



## Wentworth Primary School

### Foundational Knowledge in the Early Years

At Wentworth Primary School, we believe that the Early Years is a unique and precious stage in which children build the foundations that will carry them through their education and beyond. Our EYFS curriculum is designed to develop the core skills Ofsted highlight as essential for long-term success: communication and language, early reading and writing, mathematics, physical development, personal and social development, understanding the world and expressive arts. These areas are not taught in isolation but are woven together through purposeful play, high-quality interactions and carefully planned teaching.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Personal, social and emotional development underpins children's wellbeing and their ability to learn successfully with others. We teach emotional literacy from the start, helping children name and understand their feelings. The Colour Monster supports our conversations around regulation, and adults model calm, respectful interactions throughout the day. We foster independence, turn-taking, resilience and empathy through play, small-group work and daily routines. Children quickly develop a strong sense of belonging, trust and confidence, helping them flourish socially and emotionally.

#### **Language and Communication Skills**

Communication and language sits at the heart of everything we do. Children learn best when they are immersed in rich talk, story language and meaningful conversation. Our staff use the SHREC approach to support high-quality interactions, taking time to share attention, hold conversations, respond sensitively, expand language and check understanding. By tuning into children's interests and modelling new vocabulary naturally in play, we help them develop confidence, fluency and the ability to speak in full, well-structured sentences. These early language skills underpin learning in every curriculum area.

#### **Accurate and Fluent Reading**

Reading begins with a strong foundation in phonics and a deep love of stories. We follow a systematic synthetic phonics programme with fidelity, ensuring that children learn to blend, segment and recognise graphemes accurately from the very start of Reception. Alongside daily phonics, children are exposed to a rich diet of storybooks, poems and rhymes that nourish imagination and extend vocabulary. Through repeated storytelling, book talk and quality shared reading, children develop the comprehension, curiosity and early reading behaviours that prepare them for lifelong literacy.

### **Composition Skills, Accurate Spelling and Legible and Fluent Handwriting**

Writing develops gradually, beginning with oral storytelling, mark-making and growing control of the hand. We ensure writing is meaningful, joyful and rooted in purpose across the day.

They learn to write simple words and phrases using their phonics knowledge, and as their transcription becomes more accurate and fluent, their confidence as young writers increases.

We teach handwriting explicitly from the first weeks of Reception through the Little Wandle Handwriting Programme. Children develop correct pencil grip, posture and letter formation through clear modelling, daily routines and carefully sequenced lessons. We place particular emphasis on pencil control, as accurate handwriting relies on strong hand and finger muscles. Children learn the nip, flip and grip technique, practise correct tripod grip and use triangular pencils to support early control.

### **Mathematical Knowledge**

Our maths curriculum combines the clear progression of the White Rose framework with the developmental understanding promoted by the NCETM. Children are taught maths every day through short, focused sessions that build strong number sense, deep understanding of quantity and confident use of mathematical vocabulary. They explore number, pattern, shape and measure through hands-on activities, stories, manipulatives and real-life experiences. The learning environment supports independent exploration, helping children make connections and explain their thinking with increasing clarity. By the end of Reception, they have secure foundations that prepare them well for Year 1.

### **Physical Development**

Physical development is a key strength of our EYFS curriculum. Children have daily opportunities to build both gross-motor and fine-motor skills through climbing, running, balancing, dough work, threading, construction and creative tasks.