



# MONTGOMERY

INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY



Parents Guide to Early Years at  
Montgomery Infant and Nursery  
School

September 2024

## Welcome to Montgomery Infant School and Nursery

When your child starts at Montgomery Infant and Nursery School, you will continue to be your child's primary educator. When we work together, we can provide the best learning experiences for your child.

*Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.*

**(Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, 2021)**

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is a foundation for the child's future learning and development.

It emphasises that **every child is unique**, that children learn through **positive relationships**, that the **environment** where they learn has practitioners who respond to their needs and work in partnership with parents and carers. Also, that through **playing and exploring**, active learning and creating and thinking critically **children can develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.**



## Where can I go for further information?

You can find the Early Years Foundation Stage which includes the early learning goals at **foundationyears.org.uk**. The foundation year's website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

Alternatively you can visit the government website

[Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## How can I find out how my child is getting on?

It is important that we work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child.

- ‘Stay and Play’ sessions allow parents to visit the classroom with their child to look at the environment and the work they have produced.
- Tapestry online learning journal provides parents with real time access to observations teachers have taken in class. Teachers will also use this as a means of communication to share important information and news.
- When your child is 5 (At the end of the EYFS) – in the summer term of the reception year in school, teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time. This will come home to you in the form of a written report and opportunities are given for you to come in and discuss this with the class teacher.
- In the Autumn and Spring term, you will be invited to discuss your child’s progress. A summary of their development will be discussed with you and how you can support their learning at home.
- Throughout your time at Montgomery, a link to our website where a weekly school newsletter will be added. This is another form of communication about activities in class and whole school events and information. Your child’s records are available for you to view throughout the school year.



## How we learn at Montgomery

Children in Nursery and Reception Class follow the Early Learning Foundation Stage Curriculum which is a developmental curriculum aiming for children to succeed in achieving 17 Early Learning Goals by the end of their Reception year in school. The EYFS Curriculum is divided into 3 sections;

- Characteristics of Learning
- Three prime areas of learning
- Four specific areas of learning

### Characteristics of learning

**Playing and exploring** the children are finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to ‘have a go’.

**Active Learning** the children are involved and concentrating, persevering and enjoying achieving what they set out to do.

**Creating and thinking critically** the children have their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.

### Prime areas of learning

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development** children will learn to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want. Children will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. They will build secure positive relationships between adults and their peers.

**Communication and Language** children will learn to Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. They will express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions.

**Physical Development** children will develop their core strength, stability and balance they will have spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Children will move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing. They will hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery.

## Specific Areas of learning

**Literacy** Children will demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary. They will make predictions and use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems. We use Little Wandle phonics scheme to support you child with reading. They will read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words and should write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. They will spell words by identifying sounds in them and represent sounds with a letter or letters and write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

**Mathematics** We use the White Rose maths scheme to support your children with maths. Children will have a deep understanding of number to 10. They will Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5 and automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5, subtraction facts, double facts and some number bonds to 10. They will verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. Children will compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.

**Understanding the World** Children will talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society. They will know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Children will describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps. They will know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country. Children will have the opportunity to explore the natural world around them and start to understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

**Expressive Arts and Design** Children will share their creations, explaining the process they have used and make use of props and materials when role-playing characters in narratives and stories. They will learn to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. Children will perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others as well as sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs.

## How to support your child's learning at home.

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. Here are just a few ideas of things you and your child might enjoy.

### Ideas for developing gross and fine motor control:

- Give children time to run, jump, climb and PLAY OUTDOORS!
- Encourage children in building, drawing and threading beads.
- Let children explore water and sand, filling and emptying containers and introduce language such as full and empty.
- Work on puzzles together.
- Painting, finger painting and making big patterns on differently shaped paper - talking about the patterns they have made.
- Painting with water on a wall or a fence.
- Encourage children to strengthen their fingers by using clay, play dough or Plasticine for modelling.
- Playing and sorting using tweezers to pick up sequins, buttons or small beads.
- Sprinkling coloured sand, glitter or salt to make pictures. Ideas for helping socially:
- Encourage your child to use the toilet independently, wash their hands and get dressed themselves especially fastening their coats.
- Play games that encourage sharing and taking turns, help your child to lose!

### Ideas for helping with mathematics:

- Talk about shapes you see in and around the house and when out and about.
- Compare weights when picking things up and model the language heavier/ lighter.
- Point out numbers you see in the local environment.
- Play board games that involve moving a certain amount of steps on, and play with dice and dominoes.
- Sing counting rhymes.
- Handle real coins and play shop.

### Ideas for helping with Understanding of the World:

- Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch.
- Cook / bake together.
- Use the weather – shadows, rain puddles, snow, wind, mist and sun – to extend your child's vocabulary.
- Explore the park at a different time of the year – go off the beaten track.