

## A spotlight on the Early Years

*“The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children’s ‘school readiness’ and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.”* DFE Statutory Framework for EYFS

Here at Bolney CEP, we have the four overarching principles of the EYFS framework at the heart of everything that we do. In fact, the first one: *‘every child is a unique child’*, is at the very start of our school vision. Building relationships with the whole family and planning and developing a learning environment that meets the needs of all pupils in an inspiring and engaging manner is part and parcel of ensuring a successful introduction to school life.

The school journey for each new intake begins long before they start in September. It is during the summer term that Mrs Cheney starts her nursery and home visits as the first steps towards getting to know the children and their family in order to develop Learning Journeys that will inspire each specific cohort. Visits for pre-schoolers to get to know the new setting are planned: including a teddy bears’ picnic and story times before the summer holidays and then over the holidays, Year 6 buddies are introduced so that by the time the children actually start school, they already feel a part of the community.

This year’s EYFS cohort have had a hugely successful start, joining the rest of the school for assemblies and play time early on in the year and are already demonstrating the school’s values of love, respect, resilience and honesty. They have an amazing classroom space with a large, light and airy classroom and a self-contained outdoor area which enables free-flow and both adult and child initiated learning. Mrs Cheney, ably assisted by Miss Willard, ensures that the seven areas of learning and development are shaped within each termly project with its overarching ‘big question’. For example, this Autumn Term has seen the questions: ‘Who lives there?’ and ‘Who has been eating my porridge?’ as the drivers for learning about different types of homes and traditional tales.

We had two busy open mornings in October, but if you would like to come and visit our school and see our pupils learning, please contact Zoe in the school office : [office@bolneyprimary.school](mailto:office@bolneyprimary.school)  
01444881352