**Curriculum Intent**

At Astmoor Primary School, every child’s well-being and education is at the centre of everything we do. Our curriculum has been designed to ensure our children have the best possible start on their educational journey, so that right from the start they fulfil their potential and are well prepared for the next phase of their education. Our curriculum prioritises children’s personal development and developing their language and vocabulary so that they can become effective communicators in preparation to becoming confident readers, writers and independent learners. We strive to ensure the children develop their understanding of the world around them through first-hand experiences: making learning meaningful and memorable. Topics and learning sequences have been carefully planned to ensure that they are relevant to the children so that they gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful, confident, independent learners; develop positive relationships with others and are well prepared for life beyond the Foundation Stage.

**Curriculum Aims**

* To provide all children with equal access to a creative, broad and balanced curriculum, that is sequential and has communication and language development at the core.
* To develop children’s independence, resilience and confidence so that they are able to form positive relationships.
* To strengthen the connection our children have with the world around them by providing a wealth of opportunities to experience this first hand.
* To develop the sense of belonging all children have to the community in which they live and the wider world.
* To enrich the curriculum and develop the cultural capital of our children, ensuring learning is memorable.

**The Characteristics of effective teaching and learning**

When planning our curriculum and guiding children’s learning we aim to promote the characteristics of effective teaching and learning through all that we do. The three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

* **playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things and ‘have a go’
* **active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
* **creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things

**Our Themes**

Our Curriculum is organised into half termly themes that are very similar to the ones that are being taught in Key Stage 1 and 2, building the strong foundations of the children’s learning right from the very beginning.

* Happy, Healthy, Me
* Let’s Celebrate
* Heroes
* House and Homes/Once Upon A Time
* Wings Wheels and Waves/ Things That Move
* The World Around Us

**Implementation**

**Communication and Language**

We prioritise children’s communication and language skills in the Foundation Stage, as we know that this is the most important skill for children to develop for them to be successful in all their learning. Through high quality interactions with the children, we aim to ensure that all children have the skills to communicate effectively and we use every opportunity to widen and enrich the children’s vocabulary. We use the WELLCOMM assessment tool to assess every child shortly after they enter our Foundation Stage so that we can quickly identify children that need more support to develop their language and use WELLCOMM materials to deliver this support. In addition we have a Speech and Language Therapist service that can provide appropriate programmes for us to use to support children with more specific speech and language difficulties.

**Read Write Inc**

As soon as children enter the Foundation Stage they begin their journey through Read Write Inc. This is the scheme we use to teach the children to read and write through daily lessons. At the end of every half term, children are assessed to see which sounds and words they can now read and then grouped to match their ability. Some children may be identified as needing some extra support to keep up, this is then swiftly put into place through 1:1 tutoring with our school staff so that they can become readers and writers as early as possible.

**White Rose Maths**

Daily Maths lessons take place from the beginning of the Foundation Stage using the White Rose Maths scheme. The children will continue to follow this scheme during their years at Astmoor. The focus in the Foundation Stage is mainly on children developing their understanding of number, the number system and early calculation skills.

**Child Led Learning**

Our topics are planned to offer the children a broad and balanced curriculum and to build the foundations for the curriculum that will be delivered in Key Stage 1 and 2 at our school. We listen to children’s ideas and interests when they are learning and aim to be flexible, adapting plans to reflect the paths that their interest take us down.

**Impact**

At the end of the Foundation Stage, we want all children to be ready for Year 1, so that they are well prepared for their learning journey through school and beyond. We expect children to be respectful of themselves and others; to have developed independence and resilience; to be enthusiastic, active and creative learners. We work towards the Early Learning Goals that are assessed at the end of the Foundation Stage and we aim to ensure all children have a good level of development across a wide range of areas of learning.

**Our Learning Environment**

Our Foundation Stage classroom and outdoor area is a well-planned learning environment. Both inside and outside, different areas enable children to engage in high-quality play alongside other children and adults that effectively interact with them. Alongside this, guided learning and direct teaching takes place in different areas of the learning environment with adults that are highly skilled in early years practice and genuinely care for the children.

**Partnerships with Parents**

Understanding, respecting and working alongside our school families is really important to all our staff at Astmoor. We welcome new families into our school community and are keen to build good relationships with them from the very start. We know how important their role is in the success of their children. We value sharing children’s learning and experiences with them so we can support each other to make every child the best they can be. We employ our own Family Support Worker to offer support to families and children that may need it and offer a number of events throughout the years to support and involve parents in their children’s learning.