

Intent

At St Neot Nursery we intend that our ambitious and innovative curriculum educates all the children in knowledge, skills and understanding, to be effective, inquisitive, curious, independent learners and influence their wider thinking across all areas of the curriculum. Fundamental British and Christian Values are at the heart of our curriculum and everything we do, we focus on promoting the more general concepts within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and understand that the children's development within these areas is key to promoting the values in the long term. We endeavour to give the children the Cultural Capital they need for future success i.e. giving each child the best start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their full potential and achieve future success. We are passionate about creating opportunities for children to communicate more easily through developing language and communication skills and specifically teaching vocabulary. We wish our children to believe in themselves and their abilities and capabilities, to belong to the school learning community and the wider community and to become successful in their academic career and beyond.

It is our intention that children experience the seven areas of learning through a balance of large and small group teaching and play based learning. This is through the children's interests, topics, themes, continuous provision activities, and phonics. Learning is carefully planned by the staff to support communication and language development; personal, social and emotional development; and physical development as well as literacy, mathematics, understanding of the world and expressive arts and design.

Implementation

At St Neot Nursery we encourage children to demonstrate their attitudes and behaviours to learning through the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

Our curriculum is designed to recognise their prior learning by providing first-hand learning experiences and allowing the children to develop interpersonal skills, build resilience and become creative, critical thinkers to enable them to challenge themselves. We ensure the content of the curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners and is taught in a logical progression so that children build on prior learning. We plan through a topic-based approach on an annual basis, but these plans are adapted and amended to address the ever growing and changing needs and interests of all our children.

We understand to maintain high standards of quality first teaching we have to invest in our staff by providing high quality Continued Professional Development (CPD) to match the current needs of the staff and also match the needs of our children. Staff at St Neot School create an environment to match the needs and skill levels of our children and use assessments and gap analysis to inform their planning and the quality provision.

We recognise that language and communication are vital in all areas of a child's development. We welcome children from culturally diverse backgrounds. Communication and language development are therefore a consistent focus. We support children's development by providing a rich language environment, where conversations, singing and sharing stories become a regular part of the children's day.

In addition to Twinkl Phonics Nursery resources we have 'core books' which we read frequently with the children. These books are the type of books that can be re-visited again and again, on different levels to support language development. The idea is that children will develop language and increase vocabulary in addition to gaining a love of books and will become very familiar with these known texts so that they can remember and re-tell them. Our core books are:

Farm 123 – Rod Campbell
Dear Zoo – Rod Campbell
You Choose – Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt
We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen
Brown Bear, Brown Bear – Bill Martin Jnr and Eric Carle
In Wibbly's Garden – Mick Inkpen
The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle
Hairy Mclary's Bone – Lynley Dodd
The Three Little Pigs – Ladybird Books
The Snail and the Whale – Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
The Train Ride – June Crebbin
Come on Daisy – Jane Simmons

We also have 'core rhymes' which support language development. Children chant or sing the rhymes at group and carpet times. By the time the children leave Pre-School they are familiar with each core rhyme. Our core rhymes are:

Twinkle, twinkle little star
Hickory dickory dock
Jack and Jill
Hey diddle diddle
Humpty dumpty
Incy wincy spider
Baa Baa black sheep
Mary Mary quite contrary
I'm a little tea pot
Tommy thumb
12345 once I caught a fish alive

Our Nursery considers the all-round development of children. Our children are immersed in lots of practical, first-hand learning experiences through which they are encouraged to explore, experiment and develop their language. The children use both the indoor and outdoor classroom during teacher directed and child-initiated times. We have a particular love for outdoor learning and each day we go outdoors to learn about our outdoor environment. We offer enhanced outdoor experiences such as Wild Tribe activities led by our qualified Wild Tribe leader. Additionally, throughout the year we organise several exciting activities, outings and visits/visitors to enhance the children's learning.

We believe learning through play is vital, we use the environment to ensure the children's needs are met through continuous provision, enhanced provision and following their interests. They record 'snapshot' evidence of children's learning to build an overall picture and set next steps for learning. Formative assessment takes place within every session and helps staff to identify any children that needs more support to achieve the objective and those that need challenging. This may be

instantaneous if appropriate. Although EYFS has a separate curriculum we are keen to make sure that our children are prepared for the next chapter in their school life.

At St Neot Nursery we believe in a 'happy learning environment for all' and the enjoyment of the curriculum promotes achievement, confidence and good behaviour. Our children feel safe to try new things.

Impact

The broad and balanced curriculum design ensures that the needs of individual children including EAL, SEND and disadvantaged are met. The impact can be seen in a very positive way of children's outcomes. We endeavour for children to be Foundation ready and prepared for the next phase into primary school. We work closely and consistently with the school to ensure a smooth transition into the Foundation class.