



**St. John the Baptist**  
Catholic Primary School

*We will prepare the way by loving, living and learning with the Lord*



**Our Lady and All Saints**  
Catholic Multi Academy Company  
**Strong in Faith**

## **EYFS Curriculum Report 2022-2023**

This year we have continued to develop and adapt our EYFS curriculum to ensure that it has met the needs of our children and families. Our curriculum promotes both the unique child and the characteristics of effective learning. It makes meaningful links across the seven areas of learning and takes into account children's prior learning. Our aim throughout the school year has been to ensure that each individual has reached their full potential.

As part of our curriculum we have planned a range of experiences for children across the school year. The children have had a fantastic year and have made staff and families extremely proud with all of their hard work. Here are some of the experiences that the children in EYFS have enjoyed throughout the year.

### **Supporting Learning – Key Priorities**

#### **Communication and Language**

Communication and Language continues to be at the heart of everything we do in EYFS. We continue to offer daily opportunities for children to improve and develop their communication and language skills. As well as all of the communication and language opportunities that we offer within the classroom environment, children identified as requiring additional language support have also had the opportunity to take part in language intervention groups. The interventions have been delivered by trained members of staff and have supported all areas of language development. Two members of the EYFS team along with the SENDCO have benefited from extensive training to become the school's Communication Champions. The training has enabled the communication champions to support children, staff and parents within EYFS.

#### **Staff training to support communication and language within EYFS**

**Makaton training** – As we have a significant number of pupils with speech and language difficulties all EYFS staff completed 'Makaton' training. Makaton is used on a daily basis, with all children encouraged to use some Makaton signs alongside their speech. We have included Makaton signs when singing nursery rhymes and retelling stories to ensure all children are fully included.



**Widgit Online** – Communication Champions purchased Widgit online and shared the benefits of using widget with all staff during an INSET. It is a brilliant resource to support communication and language throughout the school. Within EYFS we use widget within the learning environment, as a teaching tool, to support individual children with additional needs and to support early reading.

**Speech screen training** – Communication champions received speech screen training to enable us to screen children with speech difficulties and provide appropriate intervention.



### Physical Development

Physical development continues to be one of our key priorities linked to getting children ready to write. Throughout the year we have had a big focus on strengthening children's upper body muscles in order to support the development of their gross motor and fine motor skills. Throughout the year we embedded 'Kinetic Letters', our handwriting scheme and introduced the 'Making bodies stronger' section to Nursery children during the summer term. This supported children's transition into Reception.

### Early Reading

Reading is always a high priority in early years and we have continued to embed strategies that were implemented last year to support children to develop a love of reading. Developing a love of books and reading continues to be threaded through everything we do and along with communication and language is at the heart of our curriculum.

Story time is a daily occurrence and there are always a range reading for pleasure opportunities within the learning environment. Adults model reading and enjoy sharing books with the children. Staff have continually supported parents with ways to support reading at home throughout the school year.



### Nursery Rhymes

Singing nursery rhymes have so many benefits to children in EYFS. This year we have created and adapted a nursery rhyme progression document that has ensured that children have sang a wide range of nursery rhymes throughout nursery and reception. Nursery children focus on a rhyme a week which is shared with parents and carers over class dojo so they it can be sung at home.

### World Book Day

The whole school celebrated world book day by creating story boxes at home with their families. In Early Years, the children took part in various fun and creative reading and writing activities with the aim of promoting a love of books and reading. Children and staff shared their favourite stories with each other.



### Pyjamarama Day

Children spent the day reading, enjoying and sharing stories whilst in the comfort of their pyjamas. The day raised funds for 'The Book Trust', with the aim of helping every child to own a bedtime story.

## Curriculum Opportunities

### Visiting Church and Attending Mass

Children in EYFS have regularly visited Church to support their learning about the Catholic Faith. Reception children have attended whole school Masses. EYFS parents and carers also joined us for some of the Masses, bringing home, school and community together.



### King's Coronation

We celebrated the King's Coronation as a whole school. Children in EYFS enjoyed learning about our King, sharing facts with others, creating artwork and ending the week with a whole school celebration.



### Black History Month

As part of 'Black History Month' children in EYFS enjoyed learning about the life of Rosa Parks. They talked about and acted out segregation. The children experienced segregation based on gender and appearance and they felt that it was unfair. The children created some great artwork linked to our work on Rosa Parks.

### Diwali

As part of our work on 'Celebrations and Festivals' the children enjoyed learning all about Diwali. The children dressed in colourful clothes, listened to the story of Rama and Sita, participated in a Diwali dance, decorated Rangoli patterns and used clay to create Diya lamps. The children really enjoyed taking part in a range of learning experiences and showed a great understanding of Diwali.



### Bonfire Night

Early Years children enjoyed celebrating Bonfire Night by listening to stories, creating artwork and toasting marshmallows around our fire pit.



### Holi

Children really enjoyed learning about Hinduism. They revisited their learning from earlier in the year about Diwali and then focused on Holi, the Festival of Colour. They watched video clips to gain new knowledge, created a Holi dance, took part in a virtual tour of a Temple and ended the week creating large scale artwork and by throwing special powder paint over each other to create their own Holi celebration.

### Cinema Trip

At the end of the school year, EYFS children enjoyed a special treat of a trip to the Cinema. They went to watch 'The Little Mermaid' which was linked to our learning topic. They enjoyed going on the minibus and particularly enjoyed having some yummy treats whilst watching the movie.



## Parent Partnership

Throughout the year we held a range of meetings and workshops to support parents and carers and to keep them informed about the EYFS curriculum. All of our workshops aimed to help parents and carers to support their child's learning at home.

### Nursery 'Stay and Play' Sessions

We ran some very successful 'Stay and Play' sessions as part of transition for Nursery children at the start of the year. The children had an opportunity to play alongside their parents or carers, their new teachers and new friends in the Early Years classroom. This was a perfect opportunity for staff to get know the new children and their families and for parents/carers to ask any questions.



### Nursery Rhyme Workshop

We held a Nursery Rhyme workshop for nursery children and their family members to celebrate National Nursery Rhyme Week. It was a great success and the children enjoyed spending time with their family members singing nursery rhymes and making nursery rhyme props. It was an opportunity to share the importance of children knowing a number of nursery rhymes.



### Reading Café for Reception Parents

We held a very successful 'Reading Café' for Reception parents. It informed them about how phonics and reading is taught in school and gave ideas of how they could support their child at home. Parents and carers had the opportunity to work alongside their child completing phonics or reading activities.

### Christmas Performance

The children confidently performed their Christmas production 'Nursery Rhyme Nativity' for their families. The children's acting skills, singing and behaviour were excellent.

### Sports Day

Nursery parents and carers joined their children in a very successful sports day workshop. Adults and children worked together at a carousel of physical activities all based around traditional nursery rhymes. It was lovely to see how much the children and adults enjoyed it. The children collected stickers at each activity and were awarded certificates and medals at the end.

Reception children joined the rest of the school for a very successful and exciting sports day event. Reception parents and carers were invited to come along and watch their child taking part.

