

Dear Parents/Carers

We just wanted to write to give you an introduction to the changes in the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**. It includes information which we hope you will find useful, whether you are a new parent to the EYFS or a parent who is more familiar with the previous EYFS.

What Is the EYFS?

The **Early Years Foundation Stage** covers the first stage of a child's care from birth to five years old. It sets the standards to ensure that all children learn and develop, as well as keeping them healthy and safe. All schools and Ofsted registered early years providers in England must follow the EYFS Statutory Framework.

Also included in the EYFS are the **seven Areas of Learning**. They are:

- **Communication and Language**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Physical Development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

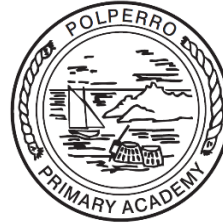
Why Have the Changes Been Made?

In 2019, the government proposed changes to the EYFS. These changes have now been made and all early years settings and schools will follow the new EYFS from **September 2021**.

The aim of the changes is to improve the learning for all children and better prepare them for the move into year 1. To help make the right changes, evidence was looked at to find the best ways children can be supported in developing as they grow. The changes also hope to give children the **best** start in life and set them up well for their future. Not all parts of the EYFS have changed, some elements have remained the same or similar.

Some Key Changes

1. **Reduced the amount of unneeded written recordings and assessment of children by staff.**
 - This means staff do not need to keep a large amount of written evidence that proves children are able to do lots of things.
 - Staff still know the abilities and skills of each child, and know how to support them to develop. However, now they do not need to write this down unnecessarily.
 - This frees up more time for staff to spend directly with the children.
 - By taking away the need for constant recording, it helps to develop more natural play, conversations and interaction between adults and children.
2. **There is more of an emphasis on the importance of developing communication and language skills.**
 - Children should be supported in building up vocabulary by increasing the amount of words they know and can use.
 - Encourage more conversations between adults and children, but also children and their peers.



- Good language skills are the basis for all other learning and social interaction, so this is vital to focus on.
3. **There is a focus on how reading stories is important to help children develop in all of Areas of Learning.**
 - Daily reading of stories encourages an enjoyment of reading from a young age.
 - Lots of other learning opportunities happen when looking at books, for example comparisons of culture or the past.
 - Listening to stories develops imagination, ideas and language.
 - Reading is an essential skill and so should be shown to children, as well as practised by them regularly.
 - Children are also encouraged to use story ideas in their play.
 4. **There is a focus on encouraging healthy choices overall and an understanding of oral health.**
 - Required to teach children the importance of brushing teeth.
 - Supervised tooth brushing is not expected in settings and schools.
 - Focus on helping children to understand which choices to make that will help them to be healthy, for example which foods to eat and why.
 - Getting into good routines from a young age is important as these often continue into adult life.

We will still be using Tapestry to share the children's learning but it will be used for more celebratory moments rather than an assessment tool. We will be documenting key milestones in your child's learning that we want you to share with you. We hope that sharing milestones it might help you engage with your child and spark conversations. However, we would also love you to comment on our observations and send us your child's achievements that you are celebrating at home, so we can engage with them and celebrate with them. Please check Tapestry regularly as we are aiming to post weekly as well as on our class blog.

Please be assured that the quality of the education provided will not change. You will not see any changes in terms of the activities and opportunities on offer to your child. However, you will notice that we are not physically recording as many observations and assessments of progress. Please be reassured that we will still be supporting your child's development and responding to their interests. We will be using our professional judgements to assess your child's development during our daily interactions and activities.

We can chat more at the parent's consultations next week about how your child is progressing but we hope this will help you also to understand some of what we are doing in school.

We look forward to meeting you.

Best wishes

The EYFS Team: Mrs Fernie, Mrs Counsell (Penhallow Class) and Mrs Peat (Nursery)