



CHARLETON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



Start Point Class 2021-2022

Spring Term Curriculum Overview

Welcome to Start Point Class!

The children have a wonderful term of adventure, activities and learning awaiting them! Keep reading to see what we will be up to over the coming weeks!

Pack your bags - we're off to travel the world!

As we enter another exciting new year, we decided that a worldwide tour is just what we needed! Why only think about life here in the United Kingdom, when you can compare it to the lives of children across the world! We will be visiting Peru, Argentina, Poland, Spain and India along the way, and I am sure many more stops will be added to our world tour! We will be exploring the food, culture, traditions, games, environments and animals of each country as we travel and we would love to invite our parents in to share some of their stories, photos, memories and maybe some recipes or food from their home countries!

Our tour begins with a chance meeting with a rare bear found at Paddington Station. The classic tale of Paddington Bear and his arrival in London will form the basis of our British Values learning this term.

Our learning this term is based upon a range of high-quality texts that will expose the children to a rich range of language and vocabulary, enhanced by stunning illustrations, allowing the children to become lost in truly stunning stories as they explore the world.

The children will adore the breathtaking learning opportunities and experiences planned for this term which will leave them wanting more!



The Prime Areas: putting in solid foundations

During the Spring term, we reflect back on the fabulous foundations the children develop in their Prime Areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Communication and Language (CL) and Physical Development (PD). The Prime Areas underpin every other aspect of a child's development and learning throughout their Reception year and beyond. In Start Point, we ensure that these foundation elements are strong and well developed enabling them to learn to soar through a successful lifetime of learning.

PSED

PSED underpins and flows throughout all our learning in Start Point, helping us to learn and play alongside our friends. We will continue to strengthen our understanding and respect of others, as well as how we can diffuse difficult situations in a calm and fair way.

As a class, we continue to refer to and use the Class Charter we wrote in September, helping us to show the fabulous learning behaviours we are famous for in Start Point. The children have several opportunities on a daily basis to undertake roles of responsibility, whether they are in charge of the register, pouring our milk or acting as Tidy Up Monitor.

Communication & Language

The children are taught in a language rich environment, exposing them to a plethora of vocabulary and explanations that help to deepen their learning and thinking. This area covers the skills of listening, speaking and thinking about their use of language. This is a key priority and we plan opportunities on a daily basis to enhance every child's Communication and Language.

Physical Development

In Start Point we provide numerous daily opportunities for the children to develop their coordination, control, and movement. The children will develop their fine motor skills through activities such as Finger Gym challenges, regular scissor, brush and pencil control activities. We will also develop gross motor skills through ball control, simple gymnastic movements and coordination in our daily PE sessions. In Start Point, we help children to understand the importance of a range of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Exploring and Understanding the World Around Us

We are extremely lucky that our school is set in such a beautiful position overlooking a patchwork of fields and the river. Every other week we have a Forest School session with Mr Moore. These opportunities allow the children to engage with and explore the local area, it's the fields and hedgerows as well as visiting the wonderful world that is on our doorstep. We also learn how to manage risk safely, learning how to light fires, use saws and drills and climb trees.



Our Forest School sessions not only allow the children to learn about nature and their environment, but also support the children's Communication and Language development by encouraging them to explain and reason their ideas and thoughts.

Exploring the diverse society in which we live is a big part of life in Start Point. We have weekly sessions that explore different elements of religion and world views, as well as cultural elements of different communities around the world. We will be learning about Chinese New Year, St David's Day, Lent, and Easter.

Mathematics

The children are supported to engage in a range of learning opportunities that allow them to demonstrate and explain their understanding of early mathematical concepts. The children will further develop their recognition of a range of numerals around the learning environment. We will use a range of practical, real life problems to draw out the children's thinking when it comes to early addition, subtraction and sharing. The children will be encouraged to record their mathematical thinking in a way that is meaningful to them.



We will also explore a range of simple 2D and 3D shapes, as well as investigating basic measure using everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money.

Literacy

Literacy in Reception is focused on the immersion of the children in a language rich environment, securing their enjoyment and engagement with the written and spoken word.

We read a variety of high quality texts, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as exploring some of our favourite stories. The children will be introduced to aspects of narrative writing through the use of Story Bags. This allows the children to explore character, plot and setting in a fun way.



Phonics is taught using *Read, Write Inc.*, supporting the children's awareness of sound and early phonological awareness. The children will be encouraged to mark make and write throughout their Learning Play and through a range of learning opportunities. We will also be teaching cursive handwriting through our daily Phonics sessions in fun and engaging ways.

Expressive Art & Design



In EAD, we will investigate and experiment with a range of drawing, painting and construction materials. We will explore and experiment with a range of sculpture, especially inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy. The children will be introduced to simple colour techniques, including colour mixing, printing and batik. We will also learn about artists and some of the techniques they used to create their art.

Christian Distinctiveness

Through our daily Acts of Worship, we will reflect on how we demonstrate our Christian values in school and within our local and world communities. We also weave our Christian values into the children's learning opportunities and activities.

Family Group Acts of Worship

Each week, the children will join their friends in their Family Group to deepen their understanding of the themes covered in our whole school Acts of Worship. These sessions offer a wonderful opportunity for all children to come together and work collaboratively as a family.



Home Learning in Start Point Class

We value the support that parents and families provide from home. It enriches your child's learning and helps them achieve the best that they can.

In Start Point Class, we send home weekly maths home learning in the form of either a maths game or online *NumBots* activity for you to play with your child. These opportunities are designed and chosen to promote their enjoyment and engagement with early mathematics. We also send a range of books home weekly and some fun phonics activities to support their budding enthusiasm for the written word. Occasionally, we may set an investigation or experiment for you to try together at home!

Regular reading is of HUGE importance to the literacy and social development of our young children. In the early days of school, it is vital that the children are not pushed to read, their love of books is the most important thing. You can support your child's reading at home by encouraging them to:

- Name any sounds they recognise, such as the ones they see in their name.
- Ask them to predict the ending to the story and explain why.
- Ask questions to help them understand and enjoy the story.
- Listen to a wide variety of pleasurable books.
- Continue to read a variety of stories to your child so that they are hearing a variety of story language and develop a love of reading.
- Don't forget bedtime stories are still important too!