



ST MICHAEL'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



***'The Future We Create
Every Day'***

Early Years Foundation
Stage Curriculum

Our Core Christian Values

Love *'Love is more important than anything else, it's what ties everything together'* Colossians 3:14

Hope *'May the God of Hope fill you with Joy and Peace.'* Romans 15:13

Wisdom *'Blessed are those who find Wisdom.'* Proverb 3:13

Community *'Live in harmony with one another.'* Romans 12:16

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) runs from 0-5, and so all of our children in Nursery and Reception follow a shared curriculum, adapted to each child's needs, particular interests and next steps.

The EYFS is broken down into seven different areas of learning, all of which interweave and inform each other. The 'Prime' areas are: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. The 'Specific' areas are: Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Creative Art and Design. Behind all of these are the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which describe and reflect the different ways children immerse themselves in the teaching and learning taking place in the environment. These are:

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements; and
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

At St Michael's, we use our dinosaurs to help the children talk about these characteristics and explain the learning they are doing themselves. It would be great if you use this language when talking to your child about what they have done at school. (You can find these on the next page!)

I'm a SHAREONYX. I share ideas and resources.



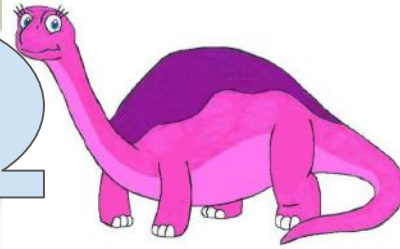
I'm an EXPLOROSAUR! I explore everything around me.



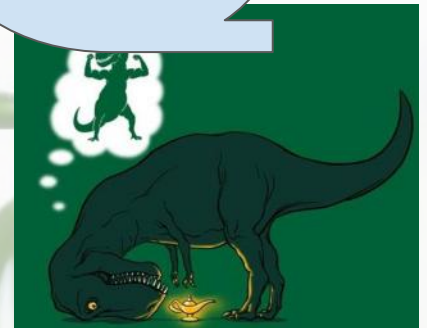
I'm a TRYATOPS. I try my best and don't give up.



I'm a THINKODOCUS! I think carefully about what I learn.



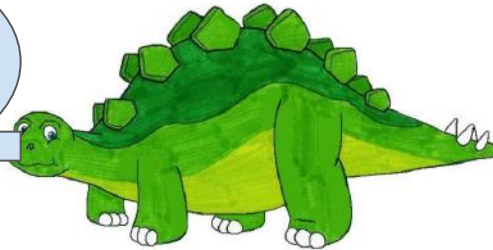
I'm a SOLVEASAURUS REX! I solve puzzles and problems.



I'm an ASKORAPTOR! I ask questions and find things out.



I'm a STICKOSAURUS! I stick at things and persevere.



How do we learn in the EYFS?

Most of our day is spent in child-initiated purposeful play. The children have access to our wonderful outdoor area as well as all three classrooms, where they can freely access resources which enable them to pursue their own interests and fascinations. Teachers spend their time playing with and observing the children so that we can provide them the opportunities to build on their next steps - this might be a playful challenge, an enhancement to the environment, an activity or a new learning experience. The children come together in classes or smaller groups each day for adult-led learning in Phonics, Maths, our focus learning time and for story-time, sharing and songs.



What are we learning about in Autumn Term 2021?

Our theme for this term is 'Tell me a story'. In the first part of this term, our topic hook will be "The story of me: Everyone is the same, everyone is different". We will be thinking about the questions: Who am I? What makes me 'me'? How are we all the same? How are we all different? What are our school values? How do we look after ourselves? After half term, we will be thinking about Traditional Tales, both from British and other cultures. We will enjoy listening to, retelling and acting out lots of different stories, talking about why we like or dislike different tales. We will also be thinking about the Christmas Story and how the story of Christmas is celebrated.

We love using books to help immerse ourselves in our learning. These are some of the books we will be reading:



Communication and Language

We will be developing children's spoken language and listening skills by listening to and talking about books and stories, playing in our role play areas, and learning to share our ideas and listen to each other's ideas.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will use books, circle times, pictures and games to help children name, describe and talk about their feelings. We will also be learning how to take turns, share resources, show patience and play cooperatively. We will celebrate our similarities and differences, building children's self-confidence and learning about our school values.

Maths

We will use stories, songs, practical equipment and games to teach children to notice patterns, similarities and differences, and compare. We will then learn to represent and compare numbers and think about the composition of numbers up to 5 (that 3 is a 2 and a 1, and is also 3 ones, for example). We will think about one more and one less, using a range of strategies to help us.

Physical Development

We will be building our gross motor control skills by climbing, balancing and negotiating obstacles in our outdoor area, and in weekly PE lessons in the hall. We will also be building with construction materials (big and small!), painting, drawing, sticking, cutting, and mark-making to help build fine motor skills. Children in Reception will be taught to form letter shapes as part of their daily Read Write Inc. learning.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be creating and exploring a wide range of materials, using these to express our ideas, thoughts and feelings. The children will be encouraged and supported to use their imaginations when role-playing, using small world or other resources to invent, adapt and recreate narratives. We will listen to and join in with songs, rhymes, stories and poems and enjoy dancing to a range of different music.

Literacy

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum - listening to stories, poems and rhymes supports children's imagination, enhances their vocabulary and develops their comprehension. Systematic synthetic phonics plays a critical role in teaching children the alphabetic code to support early reading and writing skills. Children are taught from the Read Write Inc programme from the beginning of Reception and, when appropriate, within our Nursery setting. Children are given the opportunity to apply their phonic skills in a range of age appropriate ways throughout the environment, both independently and with adult support.

Understanding the World

We will be learning about the similarities and differences between ourselves and others by reading stories, looking at pictures and talking together. We will also be thinking about the changing seasons and explore Autumn by going on nature walks in our beautiful grounds, singing Harvest songs, creating Autumn artworks and enjoying seasonal poems and stories.



Home links

Wow moments

We would love to hear about any exciting, new or proud moments you have with your child at home - it could be anything from riding their bike for the first time to getting dressed by themselves to trying a new food. Each class has a Wow moment display in class where we will share and celebrate these achievements. If you would like to share a 'Wow' with us, please take a star from the wallet on the EYFS gate and return it to your child's class teacher. Thank you!

Tapestry Learning Journal

We will be using Tapestry, an online learning journal, this year to record and track the children's learning. We will be sharing some photos and observations of all the children's first few weeks at school soon - do please 'like' or comment on these! We will have a small group of 'focus' children each week - we will let you know in advance when your child will be one of our focus children, and we would love it if you could share any learning or adventures you have been having at home during this week. Your child will have more observations added when they are a focus child, but please be reassured that we are playing, exploring and learning with all the children all of the time! If you would like to add photos or comments at any other point to Tapestry, please do - we love to hear what the children do when they are not with us and it helps us build a fuller picture of their learning and development. Thank you!

