

End of year goal: The children will be curious, motivated independent learners, confident to ask questions, investigate and explore own ideas and interests.

Care

Throughout the year the curriculum focuses on the importance of caring for others, ourselves and the environment. In addition to this, the academy promotes and teaches caring for others through Pupil Parliament, PSHE sessions, playground friends, reading buddies, working with others, taking turns and sharing, negotiating play, understanding and following rules of games, teaching children to care and protect our own bodies, understanding why exercise is important, exploring real life superheroes, caring for our environment with dedicated Eco Warriors and studying ocean pollution.

Respect

Children begin to build on their knowledge of different faiths, cultures and customs. They will learn about celebrations from around the world including: Harvest, Christmas, Diwali, Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday and Easter. Children are given opportunities to identify and respect similarities and differences between the lives of others and their own. Reading stories that reflect the pupils cultural and religious backgrounds and heritage.

Opportunities to build on prior learning:

Teachers will complete Nursery visits where possible and receive transition reports. Baseline assessments will be formed through observations of structured and self initiated activities. These will inform planning and future teaching.

Stretch and Challenge

Teaching is matched to the unique needs of each child. Carefully planned, inspiring learning opportunities build on prior knowledge and skills. The characteristics of effective learning drive teaching and learning opportunities. Children are challenged through ambitious, flexible and comprehensive planning; targeted questioning, focus group interventions and open ended challenges.

Pound Hill Infant Academy

Reception Curriculum

Learning Theme: "Thinkers"

Reception's learning journey primarily focuses on people and solving problems.

The children begin the year by understanding what makes them special and unique. The children then use their knowledge and skills to solve problems and mysteries.

The focus then moves to superheroes, both fictional and everyday heroes.

The final two terms give the children the opportunity to begin seeing themselves as global citizens by understanding their role in protecting animals and the oceans. This theme is further developed in Year One.

First hand experiences, opportunities to investigate, foster curiosity and creative responses:

Opportunities are generated across the academy with three enrichment weeks (Core value week, STEM and Location Location Location.) 'Stunning starts' are carefully planned to launch each topic and generate excitement and learning for the topic ahead. 'Marvelous Middles' are used to join the learning journey together and 'Fabulous Finishes' celebrate success and showcase the pupils learning.

All learning opportunities are driven by hands on learning experiences. Children are regularly given opportunities to generate curiosity and discussion in a range of ways, including: receiving a superhero box with clues to the character they are investigating; meeting real life superheroes and asking questions that interest them; receiving letters from fictional characters and solving problems to help them; receiving a mystery box to launch a topic or following trails to rescue a character. The pupils will also participate in off site trips which may include the Sealife Centre and Tilgate park.

Independence

Children are encouraged to become independent in all areas of their life, this includes: personal hygiene, changing clothes, organising belongings, knowing their way around the Academy, selecting resources and initiating play. Learning and Investigating time enables children to follow their own lines of enquiry and interest. Children drive their own learning and are encouraged to share their own unique ideas through problem solving activities. Children are given lots of opportunities to talk about their family and themselves.

Success

Successes are celebrated throughout our Academy using daily, weekly and termly role model awards; developing a Growth Mindset by growing our brains; 'filling our buckets'; receiving tokens of recognition; talking to other adults and taking on responsibilities. Where possible, parents are invited to share success, this might include: showcasing learning achievements (in person or virtually), art galleries, classroom museums and observing debates. Children's awards will also be emailed to parents and carers.

Perseverance

Children are encouraged to adopt a 'have a go' approach to new and exciting experiences. They begin to develop their own unique learning style and sustain concentration during activities. Through independent learning, children are encouraged to challenge themselves and find different ways to achieve a desired outcome.