NEW SCHOOL ROME



THE NEW SCHOOL ROME

FOUNDATION STAGE

INFORMATION PACK

FOUNDATION STAGE AT THE NEW SCHOOL



"The best education does not happen at a desk, but rather engaged in everyday living – hands on, exploring, in active relationship with life."
– Vince Gowmon

Little Explorers - the Foundation Stage at The New School Rome - is a nature-based Early Years setting, for children aged 3 to 5. Our educational focus is centred around our human connection to the natural world.

Play-based and outdoor learning are the cornerstones of our educational provision, and as a British International School, we follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework**. These are the standards that all English education early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

Our teachers are highly experienced classroom practitioners with a genuine passion for teaching and learning. We are deeply dedicated to our students and committed to our professional development, keeping up to date with best practice and current research.

Since its beginning in 1972, class sizes at The New School have remained small to provide personalised attention and support to all students, giving our school the family community feeling for which it is renowned and celebrated.

WHAT WE OFFER OUTDOORS

"My favourite thing about school is making nature things and sitting around the fire together."
- Joanie, FS Student

- **A dedicated outdoor classroom with opportunities for freeplay with water, sand, ropes, loose parts, shelter and den building, tree climbing, small world play, scooters and bikes.**
- **A dedicated forest school fire pit site for gathering and sharing.**
- **A weekly excursion to a nearby woodland area, where the children learn to hike, climb on logs and identify the local flora and fauna. We collect natural objects for creating crafts and artwork back at school.**
- **Time in the primary garden with opportunities for mixed aged play. Resources include a large sandpit, mud kitchen, sports pitch, climbing frames, swings and trees.**
- **An enclosed lawn for yoga, dance and sensory activities.**





WHAT WE OFFER INDOORS

“There are three teachers of children: adults, other children, and their physical environment.”
- Loris Malaguzzi

We offer a beautiful, Reggio inspired, indoor classroom, which has been specifically designed and organised, with easily accessible resources, to foster children's creativity and independence.

- **Climbing Wall and Swedish Wall Ladder**
- **Sensory Table and Light Table**
- **A range of beautifully crafted wooden toys and a wooden blocks building centre**
- **A warm and inviting role play area**
- **Easy access to mark making and art and craft materials**
- **A workstation with saws, drills, hammers and nails**
- **A spacious area to gather together**
- **A beautiful and cosy book corner**





LITTLE EXPLORERS CURRICULUM & APPROACH

The EYFS framework is comprised of seven areas of learning: three prime areas and four specific areas.



We believe that children learn best when they are thoroughly engaged and interested in what they are doing. Therefore, we deliver the curriculum in a range of ways which include organising topics and projects based on the children's interests, facilitating high quality play and investigation, as well as gathering in a circle to sing, show, share and enjoy stories together. We also dedicate time to small group and one to one sessions to enable a special focus on specific skills. In order to foster a lifelong love of learning, it is important that children do not feel pressured to perform academic tasks before they are ready.





As part of our curriculum we enjoy a slow-paced snack time and family-style lunch focusing on healthy eating and table etiquette. The children set the table, take turns at leading the lunch time conversation, and tidy up the dining area after.

LITTLE EXPLORERS CURRICULUM & APPROACH

If we provide enough space and possibilities for moving freely, then the children will move as well as animals: skillfully, simply, securely, naturally.

-Dr. Emmi Pikler

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We place great importance on self-regulation - the ability to manage your emotions, thoughts and behaviours in different situations. **Self-regulation for children sets the foundation for learning, social skills, and emotional well-being, and is a top predictor of success in later life.** Teaching emotional and somatic language, facilitating in conflict resolution and soothing children with calming and co-regulation techniques are the ways we support children in developing healthy self-regulation skills.

Physical Development



We make it a priority to provide the right resources and environment for children to naturally develop their fine motor and gross motor skills. Children need to move, and spending time outdoors, on the climbing wall, on uneven terrain, walking on logs are things we do all the time in the Little Explorers. We also dedicate specific time each week to yoga, dance and scooter/bike skills. Children are always improving their fine motor skills through play by using scissors, pencils, hammering nails, tying ropes, playing with playdough etc. A teacher is on hand to encourage and facilitate, if a teacher sees a child is having difficulty with something, they will help the child to perform the task correctly.



Communication and Language Development

Children's language skills are connected to their overall development, and as speaking and listening develops, children build foundations for literacy, for making sense of visual and verbal signs and ultimately for reading and writing. We help children to develop strong language skills throughout the day by reading stories, singing songs, scribing their words in their special books, as well as through drama, circle time, free play and role play.

Whilst English is the language of instruction throughout the school, we strongly believe in terms both of language acquisition, and social and emotional well being, that children who do not have English as a first language, should have the opportunity to express themselves in their home language where possible. Starting a school in a different language to the one they are used to can be a cause of anxiety and the child may need more time settling in.

When children are feeling confident and settled, and are immersed in the English environment, they are able to soak up the new language and its context rapidly. We have a specialist English as an Additional Language Teacher who provides extra support to children who are new to English. It is important for children to continue to develop and maintain their home language, this serves as the foundation for knowledge about language and will support the development of English. We recommend reading to your child in their home language as much as possible, as well as in English. We find that children who have strong language skills in their home language find it easier to learn English.

LITTLE EXPLORERS CURRICULUM & APPROACH

Literacy

A love of books will ensure a great start to literacy, in the Little Explorers we read stories altogether, individually and in little groups. We have a beautiful reading corner where the children love to sit and look at the books or have one read to them. Once a week the class has a dedicated session in the school library. All of the children are exposed to phonics (the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent) through songs, and when they are ready, and most importantly, want to learn to read, we begin our reading progamme with them. We don't encourage children to write before they are ready but when a child shows interest in writing we teach them the correct pencil grip and letter formation from the start.

Mathematics

Through play, children are continually exposed to numbers and mathematical concepts. Teachers, who are observing the children closely, understand when a child may need a concept reinforcing or a new skill to be taught and will find a way to take part in their play or develop a game or activity to help the child to consolidate these skills.

Expressive Arts and Design

Both outdoors and indoors we provide children with access to many resources to create, make and design whatever they like, and the teachers are on hand to support them if needed. We also encourage children to experiment and be creative with natural objects and materials. The children also have two music lessons per week with the primary school music teacher, which include percussion and free movement.

Understanding the World

Through child-initiated topics we learn about aspects of the world that children are interested in, recently, we have learnt about volcanoes, hot air balloons, early people and farms. We also follow seasonal changes, plant seeds and watch them grow as well as using everyday experiences to learn more about ourselves and others, and our diverse world.
















Levi's



FURTHER INFORMATION

School Hours and Clubs

- Children should arrive at school between 8.30 and 8.45.
- The school day ends at 3.30
- We can offer early drop off from 8am and after school care until 4.30 when necessary
- We offer after school clubs such as ballet, drama, textiles and football.

Trips and Visits

In addition to the weekly trip to the woods, children will take part in at least three additional school trips during the year. We like to choose places to visit which are influenced by the children's current interests. Our recent trips have included a trip to a farm, a trip to an oil mill, an excursion to the Valley del Sorbo, a trip to Caldera di Manziana. We often have visiting authors and storytellers and are very keen to invite parents or extended family members to school to share their expertise and their cultural experiences.

Structure

The Little Explorers Foundation Stage class is a mixed age class for children and is the equivalent of Nursery and Reception in the UK, based on these guidelines:

- Children may join the class in the September after they have turned three.
- Children will transition into Year 1 in the September after they have turned five.

Any child joining The Little Explorers foundation stage class must be able to **independently use the toilet and eat their meals.**

Parent Meetings

- We have a class parent meeting at the beginning of the year and every term there is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher.
- The two way meetings are an opportunity for the teacher to gain important information from the parents about their children. They also provide teachers with an opportunity to let parents know how their child is getting on, discuss their strengths and successes and share any concerns. Communication of a child's development, should be open and ongoing and both parents and teachers can request a meeting at any time throughout the year.





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