



## EYFS at St Helens Primary



Within our early years class, we pride ourselves on providing a broad and rich curriculum tailored to our children's interests. We value the importance of the foundation year and provide a welcoming and interesting environment for all children to flourish within.

### Building positive relationships

Working closely with parents and forming positive relationships is a key factor to a successful year. In the summer term before children are due to start St Helens we offer parent welcome meetings, transition sessions and home visits.

**Welcome meeting:** We hold a parent welcome meeting around May / June time, inviting parents to come in and find out more about their child starting school in September. We invite the school nurse, our catering company (Chartwells) and our SENCO to the meeting to talk about the services they offer and if parents have any questions, they may like to ask. Chartwells also provide refreshments and samples of school dinners during the meeting.

It's also an opportunity to explore the EYFS classroom, discuss the school routine, meet the teachers, and meet other parents with children starting school as well. Our lovely PTA also attend to discuss what they do and provide preloved school uniform, free of charge.

**Transition sessions & Home visits:** Children who attend Pre School at St Helens will already be familiar with visiting our reception classroom, as we start weekly transition sessions in the summer term. We also meet with preschool for events throughout the year. If children are coming from other settings, we hold 3 transition mornings in the summer term, with the last session including lunch. We also provide home visits where our EYFS teachers will come and visit children at their home. We have found home visits to be hugely beneficial in establishing positive working relationships. It gives children and their parents the opportunity to ask any questions, an opportunity for children to show their new teachers things that are important to them and discuss their interests. This then allows teachers to plan for the children's interests and create a smooth transition for September.

**Family fun:** Throughout the year we run half termly family fun sessions which are opportunities for parents / family members to come into school and work with their children in class. Each session will have a different activity and it's a great opportunity to have a look what their child has been doing at school and for children to show case all the fun and exciting things they have been learning about.

**Tapestry:** We use tapestry as a way of keeping parents up to date with what their child has been learning each week in the form of Explorers News. It informs parents of what sounds their child has been learning, the maths focus and all the other exciting activities they have been doing that week. With lots of photos added for parents and children to look at together to aid/ prompt discussions at home about their learning.

We believe in giving children real life experiences to learn from, so we love to get out and about and have lots of visitors come into school as well.

Here are a few of the trips and visitors we have had this year!



Nurse Emma who works at the hospital come to talk to the children all about her job and the children had lots of questions for her too. We also had the oral health team come in and talk about the importance of good oral hygiene. The tooth brushing puppets where a big hit with the class.

## Class Trips



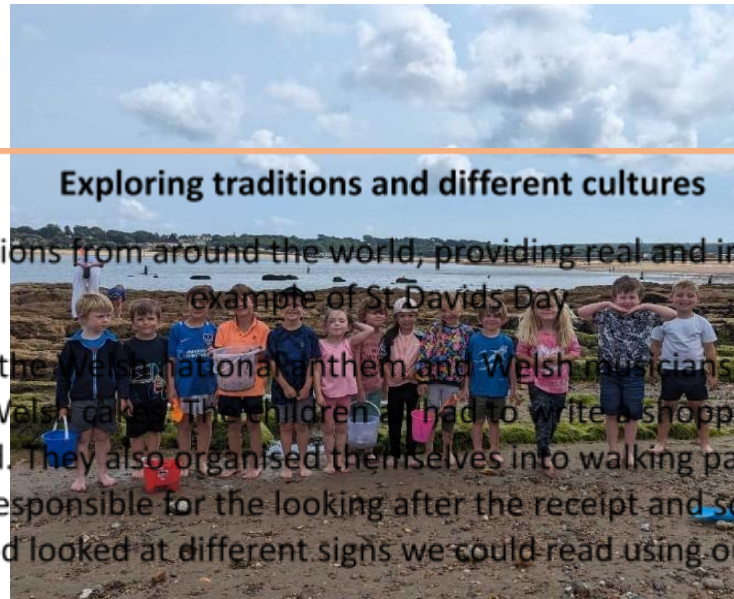
sts in animals and creating a zoo role play area we took a trip to Amazon World. We also had the children look at chicken eggs which led to work on life cycles. After our chicks had hatched, we started to work on this the children took a trip to Butterfly World. Our final trip this year was visiting the sea related work. This then lead nicely on to looking at under the sea related work which the children were very interested in and already had a great understanding of.

life and work of David Attenborough which the class found to be inspirational.

## Exploring traditions and different cultures

We explore many different traditions from around the world, providing real and interactive experiences. Below is one example of St Davids Day.

After a music assembly exploring the Welsh national anthem and Welsh musicians, we walked to the local shop to buy ingredients to make traditional Welsh cakes. The children all had to write a shopping list of ingredients and work out how many coins they might need. They also organised themselves into walking partners and designated jobs such as who would hold the money, be responsible for the looking after the receipt and so on. On our way we also discussed road safety and looked at different signs we could read using our phonics skills.



We promote a love of reading at all times and like to find lots of different opportunities and places to read. We often visit our library bus, which is very exciting, especially when the children who we visit at the beginning of the year and end about different events they may have on. Every year with different year groups, we also come to visit

## Learning Environment

Our learning takes place both inside and outside, with opportunities for investigation, experimenting and problem solving. All activities are embedded with learning opportunities linked to the EYFS curriculum. We provide a mix of adult led and child-initiated learning throughout the day.

