



EARLY YEARS AT BRITANNIA BRIDGE



Early Years Leader - Melissa Burke

INTENT

At Britannia Bridge, our Early Years curriculum has been designed and **adapted** for 'each and every one' of our children to develop the **essential, transferrable skills and knowledge** that they need to become curious, creative and confident **life-long learners**. Despite many of our children joining us with low starting points, limited experiences and additional needs, we ensure that each and every one of our young children leaves our Reception class with the essential **cultural capital** they need to flourish within KSI and beyond - we provide high-quality, exciting and meaningful learning experiences, daily. At Britannia Bridge, we understand that our children's development, during their time in Early Years, is imperative to their future success and that **rapid progress is the key** to their KSI and KS2 achievement and **life chances**.

Our Core Values of **HEART** (Happiness, Encouragement, Aspiration, Respect, Teamwork) underpin our Early Years Curriculum and we ensure that each and every one of our children:

- **Happiness:** we ensure that our EY children are **happy learners**, who show a **can do attitude (Engagement - Characteristic of Effective Learning)**.
- **Encouragement:** we ensure that our EY children **encourage themselves and friends** (through a strong **Growth Mindset**). Our children know that, if they can't do something **YET**, they will succeed by **keep trying (Active learning - Characteristic of Effective learning)**.
- **Aspiration:** we ensure that our EY children have a myriad of opportunities to **solve problems and reach goals (Creating and Thinking Critically - Characteristic of Effective Learning)**.
- **Respect:** we ensure that our EY children develop respect for all (and **difference/equality**) throughout their time in Early Years - they develop rapidly in their ability to build relationships with others and we ensure that they know how to be a **kind and caring friend**.

- **Teamwork:** we ensure that our EY children understand that it takes teamwork to follow rules and routines, which leads to learning in a happy and safe environment.

IMPLEMENTATION

Communication and Language

Our goal is to be: 'A Confident Communicator.'

Our children begin our Nursery/ Reception classes with **communication skills predominantly lower than national average**. Therefore, we place a large emphasis on ensuring that all children have the ability to communicate effectively. Our EY adults create a **language rich environment and engage in quality interactions**, which introduce new, varied vocabulary. **Keys to Communication** strategies are used, which create a friendly and supportive communication environment for each and every one of our children. We also want our children to listen carefully, in a range of situations, and to support this they take part in daily activities, story and rhyme times. Any of our children, who need additional speech or language support, are identified early for the right support/intervention.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our goal is to be: 'An Independent Individual.'

We strive for all children to be happy, independent and confident learners, who can **follow our rules and routines**. Children thrive when they have strong, warm and supportive relationships with their familiar adults and each child has a **key person** to build a relationship with. Our children are encouraged to make their own choices and we plan many learning opportunities around our children's **current interests**, to promote involvement. Our children take part in a myriad of activities, that develop their wellbeing and help them to **regulate their emotions**. Our EY children make good friendships and learn to be a kind and caring friend (through supported interaction with others).



Physical Development

Our goal is to be: 'An Amazing Athlete and Talented Tool User'

Our EY children will develop skill, coordination and strength in both their **gross and fine motor skills**. They have regular access to space outside and a wide range of equipment to use and develop their large motor skills. Outdoors, they are encouraged to use large scale play that promote big movements such as water, sand, mud kitchens and construction. Weekly PE sessions teach our children how to play games, dance, do yoga and gymnastics (as well as learning the importance of health and exercise). Our

Britannia Bridge children practise their **fine motor skills** through carefully planned Fiddly Fingers activities and by using a range of tools. They learn to write, draw, cut and paint, confidently, ready for KSI.

Literacy

Our goal is to be: 'A Brilliant Bookworm and Wonderful Writer'

At Britannia Bridge, the **love of reading** is fostered and developed from the moment children join our Nursery/Reception class. Each class has a warm and welcoming **Reading** area and books that grab our children's interest, well as **10 Recommended Reads**, that our children get to know and love. Our children learn new vocabulary and gain understanding from daily story or rhyme time, and take part regularly in 'Tales Toolkit', which engages them in imaginative, oral story telling. Our school **VIV (Very Important Vocabulary) Approach** begins in Nursery 2, to ensure that our children leave us, in Year 6, with an amazing repertoire of vocabulary to take with them into their future lives. Throughout Nursery, our children develop their **phonological awareness** through activities, games and Continuous Provision. This ensures that, when they begin Reception, they are ready to begin **Sounds-Write**, Britannia Bridges' chosen systematic synthetic phonics programme. Each and every one of our children also engages in exciting writing activities and learns to write letters that are formed correctly, words and simple sentences, ready for their time in Year 1. Our bespoke Britannia Bridge approach to reading comprehension has been developed, by our teachers, to ensure that all our children are taught each reading skill that is needed to understand a text (the education term for these skills is **Content Domains**). **We teach these reading skills (Content Domains), progressively, from Nursery 2 through to Year 6**, to ensure that our children's learning is purposeful and their reading links to other areas of the curriculum. To ensure that our EY children have the daily opportunity to listen to high quality, exciting stories/texts read (modelled) by adults and their peers, each of our EY classes enjoys dedicated **Core Story time**. Our texts have been mapped out, by our English Leads, in a bespoke way to ensure that they are challenging and ensure our children develop an ambitious repertoire of vocabulary to take to their next phase of education.



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Mathematics

Our goal is to be: 'A Master of Maths'

Our Britannia Bridge children develop a **deep understanding of numbers to 10** and they master skills that ensure they gain number **fluency**, as they move through school. This includes recognising patterns within the number system, subitising and recalling number bonds. We use the NCETM **Mastering Number programme** alongside **Numberblocks** materials to deliver exciting and interesting Maths sessions. Our children have access to a wide range of materials and resources to take part in self-directed activities including shapes, blocks, counting objects, 10s frames, number lines, clocks, puzzles, numicon and water/sand play. Our children learn about Shape, Space and Measure through a mixture of adult led activities and self-initiated opportunities.



Understanding the World

Our goal is to be: 'An Excellent Explorer'

Our children explore and make sense of the world around them and spend time in the **natural environment** to learn using all of their **senses**. Our Early Years learning covers weather, seasons, changes, growing, light and dark, hot and cold, forces, animals and minibeasts. Our children have an awareness of **themselves**, their **families** and other members of their **community**. They know their own and others' cultural **beliefs and traditions** and the **differences or similarities between places**. Our EY children become familiar with seeing maps and will draw their own simple map. They take part in many exciting **trips** out of school

and we invite a multitude of **visitors** to enhance learning.

Expressive Arts and Design

Our goal is to be: 'A Confident Creator'

We offer a wide range of opportunities for each and every one of our EY children to express themselves through **Art, Music and Dance**. Our children develop their **confidence and creativity**, ready to thrive, during KS1. Our EY children have access to a wide range of materials so that they can **choose** their own resources and talk about what they have made. They learn the names of **musical instruments** and how to use them, and develop their ability to **perform** collaboratively to their peers, in class, or a wider audience.

All our EY learning experiences are based on the **clear end points** of the Early Years Framework and our bespoke **Progression Documents**.

From Nursery 2 to Reception, learning is carefully planned and **adapted**, based on our children's **wide range** of starting **points, potential barriers to learning**, current abilities and prior knowledge. This enables us to meet the personal next learning steps of each and everyone.

At Britannia Bridge, we truly value our **parents and Carers (as partners** in their child's learning journey) and we involve them in a wide variety of ways.

Our EY teachers construct bespoke lessons, that are inspiring, by focusing on our children's personal **interests** and ensuring that they engage in rich, exciting and enjoyable experiences.

Our EY teachers **network** with other schools, the Local Authority (and external consultants) to ensure that our Early Years teaching and learning is the very best that it can be.

Our Early Years Leader **monitors and evaluates** the EY curriculum, regularly and robustly, to ensure that our children leave us with the essential knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next phase of education. Monitoring and evaluation findings are consistently reported to our **Governors** (through presentations and Data Summaries).

Our children are also given regular opportunities to '**Dig Deeper**', in **Early Years**, where they apply their thinking skills (based on Bloom's Taxonomy) to challenge their thinking.

IMPACT

At Britannia Bridge, each and every one of our Early Years children leaves us with the **essential, transferrable skills and knowledge** that they need to become curious, creative and confident **life-long learners**. They progress, rapidly, despite some of them beginning with low starting points and limited experiences. Each and every one of our pupils leaves our Reception class, fulfilling their absolute **maximum potential** and with the **cultural capital** they need to thrive, during Year 1. Our pupils leave Reception as **happy learners**, who understand the importance of achieving their own **goals**. They finish Early Years aspirational with a strong **Growth Mindset** and a true *respect* for themselves, their peers and others in our community. They begin Year 1, understanding the true importance of **teamwork** and the need to follow essential rules. Their time in our Early Years classes sets them up perfectly able to flourish in Year 1.

