



Heltwate School

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Information

# Welcome



In the EYFS at Heltwate School, we aim to provide a fun and enabling learning environment for the children that is adapted to meet the needs of the class. We have one EYFS/reception class named 'Sunshine'. The children in this class are aged 4-6 years old, and are grouped according to their social and academic needs. All reception aged children will join Sunshine class. The classroom is spacious and well equipped with two indoor learning rooms, a sensory room, an outdoor continuous provision area and a separate playground.



# Curriculum

In Sunshine class, the children are exposed to all seven areas of learning. Due to the complex needs and abilities of the children, the main focus is on the prime areas of learning; Communication and Language, Physical Development and PSED. These prime areas underpin all areas of learning.

The class also have 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 plans.

Sensory play and any work recommended by Occupational Therapy will also be included on the class timetable.



# Curriculum

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

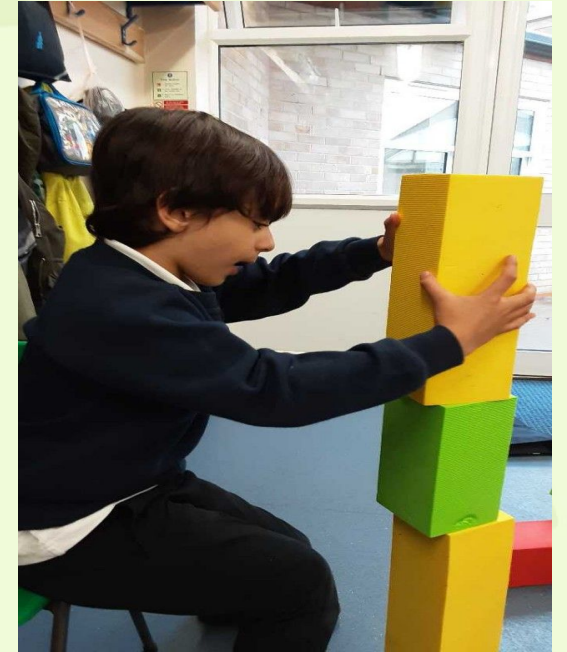
| Term     | Topic year 1                    | Topic year 2                              |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| Autumn 1 | Why do you love me so much?     | Why can't I have chocolate for breakfast? |
| Autumn 2 | Why are leaves crispy?          | Where does snow go?                       |
| 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 lesson activities are enjoyable, relevant, imaginative and multi-sensory; whilst also providing an appropriate level of challenge for the pupils so that they can further their learning.

Children in Sunshine class will also participate in 'Continuous Provision' sessions. Continuous Provision provides opportunities for the children to explore resources, and extend their learning and play skills independently, where appropriate. The Continuous Provision areas remain the same throughout the year, but the class teacher will enhance the areas to match the current topic theme, and to build on children's interests.



# Assessment

Children in reception 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 a smooth transition is achieved. Staff assess the children by providing short 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 e.g. **Literacy - Reading 1 year 6 months**. This data is provided to parents three times during the academic year.

Staff use "Earwig"; an online observation and assessment tool to record details of children's learning. It builds into a journal of their achievements and is used to complete their EYFS profile and progress assessments throughout the school year.

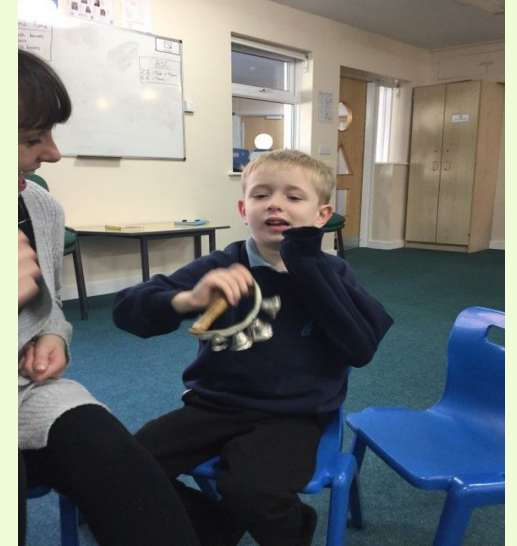


**earwig**  
ACADEMIC TIMELINES



# Multi agency working

At Heltwate School, we liaise and work collaboratively with a number of external agencies who provide support and interventions for our EYFS pupils. The referrals are made to these professionals according to the needs of the individual pupil. They could include the school nursing team, speech and language therapy, music therapy, occupational therapy, social services or a visit from Ruby the therapy dog.



# Snack time

We encourage children to have their own water bottle, and these are kept easily accessible throughout the day. Plastic drinking cups are also provided for children who prefer to use them. Each day the children will share 'snack time' 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 with others. As the children progress, snack time can also be a great opportunity to practice communication skills such as PECS.

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a piece of free fruit or veg each day as part of the Government SFVS scheme, this will be given to them at snack time. Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils are also entitled to a daily free school lunch. You will find our current school dinner menu on our website or Class Dojo.





# Parents

At Heltwate we believe it is important for school and home to work together, to ensure children have a successful time at school. Therefore, we welcome any communication from parents. The easiest way to contact the class teacher is via our school communication system, Class Dojo. Class Dojo is an app based messaging tool, which allows parents to communicate directly with school staff in a timely manner. Parents are also welcome to telephone the school office during the school day. Ultimately, parents are an important part of school life at Heltwate, and we enjoy working alongside you to ensure your child's time at school is successful.

We hold many fun events during the academic year and parents are encouraged to attend. These events include sing-a-long assemblies, charity events, sports day and special person days. Termly newsletters are also sent out to inform parents of whole school news.

