



Hazelwood School

# Oak Reception – A Parents' Guide



## Our Philosophy

The early years of a child's education are vital in establishing independence, confidence and a passion for learning. In Oak, each child is treated as an individual and their strengths are celebrated, which in turn helps develop high self esteem.

Young children are naturally curious and through our exciting and stimulating curriculum we work hard to challenge and support every child throughout their Reception year.

We firmly believe that all children should feel happy and secure in their environment. We aim to ensure that they are considerate and thoughtful towards others; and that they become independent learners, full of enthusiasm with a love of learning.

We work in partnership with parents to ensure every child is happy, contented and feels safe and secure in our setting.

We provide a nurturing environment where every child's curiosity is encouraged.

We encourage children to develop confidence to think critically, and to persevere, through challenging and playful opportunities.

We employ staff who love working with our youngest children and demand excellence from themselves. They are sensitive and thoughtful practitioners who promote independence, resilience and a positive self image in each child.

## What does the Oak curriculum cover?

As in Skylarks, Oak follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is the statutory, play-based curriculum guiding the learning, development and care for children from birth to 5 years of age.

The framework lays secure foundations for future learning and development and is based around the principle that every child deserves the best possible start in life. Planned and spontaneous learning in the EYFS takes place both indoors and outdoors.

We plan a progressive, challenging and stimulating curriculum, delivered in a sensitive and professional manner by caring and supportive staff. The children are regularly observed and the next stage of their learning is carefully planned in all seven areas of learning and development. Which are:

### Prime areas

#### **Personal Social Emotional Development:**

Making relationships, self confidence and self awareness, managing feelings and behaviour.

**Physical:** Moving and handling, health and self care.

**Communication and Language:** Listening and attention, understanding and speaking.

### Specific areas

**Literacy:** Reading and writing.

**Mathematics:** Numbers, shapes, space and measure.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Exploring and using media and materials.

**Understanding the World:** People and communities, the world and technology.

The prime areas continue to be of importance for the children's development but as the year progresses greater emphasis is placed on developing the children's literacy and numeracy skills, whilst continuing to offer opportunities for the children to develop their creativity and understanding of the world.

## Personal Social Emotional Development

Regular assembly and circle time activities alongside our '3 Bears Code' encourage all the children to develop respect for each other, develop a positive self image and understand appropriate behaviour.

## Physical

Opportunities for indoor and outdoor play which develop both gross and fine motor skills are carefully planned into the curriculum. In addition, the children have weekly PE and swimming lessons with specialist staff.

## Communication and Language

These skills are developed throughout each day and we hope that every child develops effective speaking and listening skills through our promotion of a rich language environment.

## Literacy

Children in Oak are encouraged to develop a love of books and stories. We follow a structured phonics programme to ensure the children have sound skills and succeed in their reading.

Our *Think, Write* programme builds on previous work in the Nursery to enable the children to write fluently and independently.

## Maths

The mathematics curriculum is practical and purposeful, building on numeracy skills established in Skylarks. The children develop and improve their counting skills including the use and recognition of numbers. They then apply their knowledge to calculate simple addition and subtraction problems. Children are exposed to different numerical activities ranging from simple early investigations to more complex number problems. Many practical investigations involve work with shape, measures, weight, time and money.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Children's creativity is naturally extended by supporting their curiosity, exploration and play. Throughout the year, the children are provided with opportunities to explore a range of media and materials. They are encouraged to share their ideas and feelings through art, music, dance, role play and design technology. Music is also taught each week and emphasis is placed on developing their singing voices, rhythmic skills and an appreciation of different musical styles.

## Understanding the World

The children enjoy finding out about people, places, technology and the environment. This area of learning is explored through a range of topics. Science, investigative activities, inside and outside speakers help children develop the skills that enable them to make sense of the world and their community.

A deepening knowledge of other cultures is fostered through assemblies, discussions and role play. Information communication technology is used as an aid to enhance the delivery of all aspects of the curriculum.

Throughout their time in Oak, children are given frequent opportunity to:

- Play outdoors either on the decking or on the shared lawn or court area.
- Develop core literacy and numeracy skills.
- Socialise in small and large groups.
- Take part in specialist music, PE, Swimming and French sessions.

*NB More detailed information on our curriculum will be provided at our EYFS information meeting which will be held in September.*

## What is the Foundation Stage Profile?

At the end of the Oak Year, the Foundation Stage Profile is completed and children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals. Each child's learning and development is closely observed and recorded throughout the year to track their progress and inform planning. The profiles are kept electronically and will be sent to you each half term or on request.

## What will my child's day look like?

The days in Oak are very varied and involve the children in many activities. A typical day may include:

### Morning

Optional before school care from 8am

### Registration at 8.45am

Literacy focus with whole class phonics session

Free-flow cross curricular, indoor and outdoor adult focused groups and child initiated activities

Music lesson

Maths focus whole class session

Cross curricular, indoor and outdoor adult focused groups and child initiated activities

### Lunch at 12.30pm

in the dining room followed by outdoor play

### Afternoon

Adult focused group art activity from 1.30pm

Cross curricular, indoor and outdoor child initiated activities

Story time

### Home time at 3.30pm

*\*Please note that some of these services incur an additional charge.*

## Can my child stay longer than the school day?

The Oak school day runs from 8.45am to 3.30pm. Parents can drop off into the classrooms from 8am to 8.45am and if booked, children can stay until 4.30pm. There is also before school care from 7.30am to 8am where breakfast is available and an after school care facility until 6pm, which includes tea\*.

A minibus service between the two sites in the morning and afternoon is also available to enable parents to pick up siblings from the same site if required.

## Are there any extra curricular activities for Oak?

In Oak we offer a range of clubs and activities to greater enhance the children's learning.

These clubs are regularly reviewed and updated to meet the needs and interests of each cohort. Currently we offer an arts and craft club; a games and multi skills club; short tennis; ballet and tap. We have just introduced Street Dance led by an external instructor\*. So there really is something for everyone.

## Will my child need a uniform?

Winter uniform for Oak is practical and warm. The children wear the Hazelwood school tracksuit and winter coat. Summer uniform consists of dresses for the girls, and shorts and shirt for the boys, both with a blazer. Uniform is available to buy online from [www.Schoolblazer.com](http://www.Schoolblazer.com) and you will receive a link to the school website along with a uniform list. In addition, there is a second hand uniform shop at Hazelwood.

Further information regarding: Staffing, Policies, Term dates, Menus, Wrap around care alongside any other information relating to the 2016 Consumer Act is available on our website [www.hazelwoodschool.co.uk](http://www.hazelwoodschool.co.uk).

We look forward to welcoming you to our Oak Reception in September. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Darvill.