



Heltwate School

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Information

# Welcome



At Heltwate school we take children from 4 years of age. Our Early years consists of two classes that are mixed ages up to Year 3 - Rainbow 1 and Lavender. Children are grouped according to their academic and social ability to ensure that the most effective progress can be made by each individual .



# Curriculum



In our EYFS Classrooms the children are exposed to all seven areas of learning. The complex needs focus on the prime areas of learning; Communication and Language, Physical and PSED. These prime areas underpin all areas of learning. Each EYFS classroom has scheduled Communication time where children develop their use of specialist interventions such as PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) intensive interaction, attention autism or individualised Speech and Language plan.





# Curriculum

At Heltwate we teach the Cornerstones curriculum and have organised the curriculum into six half term topic themes over a 2 year rolling cycle.

Term	Topic year 1	Topic year 2
Autumn 1	Why do you love me so much?	Why can't I have chocolate for breakfast?
Autumn 2	Why are leaves crispy?	Where does snow go?
Spring 1	How does that building stay up?	How many colours in a rainbow?
Spring 2	Are eggs alive?	Did dragons exist?
Summer 1	What is a shadow?	Can we explore it?
Summer 2	How many pebbles on a beach?	How high can I jump?



# Curriculum

We ensure that all of our activities are relevant, enjoyable by all, imaginative, multi sensory and provide challenge to the pupils to further their learning.

Children in our EYFS classrooms also have timetabled 'Continuous Provision' sessions, each class has an outdoor area accessible to them. Continuous Provision at Heltwate allows children to develop their play and personal skills whilst exploring the world around them.



# Assessment



Children in EYFS and those who are new to Heltwate are baselined on entry within six weeks and assigned a Key person -this is normally the class teacher. We discuss the children's needs with nursery staff, teaching assistants/ teachers and parents before they join our school to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Staff assess the children by providing small play based activities, and observing the children's interaction with the resources.

Progress is then tracked through the school year using development milestones. These are taken from 'Development Matters' in years and months eg, Literacy- Reading 1 year 8 months. This data is provided to parents three times during the academic year.

Staff use "Tapestry"; an online learning journal to record details of children's learning throughout the school day. It builds into a journal of their achievements. Parents can view school observations and are encouraged to add their own observations online.

For more information on Tapestry please contact the school.





# Multi agency working



Within school we liaise and work collaboratively with a number of external agencies who provide support and interventions for our pupils. These links are made with these professionals according to the needs of the individual pupil. They could include the school nursing team, therapy teams, social services.



# Snack time

We encourage children to have their own water bottle. These are easily accessible throughout the day. Plastic drinking cups are also provided for children who prefer to use them. Each day the children share a snack together. Snack is used as a social time where the children learn important life skills such as waiting; their turn and sitting calmly whilst enjoying food. Fruit and vegetable donations are welcomed in school. Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 also have a free lunch provided daily. Please find our current school dinner menu on our website.





# Parents

Parents are an important part of Heltwate school. We value the input of parents into the daily life at Heltwate School. Communication is important to us, parents are contacted on a daily basis if needed -via the pupils home school book, by phone or email.

We hold many events during the academic year and parents are encouraged to attend, such as assemblies or a special person day. Termly news letters are also sent out to inform parents of whole school news.

