

foster a feeling of belonging to both their school and the wider community. As part of this learning, the children will be sharing special memories, talking about their families, and exploring the roles of real-life heroes in our community, such as the police, fire service, doctors, dentists, the RNLI, and guide dogs. We hope to invite some of these real-life superheroes into school so the children can meet them and learn more about the important jobs they do in our local area. Our role-play areas are always linked to the current topic to encourage children to engage in real-life experiences. This term, our role-play areas include a baby clinic and a home corner, where children can explore caring for others, communication skills, and everyday routines through imaginative play. We aim to begin daily phonics, maths, reading, and writing sessions once the baseline assessments are completed.

Reading and Phonics

We teach daily phonics sessions where the children learn a new letter sound each day, as well as tricky words. They are also taught how to blend and segment sounds when reading and writing, using games and computer-based activities. Each child will receive their own **phonics folder**, which contains targeted sounds and tricky words. This folder will come home weekly for you to practise with your child. Our main reading scheme is Bug Club, which provides books carefully matched to the sounds your child is learning. Your child will receive a new reading book each week. You will find your child's Bug Club password in their reading record. This will give you access to online books and games to support reading at home. In addition to this, the children will choose a new library book each week to share with you.

Maths

In Early Years, our approach to maths is practical, hands-on, and fun. We use real-life experiences and concrete resources, such as counters, cubes, number lines, and natural materials to help children explore number, shape, space, and measure in meaningful ways. The focus is on developing a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including counting forwards and backwards, recognising numerals, and matching quantities to numbers. We also work on comparing groups of objects, spotting patterns, and using everyday mathematical language to describe what we see. Children are introduced to key concepts such as subitising number composition, doubling, halving, and early number. These early skills build the foundation for confident and fluent mathematicians in

The Early Years Curriculum

At Otford, we are passionate about ensuring a happy and confident start to each child's learning journey. From day one, we promote independence where children are encouraged to take responsibility for their belongings, follow simple daily routines, and begin to develop strong organisational skills. These are essential building blocks that support their confidence and self-esteem as they grow. In the Early Years, we place a strong emphasis on learning through play. Our environment is carefully designed to provide high-quality, play experiences through Continuous Provision, a range of activities and resources that children can access independently. This child-led approach allows them to explore, investigate, and make choices in their learning, which builds curiosity, creativity, and resilience. Through these experiences, children will begin to develop the skills outlined in the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum**, which focuses on seven key areas of learning:

Dates for your Diary

Phonics Workshop: Friday 25th September 2.30pm

Harvest Festival Date TBC

Visit to Otford Library TBC

Diwali The Festival of Lights: Friday 6th November