



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 'Rainbow'. All reception aged children will join Rainbow class - the children in this class are aged 4-5 years old.

The classroom is spacious and well equipped with two indoor learning rooms, a sensory room, an outdoor learning area and a separate playground.



Curriculum

In Rainbow 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.

Each child has an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) which identifies a child's individual targets. These ILP's may include targets recommended by external professionals.



Curriculum

At Heltwate we follow a themed topic each half term.

Term	Topic year 1
Autumn 1	All about me
Autumn 2	Seasons
Spring 1	Food
Spring 2	Animals
Summer 1	Once upon a time
Summer 2	Water



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 Rainbow class will also participate in 'Play to Learn' sessions. Play to Learn provides opportunities for the children to explore resources and extend their learning and play skills independently where appropriate.

The Play to Learn activities are changed frequently to match the current topic theme, and to build on children's interests and learning.

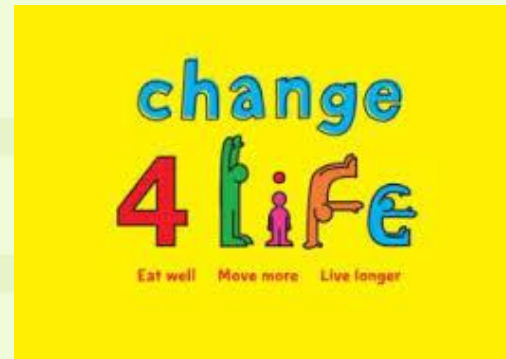


Snack time

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 vegetable each day as part of the SFVS scheme; this will be offered 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.



Assessment

New entries to Rainbow class are baselined within six weeks and assigned a 'key person' (this is normally the class teacher.) Before entry we discuss the individual child's needs with nursery staff, teaching assistants/teachers and parents before they join our school - this is to ensure a smooth transition.

Staff assess the children by providing short play based activities, and observing the children's interactions with these resources.

Progress is then tracked through the school year using development milestones taken from 'Development Matters'.

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

Parents can access this and are actively encouraged to add observations on from home.



earwig
ACADEMIC TIMELINES



Parents

At Heltwate we believe that to ensure children have a successful time at school, it is important for school and home to work together.

Parents are an important part of school life at Heltwate, and we enjoy working alongside to ensure your child's time at school is successful. We welcome any communication from parents. The easiest way to contact the class team is via Class Dojo. Parents are also welcome to telephone the school office during the school day.

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.



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. This may include: School Nursing Team, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration OT, Social Services, Educational Psychology, Physiotherapist and/or Local Authority Specialist Teaching services.



For more information please contact the school

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