NEW SCHOOL ROME

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN ROME

SINCE 1972



NEW SCHOOL ROME · PRESCHOOL AND RECEPTION

EARLY YEARS GUIDE

Foundation Stage · Ages 3 to 5

Welcome to Early Years



Early Years at New School Rome is for children aged 3 to 5. Preschool and Reception are combined in one class, where curiosity, wonder and discovery come first.

Grounded in educating the whole child, we nurture curious thinkers, compassionate individuals and creative spirits. As a British international school, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework, the standards that all early years providers in England must meet so that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

Our teachers are experienced practitioners with a genuine passion for teaching and learning. They are dedicated to the children and to their own professional development, keeping up to date with current best practice.

Since 1972 our classes have remained small, so that every child receives personalised attention and support. It gives our school the family feeling for which it is known.

> *"The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind."*
>
> MARIA MONTESSORI

How children learn



Learning through play, at each child's pace.

Our classroom draws on both the Reggio Emilia approach and Montessori principles. Its inviting spaces and hands-on materials support play, independence and exploration, while topics and projects grow from the children's interests.

We give children time to explore, repeat activities and make discoveries at their own pace. Adults observe carefully and offer support when needed, helping children develop concentration, independence and confidence in their own abilities.

Circle time

Children gather to sing, share their ideas and enjoy stories together as a warm little community.

Small groups and one to one

Teachers work with small groups and individual children to focus on specific skills.

Never rushed

To foster a lifelong love of learning, children are never pressured to perform academic tasks before they are ready.

> *"The child has a hundred languages."*
>
> LORIS MALAGUZZI

INDOORS AND OUT

Our environment





Indoors

Our classroom is designed and organised with easily accessible resources, to encourage creativity and independence.

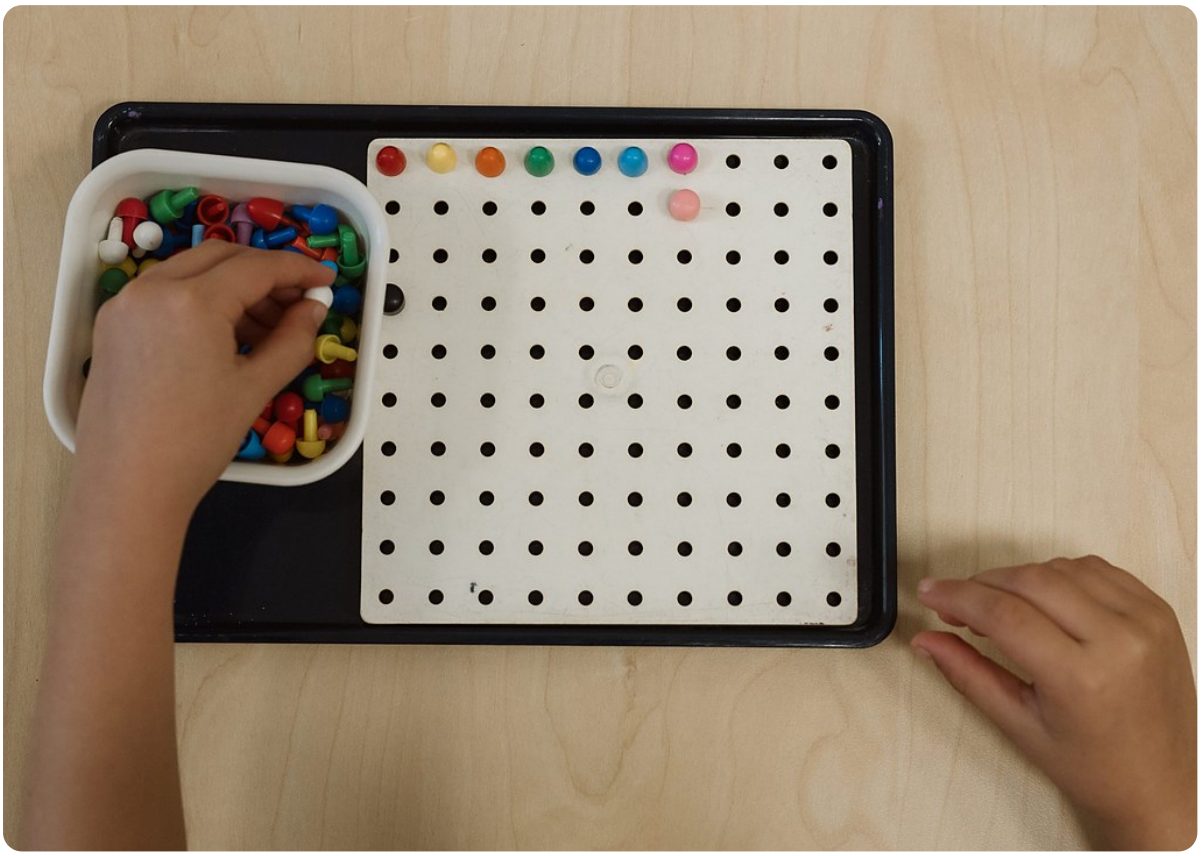
- A sensory table and a light table
- Wooden toys and a wooden block building area
- Easy access to mark-making, art and craft materials
- A spacious area to gather together
- A cosy book corner

Outdoors

We enjoy spending time outdoors, where children play with water and sand, explore and build. Each week we go for a forest walk at a nearby nature reserve. We also have a fire circle, and children spend time in the Primary garden, with its sandpit, mud kitchen, climbing frames and swings.



Seven areas of learning



The EYFS framework has seven areas of learning: three prime areas and four specific areas. They guide our planning, and children explore them through play, practical activities, stories and conversations.

The prime areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Warm relationships and everyday routines help children understand their feelings, build friendships, make choices and grow in confidence and independence. We give great importance to self-regulation, the ability to manage emotions, thoughts and behaviour in different situations. We teach children the words for their feelings, help them resolve conflicts and use calming techniques, so they build healthy self-regulation skills.

Communication and Language

Through conversations, stories, songs and rhymes, children build vocabulary, listening skills and the confidence to share their ideas. We read stories, sing songs and write down children's words in their special books, and use drama, circle time and free play throughout the day.

Physical Development

Indoor and outdoor play helps children develop balance, coordination and strength. We dedicate time each week to PE and to scooter and bike skills. Using scissors, pencils and playdough, drawing and mark-making build control of their hands and fingers, with a teacher on hand to help.

The specific areas



Literacy

Children enjoy books, stories and rhymes as they discover sounds and words. We share stories together, individually and in small groups, and twice a week the class visits the school library. In Preschool we focus on listening and rhyme. In Reception, playful phonics with the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme supports early reading and writing. We do not ask children to write before they are ready, but when a child shows interest we teach the correct pencil grip and letter formation from the start. In Reception, letter formation and early writing skills are taught and developed in conjunction with our Little Wandle phonics programme.

Mathematics

Children explore mathematical ideas through real objects and practical experiences before moving towards pictures, numbers and symbols. Handling, sorting, comparing and counting help them notice patterns, explore relationships and explain their thinking, laying foundations for reasoning.

Understanding the World

Nature walks, observation and questions help children learn about living things, people, places and the world around them. Through topics chosen by the children we learn about the things they are curious about. Recent topics include volcanoes, hot air balloons, early people and farms. We follow the seasons, plant seeds and watch them grow, and learn about ourselves, other people and our diverse world.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children explore colour, materials, music, movement and imaginative play to express their ideas and create in their own ways. Indoors and outdoors they have access to many resources, with teachers on hand to support them. They also have two music lessons a week with the Primary music teacher, including percussion and free movement.

Languages and settling in



English is the language of teaching across the school. We also believe that children who do not have English as a first language should be able to express themselves in their home language where possible. Starting school in a new language can cause anxiety, and some children need more time to settle.

When children feel confident and settled, and are immersed in English, they pick up the new language quickly. Our specialist English as an Additional Language (EAL) teacher gives extra support to children who are new to English.

Continuing to develop the home language matters. It is the foundation for learning about language and supports the development of English. We encourage families to read to their child in their home language as much as possible, as well as in English.

The school day



ARRIVAL	Between 08:30 and 08:45. Early drop-off is available from 08:00.
END OF THE DAY	15:30.
SNACK AND LUNCH	A slow-paced snack time and a family-style lunch, with a focus on healthy eating and table manners. The children set the table, take turns to lead the lunchtime conversation and tidy up afterwards.
MUSIC	Two lessons a week with the Primary music teacher.
LIBRARY	Twice a week in the school library.
AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS	Clubs such as ballet, drama, textiles, football, and arts and crafts.

Trips and visitors

Alongside the weekly forest walk, children take part in school trips during the year, chosen around their current interests. Recent trips include a farm, an oil mill, the Valle del Sorbo and the Caldara di Manziana. We often welcome authors and storytellers, and we are keen to invite parents and family members to share their expertise and their cultures.

Joining Early Years



A mixed-age class

The Foundation Stage is a mixed-age class, equivalent to Nursery and Reception in the UK.

- Children may join in the September after they turn three.
- Children move into Year 1 in the September after they turn five.
- Children joining the class should be able to use the toilet and eat their meals independently.

A gentle start

We take time to help each child settle in, with a close partnership between home and school from the very first day.

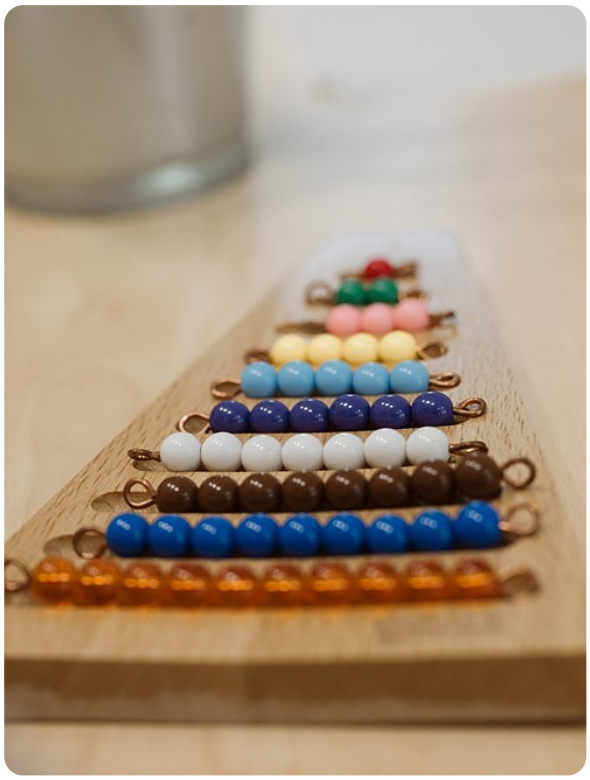
Working with parents

We hold a class parent meeting at the start of the year, and individual parent-teacher meetings twice a year. These meetings let teachers learn about each child from their parents, and share how the child is getting on, their strengths and any concerns. Communication is open and ongoing, and parents or teachers can ask for a meeting at any time.

SUMMARY

Key points at a glance





- One combined Preschool and Reception class for children aged 3 to 5.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework, delivered through play.
- An approach inspired by Reggio Emilia and Montessori, at each child's pace.
- Small classes, so every child is known and supported.
- Early reading with Little Wandle phonics when children are ready.
- A weekly forest walk and daily outdoor play.
- Two music lessons a week and regular visits to the school library.
- EAL support and respect for each child's home language.

> *"A safe place where every child is cared for individually, where their uniqueness is celebrated."*
>
> AN EARLY YEARS PARENT

Spend a morning in Early Years

Your visit takes place on a normal school day, so you can see our youngest children learning, indoors and out.

+39 06 329 4269 · admissions@newschoolrome.com

Moments from our class











NEW SCHOOL ROME

See our community in action

Book a visit on a normal school day, or send our Admissions team an enquiry.

Book a visit

ADMISSIONS

+39 06 329 4269

admissions@newschoolrome.com

www.newschoolrome.com

Via della Camilluccia 669, Rome

@newschoolrome

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