



St Catherine's C of E School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Louise Hussey Head of School: Ms Pippa Warner

Telephone: 01566 772198 Email: stcatherines@andaras.org Website: www.stcatherinescofe.co.uk

July 2021

New EYFS Reforms: Parent and Carer Information Sheet

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been reformed by the Department for Education. As a result, there is a new EYFS framework that all schools and settings will have to follow from September 2021. These national changes have been made to better support all young children's learning and development. It is also the aim that the new framework will ensure that all children are prepared for the transition into Key Stage 1.

At St Catherine's we were an 'Early Adopter' of this new framework for the academic year 20-21 meaning that we were able to trial, train staff and prepare in advance for this September's changes. The Early Years (EYFS) covers children in our Nursery through to the end of Reception Class.

Some elements of the EYFS framework have not significantly changed while others have.

Below are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that include relevant changes which parents, carers and children may notice or experience.

- Staff will not be required to spend as much time carrying out large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection. This will enable them to spend more time engaging with and supporting the children and their learning and developmental needs.
- Children will no longer be assessed against statements from an age-band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age.
- The early learning goals at the end of reception have been changed to become clearer. Staff will use their judgements to assess if the children have met these goals at the end of the EYFS and inform parents and carers.
- There is an emphasis on improving children's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning.
- Literacy and numeracy skills focused on in the EYFS have been adapted to better match up with the national curriculum that starts in Year 1.

- There is no longer an 'exceeding' judgement at the end of reception. Children will instead be challenged to have a 'greater depth' understanding of ideas.
- Safeguarding and welfare of children is still a priority, with the added mention of teaching children about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

How could you help learning and development at home to support the new EYFS reforms?

- Read stories daily to your child and use them as an opportunity to talk about the characters and events in the story. You could also talk about some of the details that children have spotted in the pictures, such as the characters' facial expressions, and how these relate to the text.
- Have lots of conversations with your child throughout the day. Try and increase their vocabulary by using a wide range of different words.
- Support your child's early reading by practising phonic skills, such as recognising letter sounds and blending them together to read words. You can support them with their writing by checking they are forming their letters in the correct way and holding a pencil properly.
- Practise counting with your child and looking at small groups of items. Explore what happens to numbers when you put these small groups of items together or split a larger group into two smaller groups.
- Encourage your child to make healthy food and drink choices, especially related to sugar content and talk to them about how this can affect their teeth. Support them to properly brush their teeth at least twice a day at home.
- Plan activities that allow your child to be active and develop their strength through large body movements as well as smaller, more precise movements.

If you have any questions about these changes please contact Miss Rowe who is St Catherine's Early Years Leader.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Hussey

Executive Headteacher