they got dressed by themselves, they learnt how to ride a bike without stabilisers or they made up a story with their toys! These cards will be celebrated in class. Please ask for more cards if you need them.

The other way you can share your child's achievements is through their online learning journeys on Tapestry. When it is your child's 'focus week' we ask that you add a couple of recent photographs of your child alongside a few notes of your own observations/insight. At the end of your child's focus week you will see a learning story added to Tapestry with some photos and information of our observations.

Home learning

In Reception the children are not given formal homework, however parental support in this early stage has a huge impact on how they learn in school. We would love to see any learning or activities the children do at home. The children are expected to read for 5-10 minutes at least 3 times a week and practice their phonic sounds.

Celebrations, praise and reward

As in line with our whole school behaviour policy, the following routines are in place to celebrate children's achievements or to recognise positive behaviour;

- House points. These are given as and when things such as effort in learning, taking care of the classroom, being kind or following the school values are noted. They are recorded and when a child receives 50 points they are awarded a certificate. Certificates of following increments of 50 are awarded.
- Star of the Day. This is for one (or sometimes more) child who has particularly shone throughout the day.
- Values postcard. This is awarded on a Friday to a child who has demonstrated the focus value of that week.
- Writer of the week. This is for someone who has particularly worked hard, made excellent improvement or achieved a milestone in their writing either at school or home.

Please note that we keep a rigorous list of who has received star of the day, a values postcard and writer of the week so it is fair and balanced across the whole year.

The Everywhere Bear

The Everywhere Bear chooses someone in the class each week who he would like to go home with on a Friday so he is not lonely at the weekend. Children are invited to draw/write or stick in things in the scrap book as a memory of their time with him. You can also send photos in via a Tapestry observation. Again, please note we do have a list to ensure every child has a sleepover with the Everywhere Bear across the year.

In the school holidays, the Everywhere Bear usually goes home with Mrs Wild.
The Everywhere Bear is not a reward.

Routines for the week

Day	To do
Tuesday	Wear long sleeves and trousers/leggings. Ensure waterproof coats and wellies are in school. Bring P.E kit to school
Friday	Ensure reading books, sharing books and library books are returned by this day in zip wallets. If they are not, a new book cannot not be given.

Timetable

We do our best to respond to children's interests, development and learning needs so our timetable is flexible.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Adults	Mrs Pugh and Mrs Cootes	Mrs Wild and Mrs Cootes			
Carpet time themes <i>(to begin once children are settled and ready)</i>	Maths	Literacy - Drawing Club	Singing assembly Maths	Literacy - Drawing Club Maths	Literacy - Drawing Club Celebration assembly
Phonics <i>(From week 3)</i>	Recap of previous Week	New letter sound/ phoneme and tricky words.	New letter sound/ phoneme and tricky words.	New letter sound/ phoneme and tricky words.	New letter sound/ phoneme.
Enrichment opportunities		P.E The Moat			Library

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 30 th September 5:15-6:15pm	Phonics information meeting - online
Wednesday 14 th October 3:30-4:15pm	Open classrooms - an opportunity to see what the children have been learning.
Wednesday 4 th November	Parents Evening (in person)
Thursday 12 th November	Parents Evening (online)
TBC	Books and biscuits
TBC	Early Years visit to Stapleford Christmas Tree Festival We would like 2 parent volunteers to assist us. Please let Mrs Wild know.
TBC	Christmas stay and play. Festive activities for you and your child.