



EYFS

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Tweedmouth Prior Park First School play is the key way in which our children learn and we aim to deliver a curriculum based on well planned creative play experiences, both indoors and outdoors. Play based activities give our children the ability to develop their natural curiosity and build upon their own interests which leads to the development of key concepts and skills and critical thinking. Through play, in a secure environment with adult support our children can explore, develop and make sense of the world. They can communicate with each other as they investigate, solve problems, take risks, make mistakes and experiment.

Our curriculum is designed within a broad overarching topic theme.

There are 7 areas of learning and development which shape activities and experiences for our children in Nursery and Reception.

Three areas are crucial called *prime areas*

- *Communication and language* – listening and attention and understanding, speaking;
 - *Physical development* – gross motor skills and fine motor skills;
 - *Personal, social and emotional development* – self-regulation, managing self and building relationships.
- The youngest children will focus strongly on the three prime areas. We particularly aim to develop language skills in the nursery class and quickly aim to develop good relationships with your child. We like to foster strong links between home and school. This has a positive impact on children's development and learning.

Four *specific areas* through which prime areas are strengthened and applied are

- *Literacy* – comprehension, word reading and writing;
- *Mathematics* – number and numerical patterns;
- *Understanding the world* – past and present, people, culture and communities and the natural world;
- *Expressive arts and design* – creating with materials and being imaginative and expressive.

The balance shifts towards a more equal focus on all seven areas as children grow in confidence and ability in the three prime areas.

We believe it is important to broaden our children's knowledge and experiences within the local area and the wider world. All children in the early years can become young historians, geographers and scientists through a pedagogy of enquiry thus developing cognitive skills such as observing, describing, categorising, classifying, sequencing, comparing and contrasting, recalling and reasoning.

Our Early Years practitioners follow the guidance given as set out in the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* and in the non-statutory guidance, *Early Years Outcomes (Development Matters)*, which supports practitioners in implementing the statutory guidance of the EYFS.

In our school Nursery and Reception we introduce the Read, Write Inc phonics programme and the White Rose Maths Scheme of Work.