



Early Years Foundation Stage OVERVIEW

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5, at the end of their time in Reception. This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. At Lady Bankes Primary School we aim for your child's early years experience to be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and to support their development, care and learning needs.

At Lady Bankes Primary School we follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework sets out 7 areas of learning and development which support your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge. We use these 7 areas to track your child's progress throughout the EYFS. The document sets out Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals (ELGs)".

How my child will be learning

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first.



These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.



These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. Our team at Lady Banks will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's individual needs.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. We support your child's learning in both our inside and outside classrooms with a range of activities that support and value many different learning styles.

Throughout their time in Lady Banks Primary School your child will be supported and tracked to ensure that they continue to learn and grow. We will update you at regular intervals and have regular conversations to enable us to work together as your child progresses throughout the EYFS. We highly value the support and communication of parents so that we can work together to develop your child's learning and celebrate their achievements. When your child is at the end of the EYFS -in the summer term of the reception year in school- we complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teachers and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.



What do our days at Lady Bankes Primary School look like?

Nursery

Our days in Nursery are very busy.

We offer a flexible start time (known as 'soft start') that allows for parents to accompany their child into the setting and share in their child's play or learning while they settle them. This also provides an ideal chance to have an informal chat or exchange of information with your child's key worker. We are very proud of the relationships that our team build with the families of our children and highly value this two way communication.

From here we fill your child's day with a mixture of both adult led and child initiated learning opportunities both within the inside and outside learning environments. We have a large nursery with space for 45 children at each morning and afternoon sessions. As part of our provision we offer 30 hour places for the children of working parents. Our environment supports plenty of opportunities for your child to learn and grow in their own way.

Throughout the year your child will be taught a range of subjects and subject areas including speaking & listening, phonics and mathematical skills as we follow the EYFS curriculum. We encourage and support your child to develop at their own pace and we take great pride as they start to flourish and grow. We also value the importance of supporting your child's independence and social skills and work together to with the children to understand the rules and boundaries that assist and support relationships and indeed friendships.



Reception

At Lady Bankes Primary School we have three classes for Reception with close links between them. All three classes follow a shared curriculum and have exposure and access to the same opportunities. The school day is divided into separate blocks of learning where the children build their skills towards being able to meet the end of year expectations of the EYFS curriculum. We provide a balance between teacher led activities and child initiated learning and we aim to provide an exciting and stimulating curriculum with lots of opportunities to develop independent thinking and creativity.



By offering wide ranging learning opportunities we cater for many different learning styles. This can be seen by the daily teaching of phonics and our teaching of maths. Both these skills are reinforced through outdoor teaching sessions that deliver the same learning but are approached in a totally different way. We value each child as an individual and are proud of the way we support every child to reach their full potential.

Within our Reception classes we aim to support all areas of the children's interests and strengths and to build happy and enthusiastic learners as they move throughout the school.

All the children share a large outdoor classroom where they can join together in their learning and exploring. The outside area is used every day, whatever the weather, to deliver focused teacher led activities and independent learning. We are very proud of the imagination and creativity that we often witness when supporting children's learning outside. For example the children recently started to use some guttering and cars to build their own ramps. This led to a fantastic discussion about how to make the cars go further. There was lots of language about the angle of the ramp, the length of the ramp or whether it was simply a case of having to push the cars harder!

By supporting and strengthening these building blocks in our EYFS we aim to lay firm foundations for your child's education as they move in to key stage 1.

