



Songs & Nursery Rhymes

We love to sing!

Using props and puppets, we have lots of fun learning old and new rhymes and making up silly songs. Singing nursery rhymes and songs with our children helps develop language and communication skills, builds confidence and prepares them for reading and writing.

"Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight."

Mem Fox, Reading Magic.

Stories & Books

Books/storytelling are at the heart of our curriculum. We use stories as a stimulus for topics, we have our much-loved daily story time, we read and retell stories together during independent learning, and we use books linked to other areas of learning such as mathematical development, seasons and nature. Through exposure to rich language and plot structures, our children expand their vocabularies, improve their listening comprehension, and develop firm early literacy skills.

Independent Learning

Always our favourite part of the day, when we can PLAY! We believe that children learn best through play and exploration, when they are feeling safe and regulated, and in their own time. We ensure our children have time to engage in play throughout the day, in our carefully planned learning environments. Our learning environments, both indoors and outdoors, are set-up to promote curiosity, exploration and independence.

Forest School

Welcome to 'Wonderful Woolhampton' and the beautiful, natural woodland that surrounds us! We make the most of this location and enjoy weekly Forest School sessions with our own dedicated Forest School practitioner. Forest School, and the forest school approach to learning, is central to life here at Woolhampton. Here, we learn all about Douai Woods, including identifying and naming the trees, plants and Animals that we find there, and noticing the change in seasons and how this affects the woods. Through play, exploration, team-work and practical skills, our children also learn to become resilient and determined problem solvers who work together to challenge themselves and take risks.

Metacognition

We want our children to be independent, motivated learners that can plan their own learning and accept a challenge! We begin to teach even the youngest children metacognitive strategies through the use of our 'Plan, Do, Review' cycle which we model by 'thinking out loud' throughout Independent Learning time. Children progress from verbally planning their learning to being able to record their thinking on paper.

No Outsiders

"All different, all welcome" Andrew Moffat MBE 2022
We want our children to understand that everyone is different, and that difference is a good thing. We should recognise and celebrate our differences and make everyone feel respected, valued and welcome.

GEM Values

Our core school values of Respect, Optimism, Compassion and Koinonia (Community) are woven into both our curriculum and our whole-school ethos. GEM points are awarded in classes for children displaying good school values.

The ART Room

A range of art and DT skills are introduced gradually over the course of the year and children are able to practise these independently in our Art Room, during Independent Learning time. The Art Room is carefully set-up with resources that our children can access and use by themselves, with an emphasis on the children also being responsible for spillages and clearing up after themselves.

The Outdoors

Our outdoor learning environment is equally as important as our indoor classroom and children have continual access to it in all weathers. Emphasis is put on the children to make their own decisions such as deciding if they need a coat or to change into their wellies. Learning doesn't stop in the rain!