

# Early Years Curriculum - 2016

## Foundation Stage

In Ashlings we support children from 3 to 5 years of age; from Nursery to the end of the Reception year. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is the only statutory curriculum provided by the Government and we follow it all the way through Ashlings. Learning through play is key to the development of these very young children and we provide appropriate activities and a high degree of independence to maximise the children's motivation to learn.

The three prime areas of learning are:-

- **Communication and Language** – our language rich environment gives children opportunities to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and speaking and listening in a range of situations.
- **Physical Development** – we provide opportunities to be active throughout the day, developing their co-ordination, control and movement. Children also develop an understanding of the importance of being active and making healthy lifestyle choices.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** – our environment provides opportunities for children to develop a healthy sense of themselves and respect for others. Children develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings, understand behaviour in different situations and have confidence in their own abilities.

The specific areas of learning are:-

- **Literacy** – children learn to link sounds to letters and begin to read and write.
- **Mathematics** – children develop their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers and in describing shapes spaces and measures.
- **Understanding the world** – children learn to make sense of the world around them.
- **Expressive arts and design** – children learn to express their thoughts and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

The school plans activities which reflect the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning. These are:-

- **Playing and Exploring** – children investigate, experience things and 'have a go'
- **Active Learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things

Throughout the Foundation Stage the children are monitored using the Early Years Outcomes. A record is kept of each child's development which is shared with parents. Parents can contribute to these observations by recording moments for staff to include in the file. These are moments of particular importance, for example when a child does something for the first time. At the end of the Foundation Stage children are assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals.