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This is our little parents  
handbook. It's our way  
of helping you help them.



Year 3 / Year 4

“Parents are amongst those who have the greatest influence upon the values that their children learn in everyday life.”

This booklet is set in the context of our belief that children should have opportunities for joy; opportunities for discovery and opportunities for wonder. Our aim is for the children to delight in effort; delight in achievement and delight in acceptance.

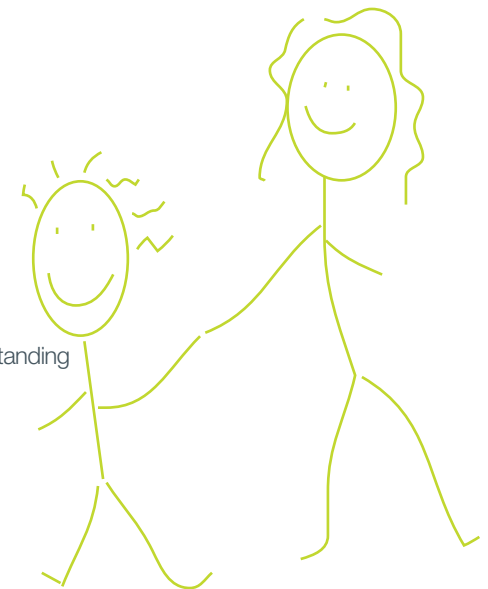
#### Parent Potential

From birth children are learning from their parents, for example, through communication and first hand experiences. When a child begins school the role parents play in educating their children does not come to an end.

This booklet has been produced to provide you with an insight into Key Stage One and to help you to help them.

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Number and other areas of maths  
Language and Literacy  
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P.E.



# U + US = A better understanding of maths and how it can be fun.



## What it means.

Children will acquire early mathematical concepts through activities that involve sorting, matching, comparing, classifying, and making patterns and sequences in a variety of contexts.

Children will engage in a wide range of purposeful activities which should involve them in different modes of mathematical learning, including playing, exploring and investigating, doing and observing, talking and listening, asking questions, reflecting, drafting, reading and recording.

Numeracy is a life skill used in making everyday decisions and in virtually every work context. It is important to talk to your child about mathematics being more than finding out the correct answer. Sometimes we 'try out' answers to see if they make sense. Allow your child to take risks and let them think about whether their answers make sense. As they learn to explain how they arrived at their solutions, children begin to link different ideas in mathematics.

## How you can help.

- Involve your child in the everyday use of maths
- Use the environment (recognise patterns of house numbers)
- Car number plates, shapes, weighing in shopping)
- Support your child in managing their own money
- Use diaries and calendars
- Encourage your child to give you directions when you are out and about
- Tell the time and encourage time management (how long will this take)
- Encourage the use of simple mathematical language to talk about their work (e.g.
- Play a range of games and count scores
- Use positional language to describe features around the house

## Language and Literacy

Literacy develops skills which enable children to interact effectively in the world around them, to express themselves creatively and to communicate confidently, using the four modes of communication - Talking & Listening, Reading and Writing.

### Talking and Listening

Children should participate in talking and listening in every area of learning. They should listen to, respond to and explore stories, poems, songs, drama, and media texts through the use of traditional and digital resources. Children will listen to and respond to guidance and instructions. They will take turns at talking and listening activities.

### Reading

Pupils will read with some independence for enjoyment and information. They will explore and understand how texts are structured in a range of formats. They will express opinions and give reasons based on what they have read.

### Writing

Children should express thoughts, feelings and opinions in imaginative and factual writing. They will talk about and plan what they're going to write and begin to check their work against specific criteria. They will write for a variety of purposes and audiences.

### How you can help.

Talk about things that have happened day to day.

Enjoy lots of reading together (non-fiction, fiction, environmental print).

Provide opportunities to write cards, letters, shopping lists etc.

Visit the local library.

## Spelling

### What it means.

Our approach to spelling builds on the phonological awareness gained during the foundation stage.

Our programme develops and consolidates the linguistic phonics approach and equips children with skills to spell words with increasing accuracy.

Skills  
Syllable awareness e.g. ba-na-na

Recognising that words are made up of separate sounds e.g. c-oo-k

Generating spelling rules e.g. adding ing

Categorising sounds with alternative spellings e.g. goat yellow

### How you can help.

Encourage your child to expand their homeworks by looking for more words using similar spelling patterns.

Experiment with language through word games, riddles and rhymes.

Expand vocabulary by looking up the dictionary to discover the meanings of new words.

Encourage your child to "have a go" at spelling unfamiliar words and praise the use of variations which still sound right.

Encourage your child to recognise and notice how words are constructed and spelt.

Build up a bank of useful words with your child.



# Children's creative, expressive & physical development is closely linked with all aspects of their learning.

## What it means.

Children will be given opportunities to develop their curiosity, imagination and creativity through a variety of art and design, music, movement, dance, dramatic and role play activities. It will provide opportunities for children to develop their self confidence and self esteem.

## Encourage them to...

### Art

Observe and record first hand experiences and respond to memory and imagination.

Explore shape, colour, tone, form, shape, texture and pattern.

Talk about their work and how it was made.

Look at, enjoy and appreciate the work of artists.

Experiment with a range of materials.

### Music

Investigate and experiment with ways of making sound.

Sing a variety of simple songs.

Think and talk about the sounds and effects they have created and imagined and those they hear in the local environment.

Listen to appropriate music and talk about sounds in relation to loud/quiet, high/low, fast/slow and long/short.

### Drama

Engage in a range of creative and imaginative role play.

Explore a range of cultural and human issues by participating in dramatic activity and sharing ideas with others.

Express their thoughts and feelings.



## What it means.

Children are naturally curious and often ask profound questions about themselves and the nature of the world around them.

The purpose of this Area of Learning is to help children explore and find age appropriate answers to some of these big questions. In the foundation stage children will have had opportunities to explore the world in the context of interdependence, movement and energy, place, and change over time. On this foundation we aim to encourage children to express and share their thoughts and ideas and develop an appreciation of the beauty and wonder of the world. They will have an awareness of themselves and their place in the world, as well as of other places, cultures and the environment.

## Encourage them to...

Ask questions about why things happen.

Identify and investigate similarities and differences.

Use maps to identify and describe holidays or trips.

Discuss how the past has affected the present.

Explore and examine photographs, objects and other items.

Go outside as much as possible!



## What it means.

PDMU focuses on encouraging each child to become personally, emotionally, socially and physically effective.

Children are encouraged to become confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives and to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives in family, school and community.

They are provided with an insight into their own emotions, attitudes and moral values and how they are formed. Children develop insight into society, other cultures and the environment with the need for mutual understanding and respect.

## Encourage them to...

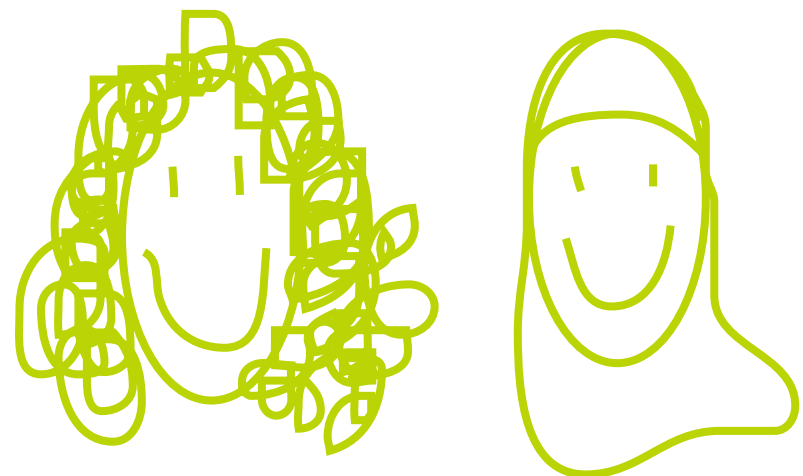
Develop a healthy lifestyle through exercise, good eating habits and good hygiene.

Discuss their emotions and feelings and how these impact on their behaviour.

Recognise and value diversity.

Understand their role in the school community.

Have a positive attitude about themselves and their learning.



## What it means.

Thinking skills are tools that help children to go beyond the acquisition of knowledge to search for meaning, apply ideas, analyse patterns and relationships, create and design something new and monitor and evaluate their own progress.

## Encourage them to...

### Managing Information

- Ask focused questions.
- Plan and set goals.
- Select most appropriate method for a task

### Thinking, problem solving + decision-making

- Make links between cause and effect.
- Explain methods, opinions and reasons for choices and actions.
- Examine options, weigh up pros and cons.

### Being Creative

- Learn from and value other people's ideas.
- See opportunities in mistakes and failures.
- Challenge the routine method.
- Take risks for learning.

### Working with Others

- Listen actively and share opinions.
- Give and respond to feedback.
- Understand how actions and words affect others.
- Be fair.

### Self management

- Be aware of personal strengths limitations and interests.
- Manage behaviour in a range of situations.
- Focus, sustain and persist with tasks.
- Seek advice when necessary.

## What it means.

Assessment for Learning should underpin every aspect of a child's development. The focus is on children taking ownership and responsibility for their own learning.

It reassures children that new learning always involves struggles and challenges and equips them with confidence that they can move forward. They reflect on what they have learnt and how they have learnt.

## How you can help.

Challenge your child to do things for themselves.

Celebrate mistakes as a learning opportunity.

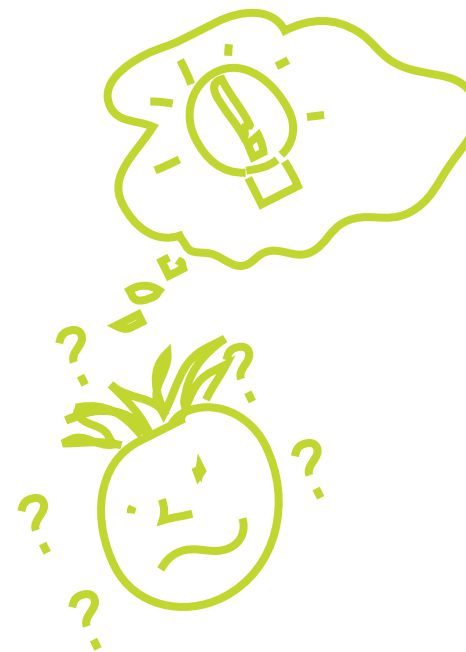
Don't be afraid of children 'failing' things - they, like us, learn more from what doesn't work than from what does.

Talk about things you, as a grown up, have learned today and about problems you've had and how you've overcome them.

When you are in the middle of a problem talk through it with your child.

Talk about the things your child has learned and revisit them often.

Remember, whatever your child wants to learn is far more important than what you want them to learn.



### What it means.

Physical Development and Movement is about experiencing and developing a range of fundamental movement skills that will improve co-ordination, locomotion, control, balance and manipulation.

In addition, physical development helps children gain confidence and self esteem and enables them to feel the benefits of being healthy and active.

### Encourage them to...

Encourage the children to use a wide range of small and large equipment to increase confidence and control.

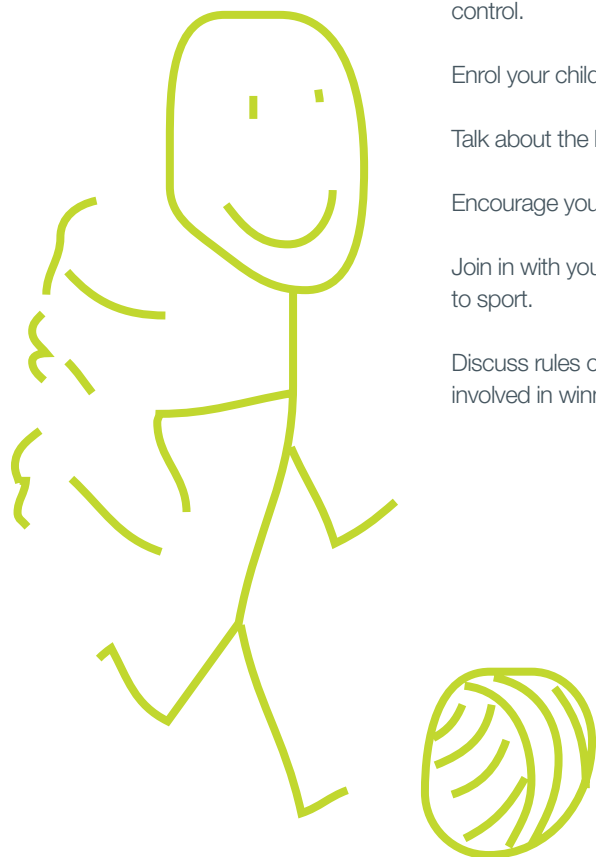
Enrol your child in extra curricular sports activities.

Talk about the benefits of physical activity.

Encourage your child to play outdoors where possible.

Join in with your children to promote a positive attitude to sport.

Discuss rules of popular games and the emotions involved in winning and losing.



We hope you have found this book helpful. If you are interested in finding out more please speak to your child's teacher.

Thank you.