Four Acres Academy: Early Years Curriculum 2023

At Four Acres, our Early Years Curriculum is engaging and meaningful to our children. Our curriculum is largely play based, with some short whole class and group sessions. Children are encouraged to be confident, independent learners who can make their own decisions. Our environment is planned carefully, taking into account the needs and interests of the children. Our day-to-day planning is heavily focused on key vocabulary that we want children to know and use, and strong relationships between staff and pupils enable children to learn, grow and achieve. Broad topics are chosen carefully to engage children, building on areas of interest and providing experiences that enhance their everyday life opportunities. Our environment enables children to apply what they have learnt to real life contexts, taking ownership of the direction of their learning. We are committed to supporting the personal, social and emotional development of children; developing strategies to improve resilience and a positive approach to challenge. Our vision is that all children are confident and curious learners, who are ambitious and strive to be the best that they can be.

Curriculum Intention						
School Values	**Opportunity**	**Resilience**	**Respect**	**Enjoyment**	**Nurture**	**Aspiration**
What does this look like in Early Years?	All children will have equal opportunities to learn, grow and achieve. Children will be able to engage in experiences that interest them, and that they might not get in their day-to-day life.	Children will understand and learn language to be able to express how they are feeling. Children are equipped with different strategies to keep calm and are encouraged to be resilient when facing challenge.	Children are open to learning about different cultures, races, religions and believes and respect all of these. Children are excited to share and celebrate their own and each other's cultures.	Children love coming to school and are keen to engage in all areas of learning. Children build strong relationships with their teachers and peers and enjoy working with others.	Children are cared for and know how to keep themselves safe in school. They are able to communicate their needs and strong relationships between staff and children are built.	Children are proud to show off their achievements and can talk about creations they have made. They are reflective, and can talk about what they could do to improve their learning to be the best that they can be.
EYFS curriculum Goals – what is the key learning we want children to have by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage?	**I enjoy engaging in a wide range of opportunities in school**	**I keep trying, even when things get difficult**	**I respect my peers and teachers by being a good listener**	**I enjoy all learning opportunities that I am exposed to**	**I have strong relationships with my staff and know how to look after myself and keep myself safe**	**I always try my hardest and be the best I can be**

Educational program specific goals for the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage						
Personal, Social & Emotional	**Communication & Language**	**Physical Development**	**Literacy**	**Mathematics**	**Understanding the World**	**Expressive Arts & Design**
❖ I can interact appropriately with my friends and teachers, being confident to share my ideas and listening to others ❖ I don't give up when things get tough and know strategies to help me with my emotions	❖ I can follow an instruction ❖ I can listen to, retell and talk about stories I have heard	❖ I understand the importance of a healthy body and mind ❖ I can co-ordinate by body effectively	❖ I can read and understand simple sentences ❖ I can re-tell my favourite stories ❖ I can independently write a simple sentence	❖ I can make and use my numbers to 10 ❖ I can use mathematical language to compare size, weight, capacity	❖ I celebrate my own and others cultures ❖ I can talk about the natural world around me	❖ I can use my imagination and creativity in different ways ❖ I am reflective about my work and can talk about how I can improve it

This is a flexible curriculum that will be adapted each year, depending on the needs of each cohort from Nursery - Reception. Using our knowledge of child development, knowledge about each child and their interests, each year the curriculum will be adapted and tailored to each class. In order to fully experience and benefit from this curriculum, we know that children need strong Personal, Social and Emotional skills and therefore this is at the heart of our learning within our Nursery and Pre-school rooms. Similarly, Communication and Language skills are vital and therefore these aspects underpin our whole curriculum and are not taught as separate 'subjects'. We focus largely on vocabulary development so that children leave the Early Years Foundation Stage as strong communicators.

Throughout Nursery – Pre-school and Reception we have a broad topic for each term to ensure we are providing children with a range of experiences and opportunities. However these topics do not limit the children to exploring and engaging in a range of contexts and the content is directed and led by the children's interests.

Term 1: What is it like to be me?	Term 2: Let's celebrate	Term 3: People who help us	Term 4: Once upon a time	Term 5: What's changed?	Term 6: All creatures great and small

Reception Long Term Plan	Term 1: What is it like to be me?	Term 2: What can we celebrate?	Term 3: Who helps us?	Term 4: What happened next?	Term 5: What's changed?	Term 6: What animals do we know?
Enquiries	What makes Four Acres a special place to be? 2	What colours can we see? (Diwali, fireworks) 3	What is the Chinese New Year festival? 2	What stories can we create? 4	What helps us and plants grow? 3	What bugs can we find? 2
	What makes us special? 4	What is Christmas? 3	What and who keeps us safe? 4	What is Easter? 2	What was different back then? 3	Where do animals live? 4
Talk for write texts	• We're going on a bear hunt • Room on the broom • Halloween poetry - spells	• Owl Babies • The Enormous Turnip • Dear Santa	• Sharing a shell • The Little Red Hen • The Chinese New Year story	• Cinderella • Magic porridge pot • Each Peach Pear Plum	• Whatever next? • Handa's Surprise • Tadpoles Promise	• Sayeeda the pirate – Pie Corbett • Nat Fantastic • The mixed Up chameleon
Jigsaw	Being me in my world	Celebrating difference	Dreams and Goals	Healthy Me	Changing me	Relationships
RE	Special people	Christmas	Celebrations	Easter	Story time	Special places
Links to wider school, Home & Community	Sharing photos of you and your family. Stay and play Family meetings Forest school Harvest festival	Pumpkin trail Nativity performance Enterprise Day Post Santa letters Christmas party Place us all on world map Food tasting	Visit from road safety officer Chinese New Year celebration Visit from different professions	Easter Bonnet parade Local church visit Making porridge Author visit	Doctor visit Comparing baby photos Visit from a new born baby Planting flowers Observing apple core changing	Animal/vet visit Making a minibeast hotel Watch caterpillars change
Vocabulary	**Rules/Routines starting school:** Please, thank you, sharing, timer, fair, kind hands, kind feet, **All about me:** body: head, shoulders, arms, legs, hands, fingers, feet, toes, knees, tummy, back, skeleton, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hair, chin, forehead, freckles, dimples, sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing, me, you, her, him, them, friend, us, mother, father, brother, sister, grandparents, baby, toddler, child, adult, teenager, older, younger, birthday, happy, sad, worried, angry, excited, surprised, embarrassed, like, dislike, same, different **Autumn:** Acorn, branch, conker, habitat, leaf, senses, tree	**Firework night:** firework, sparkler, Guy Fawkes, fun, display, loud, bang, whizz, pop, explode, colour, crackle, watch, crowd, bonfire, light **Diwali**: Diwali, festival, diva lamp, Hindu, food, gifts, New Year, lights, Rama, Sita, party, mehndi, Rangoli, sweets, cards, lamp, presents **Postman/Jolly postman**: post office, letters, postman, bicycle, postcard, travel, stamp, money, cost, price **Christmas**: cracker, stocking, bells, tree, star, tinsel, bauble, fairly lights, wreath, holly, mince pie, turkey, Santa, Father Christmas	**Seasons/weather:** Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn, sunny, hot, cloudy, windy, rain, mild, humid, rainbow, snow, blizzard, storm **Doctor**: nurse, ambulance, 999, hospital, medicine, heart monitor, wheelchair, paramedic, thermometer, plaster, cast, bandage, syringe, x-ray, crutches, stretcher, stethoscope **Fire:** Siren, fire engine, fire station, extendable ladder, fire fighter, radio, axe, helmet, fire, fire hydrant, extinguisher, hose pipe, mask, fire alarm **Police**: finger print, helmet, police dog, police horse, siren, police car, torch, police station, handcuffs, protective clothing, helicopter, clues, crime scene, magnifying glass **Chinese new year:** Festival, family, restaurant, reunion dinner, stalls, lantern, fireworks, lion dancer, dragon, wishing tree, zodiac	**Stories:** Once upon a time, one day, first, then, next, last, finally, suddenly, happily ever after, the end **Spring/Easter:** Good Friday, Palm Sunday, lent, spring, Jesus, lamb, church, bunny, bonnet, Ash Wednesday, cross, eggs **Life cycles:** frogspawn, tadpole, froglet, frog, legs, change, water, pond, lily pad, eggs, caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly, leaf, pupa, life cycle	**Bugs, insects, mini-beasts:** ant, bee, beetle, butterfly, caterpillar, fly, grasshopper, habitat, head, legs, insect, ladybird, spider, snail, worm, wings **Transport and travel:** plane, car, motorbike, bus, train, tram, country, holiday, travel, fast, slow **Healthy eating:** diet, sugar, fat, vegetables, fruit, snacks, chocolate, sweets	**Pirates** Ship, captain, treasure, map, parrot, cannon, eye patch, flag, desert island, compass, treasure chest, sea, waves **Habitats** Under bushes, shelter, seashore, woodland, ocean, rainforest, conditions, hot/warm/cold dry/damp/wet bright/shade/ dark **Powers** Superhero, costume, transform, fire, ice, fast, x-ray vision, flying, lightning, invisibility, mask, disguise, cape