



Lavant

C.E. Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Adrian King B.A Hons (QTS) NPQH

West Stoke Road
Lavant Chichester
West Sussex PO18 0BW

Tel: 01243 527382 Fax: 01243 530677

E-mail: office@lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

Website: www.lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

Dear parents / carers,

This week I have begun to undertake Baseline Assessments for each child in Reception. This year, all schools are required to administer a range of practical activities set out by the government to enable children to demonstrate their skills in literacy and maths on entry to school. This information will help us gain a clear picture of our new cohort's current stage of development and will help me to plan the next steps of learning for each child. In due course, you will receive information showing how your child has got on.

The DFE have also made some significant changes to our Early Years curriculum this year, an overview of which I have included below. I hope it will give you an idea of the changes that have been made and what your children will be learning over the coming year. ☺

The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) What parents/carers need to know

What is the EYFS?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was originally launched in 2008. It is the statutory framework for all early years providers in England but it is held in high regard worldwide. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards that all early years providers must meet.

Early years providers in England who provide care and learning for children from birth to the end of reception class must comply with the EYFS Statutory Framework.

Ofsted regulate and inspect all early years providers against the safeguarding and welfare requirements and areas of learning to determine how well children are kept safe and healthy.

From time to time the EYFS is updated and refreshed, so far this has happened in 2012, 2014 and 2017.

What is changing?

This September a revised EYFS came into force. The key messages about the reforms include:

- ✓ *Reducing practitioner/teacher workload and needless paperwork to allow for more quality time and interactions with the children*
- ✓ *Improving the outcomes of all children and addressing/reducing the disadvantage gaps*
- ✓ *The importance of workforce knowledge and professional development to inform assessments. Reflect upon the need to assess every child's development against 'check lists', saving formal steps of assessment for when they are necessary*
- ✓ *Making early learning goals clearer and more aligned to Y1 curriculum.*

What do the changes mean to me as a parent/carer?

The safety of your child and the quality of the education provided will not change. You may not see any changes in terms of the activities and opportunities on offer to your child/ren. However, you may notice that we are not physically recording as many observations and assessments of progress. Please be reassured that we will still be supporting your child's development and responding to their interests.

We will be using our professional judgements to assess your child's development during our daily interactions and activities.

At Lavant C.E. Primary School we use Tapestry as an online tool to share glimpses into your child's learning. Don't forget to speak to us if you are having difficulty accessing Tapestry for your child.

The curriculum

The 7 areas of learning and development within the EYFS have not changed, these are:

- *Communication and language*
- *Physical development*
- *Personal, social and emotional development*
- *Literacy*
- *Mathematics*
- *Understanding the world*
- *Expressive arts and design*

The prime areas of learning form the essential foundations for healthy development and future learning. Once a solid start has formed within the prime areas we continue to build upon these skills, opening to explore more learning opportunities within the specific areas of learning.

These 7 areas are the basis for the EYFS curriculum. Careful thought is given to inform our enabling environments (indoors and outdoors), to provide resources, activities and learning opportunities to meet each child's unique requirements. The EYFS curriculum is very flexible and responsive to follow children's interests and those totally unplanned learning opportunities that sometimes come out of the blue, such as it unexpectedly snowing, etc!

Young children learn through play. The EYFS refers to the Characteristics of Effective Learning. These are:

- *Playing and exploring*
- *Active learning*
- *Creating and thinking critically*

Every EYFS provider has their own bespoke curriculum, to support each child's unique developmental pathway, following their interests and fascinations.

Further details explaining our approach to each area of the curriculum including phonics and reading are detailed in the Wren Class Curriculum letter sent home last week. I am so proud of the way the children are settling and adapting to the new routines and expectations of life with us at Lavant. We are preparing to join the rest of the school for collective worship next week in preparation for our debut assembly performing 'Dingle dangle scarecrow' 😊

Many thanks,

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