Whittington Primary School & Nursery

Nursery Curriculum

Curriculum • Teaching • Achievement

Curriculum

At Whittington Nursery our ambitious, play-based curriculum gives children aged 2–4 strong foundations across all seven areas of the EYFS. We prioritise secure relationships, communication, independence, physical development, curiosity and a love of learning. Our curriculum is sequenced towards the knowledge, skills and dispositions children need to access Reception successfully, while recognising that children develop at different rates.

Teaching

Environment

- High-quality continuous provision across all seven areas.
- Open-ended resources for creativity, problem solving and sustained shared thinking.
- Accessible resources that promote independence.
- Outdoor provision used for physical development, nature, maths, communication and imaginative play.

Adult Interaction

- Adults model rich language and extend vocabulary.
- Adults observe, listen and respond to children's interests.
- Questions are used thoughtfully.
- Adults scaffold learning and gradually step back as children become more independent.

Planned Experiences

- Daily stories, songs and rhymes.
- Small-group focus activities for listening, attention, communication and early phonics.
- Literacy and maths embedded in play and routines.
- Seasonal, cultural and community experiences.
- Targeted support and challenge where needed.

Assessment & Planning

- Professional knowledge of children.
- Half-termly focus on key children's development.

- Observations and discussions inform next steps.
- Planning is responsive and avoids unnecessary paperwork.
- Transition information is shared with Reception where appropriate.

Achievement

Children leave Nursery increasingly confident, curious, communicative, independent and kind. They can participate in group routines, form relationships, express needs and ideas, enjoy books and rhymes, explore mathematical ideas, investigate the world, create and move with growing control. Most importantly, children develop positive attitudes to learning and are increasingly ready to embrace Reception

How we know

- Professional dialogue and knowledge of children.
- Observations and examples of learning.
- Half-termly development tracking.
- Parent contributions.
- Transition discussions with Reception.
- Regular review of provision and engagement.

Progression into Reception

- **Begin to recognise emotions →** Manage feelings and behaviour
- **Form positive relationships →** Form positive relationships
- **Listen during stories and conversations →** Listen attentively and respond appropriately
- **Follow simple / two-step instructions →** Follow instructions with several steps
- **Build vocabulary and express ideas →** Use a wide and growing vocabulary
- **Enjoy books, rhyme and early phonics →** Read accurately using phonic knowledge
- **Recognise name and make meaningful marks →** Write simple sentences / use phonics to spell
- **Count and compare in play; begin to subitise →** Count, subitise and compare quantities
- **Explore patterns, shape and measure →** Recognise, create and describe patterns; explore space and measure
- **Show curiosity about people, nature and community →** Show curiosity about the world around them
- **Explore materials, music and role play →** Create and design with imagination; perform and express ideas

Our curriculum story

Whittington Nursery Curriculum – Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly. Strong roots in love, belonging, confidence, curiosity and independence help children spread their wings into Reception.