

# Welcome to Early Years!



# THE NEW SCHOOL ROME

## **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Early Years is where it all begins, where children learn to be part of a larger community and develop the skills and dispositions that are the foundation for future learning. It is about discovery and exploration, having fun and making friends.

We believe that children's first experience of school should be a happy and positive one, so we work closely with parents to make the transition from home to school as smooth as possible. Daily routines provide a reassuring structure.

Older and younger children work together in one larger group; older ones learn to take responsibility, and explain, the younger ones learn from them. The atmosphere is caring and familiar, and all children are valued, stimulated and supported as individuals.

Learning is fun. It takes place in the moment through play and is facilitated and extended by all teachers through questioning or adding to the learning environment. Children learn through both play and some structured activities, which are both child initiated and adult led, indoors and outside.

We follow the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. There are seven areas of learning and development that shape our curriculum. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Our curriculum is divided into 7 Areas of learning.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

These are the prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The specific areas are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

## ***What is Early Years?***

At the New School, Early Years consists of the two years of school before Year 1. Our 3 to 4 year olds are the Caterpillars (Early Years 1) and the 4 to 5 year olds are the Butterflies (Early Years 2). Each teacher is responsible for a particular group. Natasha is responsible for the Caterpillars and Jana for the Butterflies.

However, all the children are part of one Early Years group, housed in a large room and outdoor space. There are two full time class teachers, a teaching assistant plus part time support for EAL. Our daily routines, social times, play, creative and topic based activities involve the whole group. This benefits all the children as the older ones gain confidence through helping and guiding the younger children whilst the younger ones are supported by and learn from the older ones.

Having the two groups together also gives us the opportunity to adapt learning to individual children's needs; supporting or extending as necessary. For group time, a more structured teacher led activity based on various topics such as Literacy, Maths or Understanding the world, the Caterpillars and Butterflies work separately with their respective teacher.

Children need to be thinking, be motivated and engaged in order to learn effectively. In Early Years we aim to develop these Characteristics of Effective learning to give children the ability to learn each day from their environment, experiences and activities at school and beyond.

A typical day in Early Years may look like this.

- Transition time, water bottles, book bags
- Self registration (tracing or writing their name)
- Child initiated learning (closely supervised and supported by adults)
- Good Morning and Adult Led Group Time ( counting, personal, social and emotional development, speaking and listening skills and understanding the world)
- Phonics/Letters and Sounds (Adult -Led Activities),
- Snack and Outdoor Play time
- Music or Maths Activities
- Child initiated Play, observations and small group adult supported activities
- Story , Lunch and Early Years garden play
- Quiet time , listening to Audio stories and Music
- Play and Child initiated learning including Understanding the world and topic based activities
- Group Time: Fruit and Show and Tell
- Home Time

## **Settling - in - Programme**

In order to make your child's start in Early Years as smooth and calm as possible, we have devised a gradual settling-in programme, outlined below.

In grouping the children we consider their age and previous school/ day-care experience. Children will come to school full time once we observe that they are ready.

The children are divided into 4 groups, below

Butterflies Red: Early Years 2 children returning to us

Butterflies Yellow: New Early Years 2 children

Caterpillars Blue: Early Years 1 children who have been in full time school/day-care

Caterpillars Green: Early Years 1 children with part time or no previous school/ day-care experience.

## **Readiness**

We want your child to have a positive start to school, so it is important that they are ready for what we can offer. This settling in programme suits most children, although we have found that a few require a little extra time to be ready for full time school. If you feel your child would benefit from a more gradual settling in period, please let us know and we will be happy to discuss this with you.

In evaluating readiness we will consider whether each child:

- separates happily and enjoys being at school
- copes with daily routines and changes
- behaves appropriately in the setting
- is forming positive relationships with adults and peers
- copes physically with the environment
- is sufficiently independent in eating, changing etc.
- is **fully** toilet trained!

**2022/23**

**Week 1 (Tuesday 6th September)**

Butterflies Red full time 8.30 to 3.30

Butterflies Yellow mornings 8.30 to 1.00

**Week 2 (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September)**

Butterflies Red full time 8.30 to 3.30

Butterflies Yellow full time 8.30 to 3.30\*

Caterpillars Blue 8.30-12.00

Caterpillars Green 10.30 -12.00

**Week 3 (Monday 19th September)**

Caterpillars Blue 8.30-1.00 (with lunch)\*

Caterpillars Green 8.30 -12.00\*

**Week 4 (Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September)**

Caterpillars Blue full time 8.30 to 3.30\*

Caterpillars Green 8.30 -1.00 (with lunch)\*

**Week 5 (Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October)**

Everyone full time \*

**N.B. \*If ready**

## **KIT LIST**

**Please could you bring the following on THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

**These will stay at school.**

- 1.Small Bag with 2 full changes of clothes    2. Boots**



- 3. A pair of crocs    4. A pillow/cushion and thin blanket in a special sealed bag**



- 5. A waterproof jacket and overalls    6. Sun hat and sunscreen  
And mosquito spray**





**The office also requires the following BEFORE your child begins school.....**

1. Copy of child's Birth Certificate or passport
2. Copy of child's Codice Fiscale
3. Copy of vaccination certificates
4. Medical certificate for school sport (certificato di idoneita' sportiva per attivita' ludiche) available from pediatrician, needs to be renewed yearly
5. Doctor's letter for any allergies/ medical conditions
6. Copy of ID of any people other than parents who will pick up children

### **Communication**

We value our relationship with parents and rely on your input and support. Although we see most of you most days, and have several designated meetings throughout the year, we also use the following to help us keep in touch.

1. Blue contact book (lives in the book bag ) to keep track of reading books. You can also write messages here as we check it every morning.
2. Email for longer messages

[natasha@newschoolrome.com](mailto:natasha@newschoolrome.com) or [jana@newschoolrome.com](mailto:jana@newschoolrome.com) (class messages)

[info@newschoolrome.com](mailto:info@newschoolrome.com) for office / administrative matters

## Learning Journeys

We record your child's learning in a special book called a Learning Journey. It contains photographs, observations and comments from teachers, the child and parents. It will be sent home each term, following parent- teacher meetings.

To start off your child's learning journey, we would like some information from home! Please complete the following and return it to us.

Thank you!



## **Important information about your child**

In order to gain a better understanding of your child, it is really helpful to know about their development and experiences from 0 to 3. Please could you fill out the questionnaire, below.

All information is confidential and will be used only for the purpose outlined above, in line with the school's policy on privacy (GDPR).

Child's Name

D.O.B

Was your child born at full term?

Were there any complications with pregnancy or birth?

Have you ever been concerned about your child's development ?(eg speech, movement, walking, sleeping, toileting, behaviour etc)

If so, have there been any interventions?  
(Please attach any relevant documentation)

Does your child suffer from any illnesses or allergies?  
If so, please specify

Is your child on any medication?  
If so, please give details

Have they suffered from any significant illnesses in the past?  
If so, please specify

Has your child had their hearing checked?  
If so, please specify

Has your child had their sight checked?

If so, please specify

Does your child sleep through the night?

Have an afternoon nap?

Is your child able to feed themselves?

Do they eat a healthy range of foods?

Is there anything they should not eat or drink for medical or religious reasons?

What makes your child angry or upset/

Which strategies help them?

Is your child toilet trained?

Is there anything else we need to know?

## Privacy and Data Protection

Parents' emails.....

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Parent's phone numbers.....

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In line with school policy on privacy (GDPR) we request your consent for the use of personal information about your child, your email and phone numbers, specifically for the uses outlined in this booklet .

Please sign below if you consent to us using this information .

I( name) ..... do ..... do not.....

consent to the use of personal information about my child's development and my email and phone number (WhatsApp) for the purposes outlined in the Welcome to Early Years booklet.

Signed.....

Date.....