The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This is the Curriculum for children from birth to 5. At All Saints this guides the teaching and learning in Pre-school and in the Foundation Stage Year in Classes Elmer and Gruffalo.

**The EYFS is made up of 4 themes:** The Unique Child, Positive Relationships, The Enabling Environment and Learning and development. These themes are important as they all combine to ensure young children make good, strong progress in their earliest years. This Stage in life is the most important as children’s minds and bodies grow and develop most from birth to age 4.

In Learning and Development there are 7 Areas of learning which the curriculum is organised into to make sure children make all round development in this important stage.

Read on to find more details about each area of learning and how children learn in the Foundation Stage.

*All Saints: all learning, all growing, altogether.*
The Seven Areas of Learning: Further Detail

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- Involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

**Physical Development**
- Involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

**Communication and Language Development**
- Involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

**Literacy Development**
- Involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

**Mathematics**
- Involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

**Understanding the World**
- Involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

**Expressive Arts and Design**
- Involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

**Making relationships**
- **Self confidence and self-awareness**
- **Managing feelings and behaviour**

**Moving and Handling**
- **Health and self-care**

**Listening and attention**
- **Understanding**
- **Speaking**

**Reading**
- **Writing**

**Numbers**
- **Shape, space and measure**

**People and communities**
- **The World**
- **Technology**

**Exploring and using media and materials**
- **Being imaginative**

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How Children learn in the EYFS At All Saints

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a period of education from 0 – 5 years. In our Foundation class the children learn the skills needed to become strong, confident individuals who are capable of learning and achieving through positive relationships, enabling environments and an understanding that every child is unique.

The children are introduced to new ideas and further thinking through the seven Areas of Learning and Development:

The first three are known as the Prime Areas (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development) and develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences. These support and scaffold the four Specific Areas (Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design) which include essential skills and knowledge to ensure that children have the best possible start to their learning journey.

These skills, experiences and learning opportunities are presented to the children through meaningful play contexts and adult-led activities which ensure that each child has the opportunity to play and explore in an active and engaging environment that allows them to be creative, think critically and take risks to achieve more.

At All Saints, children follow the EYFS in their Foundation Year. This will be spent in Class Gruffalo, or Class Elmer. Through interactive learning children follow the curriculum areas to build up key basic skills in the seven areas of learning. Teachers very carefully observe children to understand what they can do, how children are learning well and use this information to plan the next steps in their learning. Whenever possible the children’s interests are used to inspire and engage deep learning. Learning takes place indoors and outdoors, in all weathers and teaching can be direct in small or large groups, guided by the teacher or sometimes independent in response to a specific task or learning opportunity. These lessons and learning opportunities are planned to ensure children can apply their basic skills confidently and prepare them for the later stages of schooling in year 1.

Learning experiences and interests children have outside school are very important, especially those they share with parents and carers. These experience promote deep learning and hold great value for children as they experience new learning with those they are closest too. To help your child to learn the best they can in the Foundation Stage we really encourage partnership work. Please tell us how your child is learning at home, what they enjoy doing, and any new learning moments they have so we can build in this in school. Likewise we aim to share with you the developments your child makes as they progress well through the Foundation stage at All Saints.