Boston Nursery School

Understanding the World



The Overarching Intent for our Curriculum is 'School Readiness'.

We know that the actual learning of young children is not neat and orderly. For that reason, accurate and proportionate assessment is vital. It helps us to make informed decisions about what each of our children need to learn and be able to do next.

We know how important it is to give our young children multiple opportunities of each of the targets listed below in order to deepen their understanding. We are aware that using 'Food' as a theme provides a powerful engagement hook for our children.





Our Intent for 'Understanding the World' is that all children, no matter what their baseline or first language, will possess the skills required to access their primary school curriculum when they begin in September.

We will guide our children to make sense of their physical world and their community by providing them with a range of experiences. This will increase their knowledge and sense of the world around them. We will perform to parents, explore our local area, meet important members of our society such as police officers, shopworkers and church representatives.

We will introduce our children to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems to foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this will extend our children's familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support reading comprehension as they get older.

[Knowledge] Children will know:

That there are different countries in the world and will be able to talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

That there are some people who help us.

Their position in their family.

Their position in Nursery.

Plants and animals need to be cared for.













There are different materials.

[Skills] Children will be able to:

Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.







Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.

Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.

Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.

Show interest in different occupations.

Explore how things work.







Plant seeds and care for growing plants.

Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.

Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.

Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.

Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.

Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people.