#### What do we love about our subject?

Our ambition at Fairfield is to work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage independent, collaborative and happy learners who thrive in school and reach their full potential from their various starting points. Our good transition program means we know our EYFS children and families very well when they start with us. In the EYFS we aim to create an indoor and outdoor environment which supports their learning.

## How do we want pupils to talk about our subject?

We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through a range of themes that will enable all children to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually to their full potential. We want children to talk excitedly about their work during our themes and be stimulated and challenged.

## What are some of the big ideas in our subject?

The early-years education we offer our children is based on the following principles:

- It builds on what our children already know and can do.
- It ensures that no child is excluded or disadvantaged.
- It offers a structure for learning that has a range of starting points, content that matches the needs of young children, and activities that provide opportunities for learning both indoors and outdoors.
- It provides a rich and stimulating environment.
- It acknowledges the importance of developing good relationships with parents and carers which we achieve through good transition work before they start, good communication with preschools, using Tapestry (an online Learning Journal), inviting parents in for a range of events such as phonics, reading and maths mornings, using home school achievement sheets and an achievement tree to celebrate successes at home as well as homework, home and school practise book and running family learning programmes.

# How is our subject taught and organised so learning is retained in the long-term memory?

The curriculum is centred on 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas:

## Prime Areas

- 1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- 2. Physical Development
- 3. Communication and Language Development

## Specific Areas

- 1. Literacy
- 2. Mathematics
- 3. Understanding of the World
- 4. Expressive Arts and Design

All areas of learning and development are given equal weighting and value.

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

We ensure that our environment and delivery of the curriculum incorporates the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

- Playing and exploring children will have opportunities to investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
- Active learning children will have time and space to concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy their achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically we encourage and support children to have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

## How do we enrich our subject?

We aim to choose stimulating topics and also follow the interests of the pupils.

We try to enrich our themes in a range of ways such as

- Providing a hook to the theme through a book, role play area, or stimulus such as a rocket crashing into our playground.
- Having Living Eggs in the summer term as the pupil's love seeing the eggs hatch and babies develop.
- Inviting visitors in school such as the school nurse.
- Going on trips such as the theatre, pirate and farm trip as well as looking around our local surroundings.
- We also value the outdoors and use our outdoor area daily.
  They particular love the mud kitchen and circle of the life garden.

## What do we want pupils to leave Fairfield being able to do?

We thrive to prepare children to reach the Early Learning Goals at the end of the Foundation Stage and ensure children make good progress from their various starting points.

We aim to provide a broad, balanced, relevant and creative curriculum that will set in place firm foundations for further learning and development in Key Stage 1 and beyond and enable choice and decision making, fostering independence and self-confidence.

We put in a range of strategies to ensure our pupils are ready for Year 1 such as transition morning and small groups visits to the classroom as well as a transition letter with all key information.