

At Chater Infant School we adhere to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. This has four overarching principles. These are:

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**;
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers;
- **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.** The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Topic-led Approach

At Chater Infant School the EYFS curriculum has been designed to ensure that every child meets their learning potential. As a culturally rich and diverse school with over 40 languages spoken and a majority of children speaking English as an additional language we believe that our children will learn best through a topic-led approach. The EYFS topics have been carefully chosen to ensure that there is progression between Nursery and Reception as well as progression of learning throughout the year. Through our topics, we ensure that there is challenge, purposeful learning and an opportunity for the children to learn through real-life experiences. The topics are motivating and inspiring to ensure that pupils are actively engaged with their learning. The topics over the course of the academic year may change according to the children's interests and fascinations.

Topic table for 2017-2018

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Nursery	Ourselves & Autumn Festivals & Celebrations	Wild Animals Growing & Changing	Farm & Food Minibeasts
Reception	Ourselves & Autumn Festivals & Celebrations	Winter Journeys	Growing Food

In the EYFS there are seven areas of the curriculum. These are split into two groups; Prime Areas and Specific Areas. All of the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

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

These three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

Communication and Language

This area of the curriculum depends on learning and being competent in a number of key skills, together with having the confidence, opportunity and encouragement to use them. It involves giving children plenty of opportunities to talk and to be part of a rich language environment, developing their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speaking and listening in a range of situations. Children who come to school able to express their needs and listen to others are much more likely to settle into their setting quickly. A significant emphasis is placed on supporting all children to rapidly learn how to express their needs and listen to others.

How can parents and carers help?

- Talking to your child, in your home language, will prepare them for school more than any other activity. Talk about their day, what/who they played with etc.
- Teach your child to be a good listener. Take turns in conversation, e.g. when you speak they listen, when they speak you listen.
- Share family events together by looking at photographs and discussing what happened and who was there.
- Learn nursery rhymes, songs and poems. The rhymes help your child notice the sounds in words and the tunes help them to remember the words.
- Read to your child. Talk about the story, characters and where the story takes place.

Physical Development

This area of the curriculum involves providing opportunities for young children to be active. They will develop their co-ordination, control, and movement in large movements, e.g. running, jumping, balancing and small movements, e.g. using scissors, writing, drawing, building. Children must also understand the importance of keeping fit and how to make healthy choices in relation to food.

How can parents and carers help?

- All children need fresh air and exercise! Take advantage of walking to Cassiobury Park and let your child experience what nature has to offer, e.g. look at trees, leaves, conkers, cones.
- Visit other local playgrounds and make use of the climbing equipment. Watch your child gain confidence and control.
- Develop their hand control by letting your child paint, colour, scribble as well as draw.
- Make some playdough (ask EYFS staff for recipe) and roll, snip, squash and pat the dough.
- Build with construction toys, e.g. Lego, Duplo etc. You can also build with empty boxes from cereal and food packets. Use tape and glue to make a model.
- Buy a pair of children's scissors and let them cut and stick paper and pictures from catalogues and magazines.
- Teach your child how to undress and then dress themselves. Teach them how to put on their coat and shoes.
- Allow your child to help you in the kitchen. They can make their own sandwich, stir the ingredients and set the table.
- Talk about healthy foods.
- Sweets, cakes, chips and fast food are a treat and are not part of a healthy diet! Encourage fruit, vegetables and healthy snacks.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of the curriculum aims to develop children's 'life skills' by teaching them how to develop a positive sense of themselves by forming positive relationships and respect for others; build upon their social skills and learn how to manage their feelings by understanding what is appropriate behaviour and to have confidence in their own abilities.

How can parents and carers help?

- All children flourish as a result of established routines, e.g. bed-times, family-time and dinner times. This will support them to learn about expectations, acceptable behaviour and boundaries.
- All children need to be able to work and play together in a group. Support them to share and to behave appropriately towards others. Play games with your child so that they learn to share and take turns.
- Teach them to tidy! Make tidy-up time a regular routine in your household.
- Promote good manners. It is polite to say 'please', 'thank you' and 'you're welcome'.
- Encourage them to help you around the house, e.g. putting away the shopping, sorting the washing, setting the table.
- Teach your child values, such as kindness, fairness, respect, honesty, concern for others and right and wrong.
- Make time to talk with them, listen to them. If you are able to do this then all of the other qualities will develop naturally in everyday situations.

Specific Areas- Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design

Children are supported through the four **specific** areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

Literacy

This area of the curriculum involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are taught to read using a variety of skills, including the teaching of phonics using the Read Write Inc scheme of work. We also use picture/word recognition and high frequency words. Writing is a vital life skill. Even though there are ever increasing mediums for written communication, e.g. text and email, it is still necessary for children to be able to communicate using a good standard of written English.

How can parents and carers help?

- Read stories regularly to your child.
- Join your local library, it is free!
- Children must learn to control a pencil before learning how to write letters. Encourage your child to draw using pencils, felt-tips, crayons and chalks.
- Show them how to hold a pencil correctly.
- Teach your child how to write their name using a capital letter for the first letter and then lower case letters for the rest of their name.
- Write together with your child. Write shopping lists, instructions and postcards when you are on holiday.
- Let your child write by themselves. It may look like scribbles to you but please praise their efforts and ask them what they have written.

Mathematics

This area of the curriculum involves providing children with opportunities to expand and improve their skills in counting, using and recognising numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems, describing and talking about shapes and using mathematical words to talk about measures. Children will develop a positive attitude towards the learning of mathematics and have an enthusiasm for the subject.

How can parents and carers help?

- Look at objects and find out which is the longest, tallest, thickest, thinnest, heaviest, and lightest.
- Describe where something is by using 'positional language' e.g. under, over, on top, behind, next to etc.
- Sort toys and objects, e.g. put all of the green bricks together, put all of the dinosaurs with spikes in a group, sort socks into pairs.
- Find shapes whilst you are walking around the local area.
- Develop capacity skills in the bath, fill up different sized containers, are they full, empty, half full?
- Develop weighing skills by baking with your child and weighing the ingredients.
- Talk about different times of the day, e.g. in the morning we eat breakfast, when it gets dark we go to bed.
- Count up to 10 and beyond. Count the number of mangos in the fruit bowl. Count the number of stairs. Count the number of plates you need to set the table.
- Give your child groups of objects and count them. How many do you have? Take two away. How many do you have now? If I gave you three more, how many would you have?
- Sing number rhymes, e.g. one two three four five once I caught a fish alive, ten green bottles, five fat sausages.

Understanding the World

This area of the curriculum involves supporting children to explore the world around them. Children should have the opportunity to investigate, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

How can parents and carers help?

- Go outside in all weathers! Talk about what you can see, hear, smell and touch.
- Look at old photographs of their family members. Talk about what you can see and how it is different now.
- Talk about different parts of the world and how people live in other countries. Discuss differences in weather, houses and the clothes people have to wear.
- Children should be taught to respect different cultures and religions as well as their own.
- If you have a computer, laptop, iPad allow your child to play **appropriate games** with **adult supervision**. Also allow them to use the remote control and electrical toys and equipment. These activities will need your supervision.

Expressive Arts and Design

This area of the curriculum involves enabling children to create an interest and enthusiasm for the arts. We will provide a wide range of activities to develop the children's skills, their

capability and self confidence in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

How can parents and carers help?

- Let your child draw, paint and colour.
- Allow your child to make models using construction toys and household items, e.g. finished cereal boxes and packets.
- Make a den! Use an old sheet over a table can provide so much fun.
- Act out your child's favourite story.

Enrichment through visits and visitors

We believe that all of our children should enjoy their learning and that we must ensure that the curriculum is enriched through a range of opportunities. We recognise that not all children at our school may have the same real life experiences as each other. Therefore, the enrichment of our curriculum provides all children with real-life opportunities and experiences to enrich and extend their learning. We feel this is vital for all of our children to develop academically but also socially and culturally. They are carefully chosen to enhance teaching and learning opportunities across the curriculum including;

- Visitors into class and themed workshops
- Visits outside of school linked to what they are learning about in their topics including local parks and local places of interest.

As a school, we feel that it is essential to use, learn about and learn from the local resources around us. We have established a strong school community amongst our staff, parents, Governors and pupils and have made many links in the local community. These community links have made it possible to enhance children's learning across the curriculum, provide real life opportunities and develop our pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness. These community links include;

- St. Michael's Church
- Watford School Trust
- Cassiobury Park
- Pizza Express
- Westfield Children's Centre
- Multi-Cultural Centre
- New Hope Trust Community Garden
- Country Parks
- Chater Infant School Talent Show

By working with the local community, we are able to offer our children opportunities to become responsible citizens and share these values. As a school, we continually support our local community by raising money or organising clothes collections for local charities (Watford Refugee Trust) or supporting community events such as The Watford Celebration in May at the Multi-Cultural Centre.