**Early Years Curriculum at Kilby St. Mary's**

At Kilby St. Mary's we pride ourselves on creating strong, caring and personal relationships with all our children and their families. We provide an exciting and varied curriculum, with lots of opportunities to learn through play, interaction and exploration. This ensures a secure foundation on which to build each child's individual learning and development journey and allows each child to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

We use the seven areas of learning and development in the EYFS statutory framework to shape the educational programmes we offer in our early years setting. These areas of learning and development are inter-connected and much of the learning that takes place involves multiple areas of development.

The seven areas of learning are:

**Prime areas**
These three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving. These are:
• communication and language
• physical development
• personal, social and emotional development

**Specific areas**
These four areas strengthen and apply the prime areas. These are:
• literacy
• mathematics
• understanding the world
• expressive arts and design

# Science provision in EYFS

Science provision in our EYFS is covered in the 'Understanding the World' area of the statutory framework for EYFS.

We encourage the children to understand the world around them through observation, exploration, investigation, raising questions, prediction, discussion and evaluation. This involves providing opportunities to use their senses to gather information about materials and processes and changes. We encourage an inquisitive, hands on approach and develop a wide and rich vocabulary that allows each child to express what they are observing and experiencing.

We use Kapow to provide regular adult led sessions. In addition to the topics covered through Kapow, science in the EYFS has many cross-curricular links and activities. For example, weight and measurement in maths; healthy eating and active lifestyles in PD and PSED; exploring materials in EAD and developing fine motor skills in PD (play dough, clay, cutting skills).
Many scientific explorations are happening daily throughout continuous provision where an adult is supporting investigation and exploration. For example - water play; using different materials in mud kitchen; sand play – the effects of adding water the change the building qualities of sand; the effects of different surfaces or different gradients on moving objects such as cars.

Children in Reception will be learning to:

- Explore the natural world around them
- Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside
- Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

Assessment is ongoing and integral to the child's learning and development process and then shapes the teaching and learning experiences offered. We use Evidence Me to capture ongoing observations of the child's learning to support our understanding of each child's learning journey.

At the final term of the EYFS year the **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile** (EYFSP) is completed for each child. It measures the child's learning and development against the **Early Learning Goals** (ELG). This provides parents and carers, practitioners and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their attainment against expected levels, and their readiness for year 1.

**ELG: The Natural World**

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants;
- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.