

Welcome to



The Croft Primary School

**Rugeley Road,
Armitage**

Headteacher: Mrs. J. Millett



Early Years Prospectus

The Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception)

Children in Reception Class will be working within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The Early Years Foundation Stage covers the Learning, Development and Care for children from birth to five. Many children will have been to nursery, playgroup and will have already begun work on the Early Years Foundation Stage. The areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage covered at pre-school support the skills, understanding and attitudes that the children will need to enable them to progress further when entering Reception Class.

The Early Years Foundation Stage supports children's Learning, Development and Welfare and is split into four Principles:

- **A Unique Child**
- **Positive Relationships**
- **Enabling Environments**
- **Learning and Development**

Learning and Development

In the Early Years Foundation Stage there are seven areas of learning and development.

- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding The World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Within these areas the children work towards Early Learning Goals. The Early Learning Goals form the final part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and it is these goals that the children will be working towards achieving by the end of their year in Reception Class. These Early Learning Goals provide a smooth transition to the National Curriculum, which begins in Year One.

In the Reception class activities are planned to develop skills from all seven areas of learning and the Early Learning Goals. Children may work in small groups, or individually and there will be a balance of adult and child choice activities. The Reception staff plan activities that are carefully matched to children's needs and are designed to aid their development.

The Foundation Stage Profile

The children will be assessed on entry to their Reception Class through Development Matters, which they may have been working on during time in pre-school settings. These assessments will be made in all seven areas of Learning and Development and will be achieved through planned activities and teacher observation. The information obtained will ensure that each individual child will be provided with opportunities to suit individual needs and these assessments will be recorded in the Foundation Stage Profile document.

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the year in Reception Class, looking at children's progression through the Early Learning Goals and beyond, working towards National Curriculum levels where appropriate.

This information will help staff plan appropriate activities designed to suit each child's individual needs. At the end of the year a picture of the whole child will have been built up and this information will be shared with parents and Year One staff to ensure the transition into Key Stage One is seamless.



Preparing for school

To help your child to develop an understanding of the world around him or her, it is important to share experiences and discuss what you see, hear, feel, taste and smell.

Outings

Take your child to places of interest, to the shops, to the park, walk with your child, and travel by car, bus and train. When shopping, allow your child to handle small quantities of money and encourage counting and sorting according to colour, size and numerals on the coin.

At Home

Let your child help with the cooking and baking and encourage counting, weighing and measuring. Your child can help with the washing by sorting, naming colours and putting away by finding pairs etc

Play

If possible provide a variety of toys and activities which you can enjoy together – bricks, jigsaws, plasticine and dough, construction toys, dominoes, crayons, paints and cutting and sticking activities.

Looking at

Encourage your child to talk about things around them, such as the weather, clothes, people, buildings, plants, animals, books and the television.

Listening to

It is important for your child to practise listening skills using the radio, story tapes and music.



The Journey To Independence

Encourage your child to become independent by tidying up toys, dressing and undressing, fastening buttons and zips, using the toilet, washing and drying hands and using a knife and fork.

Sharing Books

Sharing books with your child can develop good language, reading skills and a love of books. Choose a time when you are both relaxed, and let your child choose a book to share. Don't be worried if your child chooses books they have read lots of times before as children's reading and enjoyment of books is developed through lots of repetition. Encourage your child to talk about the stories and pictures. Singing nursery rhymes is an ideal way to help develop your child's memory skills and knowledge of rhyme.



Starting School

Preparation

A good sleep will prepare your child for an active day ahead. Try to treat the first day at school as the start of a new routine. It may be upsetting for you to leave your child in the care of someone else, but his or her attention will soon be attracted to something in the classroom.

The School Day

A 'typical' day in Reception begins at 8.55am when children are collected by the teacher from the playground. They are supported by staff with hanging up coats and putting away their book bags and water bottles. The children are then settled onto the carpet for the morning register and lesson introductions. The children will then have opportunities to choose from a range of specially chosen activities both indoors and outdoors and will work independently or with an adult. The Reception Class have a phonics session where they practice letters and sounds daily. At 10.30am the children are taken onto the playground for morning break to allow them to interact with their peers. At The Croft we have a daily assembly which takes place in the hall. The school lunch break takes place between 12.00pm and 1.00pm. After lunch the children will have another introduction to a lesson such as Art or Science and then opportunities to work with an adult or in a small group. We end the school day with a story or song time and the children are then encouraged to collect their belongings in preparation for the end of the school day at 3.15pm.

The first weeks

Your child will be attending our school in the Reception class on a part-time basis for the first 2 weeks. This approach will help each child adapt to school routine slowly and more confidently. It will allow the children to form relationships with adults in the classroom and their peers and will enable staff to carry out detailed assessments.

Break-time

Each day there is a morning break at 10.30am and an afternoon break at 1.40 p.m. After morning break the children sit together in small groups and have a drink of milk or water and a slice of toast. This is a great opportunity to develop personal and social skills within small group. We ask parents for a contribution of £1.00 per week and request that it be sent into school at the beginning of the week. Please ensure that the money is in an envelope with the child's name on. We also participate in the 'Free Fruit for Schools' scheme where each child has a piece of fruit for the afternoon playtime each day.

Lunch Time

We encourage our pupils to have a healthy school lunch. This year all children in the Reception Class qualify for a Free School Meal and menus are sent home so children are aware of foods that will be available and so parents can help their children choose their meals. Children are also given lots of help at school when choosing school lunch as the foods are discussed and chosen during register time. The Reception class sit together in small groups and are given support to open sandwich boxes and cut up foods. After the children have eaten their lunch they are then taken onto the playground by the lunch time supervisors so they can play and interact with their friends.



Phonics

The Government has stated that all primary school children should be taught synthetic phonics. The Croft School has chosen to use the Letters and Sounds Programme. There are some simple resources in your pack to help introduce your child to the scheme.

The children will be taught throughout Reception and Key Stage 1 in ability groups developing skills in reading and writing using synthetic phonics. We will also be developing the “talking partners” approach which will improve the children’s speaking and listening skills by encouraging children to share their ideas with a partner.

We will host an informal open evening for parents of children in the Reception Class during the Autumn Term. You will be able to come and see what your child will be doing in Communication and Language and Literacy and you will also be able to discuss our approach to the teaching of reading.

Reading in school

We use the Oxford Reading Tree scheme at the Croft, supplemented by other reading material. At first your child will bring home a library book for you to share; this will be replaced later in the year by a reading book. We can't emphasise enough the importance of sharing a book with your child, not only is it an enjoyable experience, but it also teaches them the skills that they will need later to become a confident and successful reader. Your child will only bring home a reading book when we feel they are ready and as each child is different, it is important not to compare levels and stages. Your child will be a confident and happy reader if able to progress at their own pace. The children will also participate in shared (whole class) reading and group reading sessions throughout the week.



Absences

If your child is absent from school, you should telephone the school before 9.30 am, send a message or e-mail (office@croft.staffs.sch.uk) to inform us that your child will not be in school. A letter explaining the absence would also be helpful on your child's return.

Absences due to holidays

Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during the school term, except in exceptional circumstances – an annual family holiday or weekend away is not considered exceptional.

If parents wish to take their child out of school a leave of absence request form needs to be filled in – this can be obtained from the school office.

Teacher Contact

If a problem arises, please feel free to come and speak to the class teacher as soon as possible. We operate an 'open door' policy, so please do not hesitate to come into school to discuss any queries or problems, however trivial they seem. If something is upsetting your child, then it is not trivial.



The Croft Primary School Ethos

Mission Statement – ‘We Care’

The school strives to develop a friendly, happy and caring atmosphere in which the children can learn. We are like a “family” and operate for the benefit and well being of all. Each child is special and needs to be encouraged and nurtured.

We aim to:

- Create a secure and caring environment where individuals are respected and where their abilities and achievements are valued.
- Develop children’s basic skills needed to achieve their full potential.
- Provide effective teaching and learning within a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the basic skills, enabling children to make the most of their school life ahead.
- Endeavour to maintain the tradition of academic success and service within the community.
- Help the pupils to acquire knowledge, skills and practical abilities and the will to use them.
- To develop awareness of self and sensitivity to others, to acquire a set of moral judgements, and develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable behaviour.



Uniform

At the Croft School we believe that a smart and distinctive school uniform will help to develop a pride and sense of loyalty to the school. The Governors of the school have stated that all Croft School pupils should wear a sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo. This helps identification on school visits and promotes a good school ethos.

The sweatshirt or cardigan can be purchased from Uniform Plus in Rugeley or Lichfield and also online at www.uniformsplus.co.uk , or Blue Print Design in Rugeley. All other items of uniform listed below can be purchased from any outlet you choose, as we realise the considerable cost involved in buying school uniform.

Shoes – Black and have an appropriate school design and style.
(High heels and trainers should not be worn as school shoes)
Children should not attend school in open toed sandals for safety reasons.

Boys

- White polo shirt or shirt
- Grey or black trousers
- Croft sweatshirt
- Croft fleece/jacket



Girls

- White polo shirt or shirt
- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Croft cardigan or sweatshirt
- Summer dress – blue and white check (gingham)
- Girls can wear trousers during the colder weather. These should be grey or black.
- Croft fleece/jacket



Clothing for Physical Education

Every child will need a pump bag for storage of their P.E kit, to be left in school during the week.

In order that your child can take part fully in all P.E lessons he / she will need the following items of clothing:

- White T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black pumps

Please include a change of underwear and socks in your child's pump bag in case of toilet accidents.

At the Croft School children in Reception and Key Stage One take part in 2 sessions of physical education a week. This aims to help children acquire sound fundamental movement skills which will help them to access a range of activities and sports in Key Stage Two.

For Health and Safety reasons, if your child wears earrings they will need to be able to remove them independently or they will be unable to take part in physical education sessions.

Please ensure that all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

