

Welcome to Eardisley CE Primary School

Eardisley CE Primary School is unique and special, offering a strong tradition of Christian values, a world-class curriculum and the highest of educational standards. In attending Eardisley CE Primary School, your child is attending one of the top performing schools in the whole of the country!

We want your child to enjoy coming to school, and to enjoy learning with us. We believe that happy children learn best and so we strive to provide a safe environment that has secure routines as well as lots of FUN!

Our Early Years provision is among the best. The class teacher and teaching assistant are both very experienced in supporting and caring for young children. Miss Evans, our teacher, is a lead professional in our county of Herefordshire.

The curriculum for this foundation year is broad, well balanced and child-centered. A great deal of learning takes place through play, with learning opportunities woven into children's interests and learning needs. The school's Christian values are reinforced in all that we do and RE is taught as a separate subject. The routine is flexible and can change according to opportunities as they arise. Our outdoor area has been specifically developed with the needs of our young children in mind and children are encouraged to spend as much time as possible learning and exploring safely outdoors.

At Eardisley CE Primary School every Reception child has an older 'Buddy' who looks out for them on the playground, supports them and generally becomes a special friend.

All the children and parents love this aspect of our work, and it helps create our special and very caring ethos.



In the Reception year, your child will have a folder entitled My Learning Journey. This will be a record of your child's achievement, shown through notes, pieces of work and photographs. This is a working document that is to be shared with you at all times and for you to add in your own comments. During the course of the year we will discuss your child's progress at our termly parents' evenings and we will also share with you a written report of your child's progress and development in the summer term.

We believe that the best for your child can be achieved through a partnership between home and school. We want to learn more about your child from you, and to discuss the ways in which you can help and encourage your child in all aspects of education. We are always available to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

In their Reception year, the children work within The Early Years Foundation Stage. The curriculum covers seven areas of learning, three prime areas and four specific areas:

Personal, social and emotional development

Personal Social and Emotional Development is recognised as one of the building blocks for success in life. It supports children's development by helping them to interact effectively and develop positive attitudes to themselves and others. Along with parents and carers, we place great emphasis on helping children to develop:

- Positive dispositions and attitudes.
- Self-confidence and self awareness.
- The ability to form positive relationships.
- Good behaviour and self control.
- Self care.
- A sense of community.



Christian Values

At Eardisley CE Primary School we embrace a values-based approach, providing children with the skills for life! Children learn to be fantastic thinkers, brilliant at making relationships and are thoroughly engaged in their own learning. As they learn about themselves and their world, they develop the skills with which to successfully encounter life. We discuss and focus on values month by month in our assemblies and lessons and this helps even the youngest children to develop their characters successfully.

Physical Development

At this stage children are growing and learning how to move with coordination and control and practising how to use tools and materials they need for writing, drawing, cutting etc. We provide opportunities for children to be as active and interactive as possible so as to develop these fundamental skills.



Communication and Language

At Eardisley CE Primary School we give opportunities for all children to communicate in a wide range of situations, to respond to adults and to each other, to practise and extend the range of vocabulary and communication skills they use and to listen carefully. Our learning environment is developed to allow children the opportunity to experience a rich language and to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves.



Literacy

Soon after your child starts school he or she will be given a reading book and a reading record. There will be a brief note about the record in the front but essentially it is a link between home and school. We use the diary to make a comment about your child's reading progress and we encourage you to record your comments too.

Unless your child is already reading, a selection of books to share at home will be sent at first. Often the books will have been read at school and are intended for the children to talk about, follow a simple story, join in with repeated words and know that the print has meaning. It is a good idea to point out and run your finger under the words as you read.

Children often memorise books or try to 'read' in their own words. Don't worry – these are normal stages some children go through before they are ready to put other reading skills into practise. The most important thing is to make reading pleasurable. Continue to read other books with your child and make time for this when it is quiet and cosy!

When children are ready to read for themselves they will bring home a selection of reading books. Very soon after starting school, we will start to learn some new sounds and practise how to write letters. They will bring home letter sounds to try and remember.

From time to time, children may bring other books home to read in order to try reading skills in a different context. Some children like to bring a 'bedtime' book for you to read or they may bring a library book home. These are a variety of fiction and non-fiction books.

When your child reads, talk about the book first. Look at the title, the pictures and perhaps even read the book first. If your child stumbles over a word try different ways of getting it right e.g. what does the word begin with, try to sound out the word, read the sentence without the word to see what might fit, look for a clue in the picture. It may be appropriate to just tell your child what the word is. Don't let your child feel he or she is failing and that reading is a chore. Afterwards, talk about the book or ask what might happen next in the story.

Children are encouraged to write straight away, even if it is just mark making. They are also introduced to common words and learn how to put these into simple sentences. Adults 'model' writing and gradually encourage the children to attempt their own. When your child writes at home, be encouraging even if the writing doesn't make sense to others. Ask your child what they have written and point out parts which are particularly pleasing, such as where there is an attempt at letter formation.



Mathematics

We need maths every day of our lives. In school maths takes different forms. It is essential, of course, that children can count and recognise numbers and then go on to the solving of problems using the four rules $+$ $-$ \times \div . These must be related to everyday activities for them to have real meaning and it is necessary for children to be proficient in 'mental' arithmetic.

In the beginning it is necessary that children can use and understand mathematical language e.g. bigger than, next to, above, full, empty etc.

Children need to be able to match, sort, sequence and recognise simple patterns. Number rhymes and games can help children to understand the sequence up and down of number, of adding, taking away, counting in twos etc.

Children will also have experience of recognising shapes, particularly in the environment of simple measuring and weighing and of using money all within a context.



Understanding of the

world When children start school they are encouraged to examine and explore their world through their senses, to ask questions and investigate why, how and what things are. At school children will learn about different people and communities through celebrations and experiences. Some of the learning opportunities that arise could also include scientific investigations such as how things move, differences in materials and their uses or investigating growth through plants and animals.



Expressive arts and design

Children have many opportunities to be creative in 2D and 3D activities, music, dance, drama and design. Children will learn to experiment and change their own ideas as well as using what they have learnt to express themselves through art, music, dance, role play and stories.



Parental Involvement

You are an *essential* part of your child's educational success and we encourage close involvement of parents all the way! You will be supporting your child in developing a love of learning, and an inquisitive and enquiring approach. As well as this, you will be encouraging the swift growth of basic skills in speaking and listening, reading, writing and maths by activities that you do at home together. We want to learn more about your children from you, and to discuss ways in which you can help and encourage your child in all aspects of their education.

Some things your child will need:

Clothes

- Eardisley polo shirt and sweatshirt.
- Grey trousers (or shorts) or skirt.
- Sensible shoes.
- Sun hat for hot weather.
- Eardisley PE kit and trainers or pumps.

Food

- A plastic bottle filled with fresh water daily (no squash please).
- A packed lunch or school dinner order.
- Your child will be able to have a piece of fruit, and milk each day if you wish.

Equipment is all provided by us, including a Reading Bag, which your child will receive before starting school with us to help to get them school-ready!