

# Welcome to Montalbo Nursery and Primary School



# Meet the team:

**Mr C Minikin**  
Head Teacher



**Mrs A Bartoli**  
Deputy Head Teacher



**Miss R Lauder**  
Reception Teacher



# The Foundation Stage

At Montalbo Primary School all children are able to access learning on their own level and staff tailor opportunities to meet each child's needs. The focus is on ensuring children develop in a safe environment that supports their well being, development and independence.



# Routines and Timings

**8:55** – School begins, Reception children line up on the main playground and are brought into the classroom by their teacher.

**9:00** – Read, Write Inc. (phonics programme)

**10:00** – Literacy based activities

**10:30** - Playtime

**10:45** – Maths based activities

**12:00** – Reception children go for lunch in the main school hall, then play on the main school playground.

**13:00** – Reception children go to assembly in the school hall.

**13:20** – Afternoon activities (expressive arts, understanding the world etc.)

**15:25** – Children will collect their own things and be handed over to carers at the classroom door.



# 7 Foundation Stage Areas of Learning

**Personal, Social and  
Emotional Development**



**Mathematical  
Development**



**Communication and  
Language**



**Literacy**



# 7 Foundation Stage Areas of Learning

**Expressive Arts and Design**



**Physical Development**



**Understanding the World**



# Personal, Social and Emotional Development

## What does this include?

- Developing self confidence and awareness
- Managing feelings and behaviour
- Making relationships

## What will happen in school?

- Lots of opportunities to interact
- Clear rules and boundaries
- Lots of praise
- Lots of opportunities to try new things

## What can I do to help at home?

- Encourage your child to share and take turns
- Encourage your child to understand rules and boundaries
- Let them know that it's good to have a go
- Encourage them to try again if things don't go well



# Communication and Language

## What does this include?

- Developing listening and attention
- Developing understanding of language
- Developing speaking skills

## What will happen in school?

- Lots of opportunities to speak and listen
- Lots of questions
- Lots of new language
- Lots of roleplay

## What can I do to help at home?

- Find time to talk!
- Read lots of stories
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes





# Literacy

## What does this include?

- Learning to read
- Learning to write

## What will happen in school?

- Lots of stories, rhymes, talking and singing
- Daily Read, Write Inc lessons
- Lots of encouragement to write and mark make
- Exciting stimulus and purpose for writing



**Read Write Inc.**  
Phonics

Information for Parents:  
**Understanding  
Phonics**



Ruth Miskin  
Training



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_3gcv\\_zLWwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3gcv_zLWwk)

These are the sounds you child will focus on across the year. We use these charts in each classroom to assist your child with their learning.

### Simple Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds - stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
										nk

Consonant sounds - funny

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
	k											

Vowel sounds - funny

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
---	---	---	---	---	----	----	-----	----

Vowel sounds - stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
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**Read Write Inc.**  
Phonics

**Information for Parents:**

**How to say  
the sounds**

Ruth Miskin  
Training



Please follow the link for more information on the pronunciation of each sound:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc>

# Top Tips for Helping Develop Reading at Home:

1. Read as often as possible
2. Practice flashcards
3. Practice blending
4. Play games with sounds like I spy or making silly rhyming lists



## **Fine Motor Skills**

**Fine motor skills are crucial for developing writing stamina and pencil grip. Activities that involve using child-friendly scissors, playdough, threading, tweezers to name a few, are beneficial. A variety of activities can be found at:**

<https://theimaginationtree.com/40-fine-motor-skills-activities-for-kids/>



Row 55  
we o w o h a b o h u w  
he going on a ber hunt were  
o a w t w a t b y b c  
going catch a big one  
w l n o t s p o b  
we're not scared  
o w n o w p o b e h l o w o v  
oh noi gras Long wave  
e a s w n e  
grass.

3721  
on wonsai I went to the train  
station and then I  
went on the train and I  
saw some cows and I  
then I saw some cows and I  
went in the dark but it was  
good then I had some sun  
in my eyes it was bright  
then I got to go to my own  
I had a look then I went  
under the train track  
and then I got to the end  
16.5.14



• I went bike riding.

**Children go through many stages of writing in Reception and we do not expect children to start forming letters immediately. What is sometimes described as 'scribbles' is a crucial stage of writing and is encouraged!**

# Top Tips for Helping Develop Writing at Home:

1. Develop fine motor skills
2. Encourage and praise writing and mark making
3. Any mark making is good it doesn't need to be pencil and paper
4. When your child is ready – encourage proper letter formation



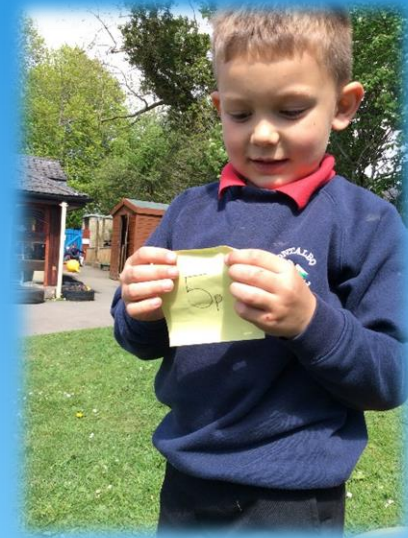
# Mathematical Development

## What does this include?

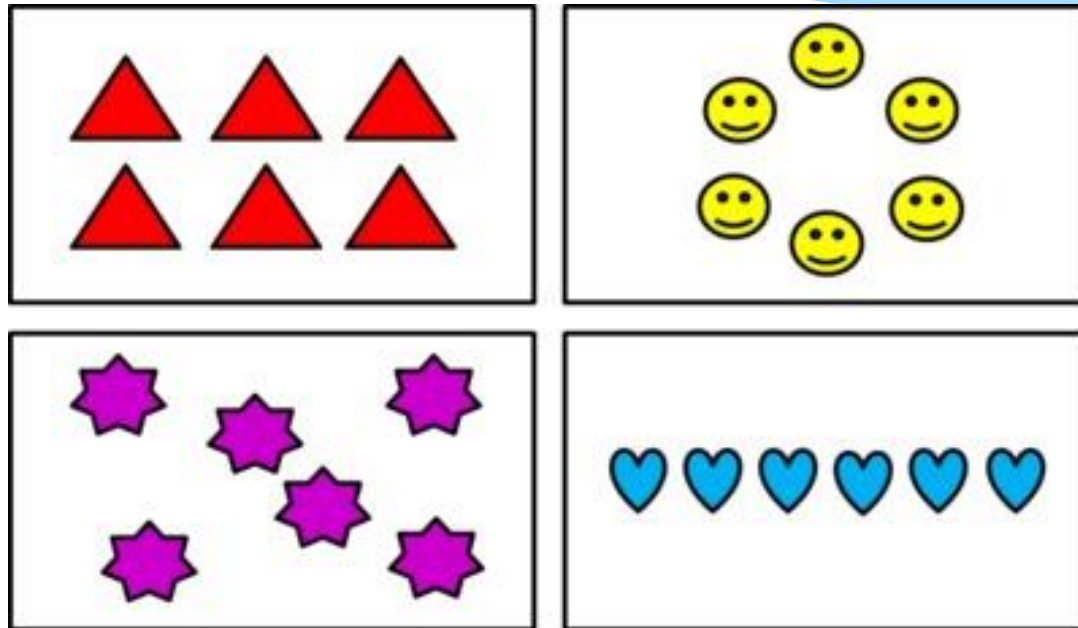
- Understanding numbers
- Understanding shape, space and measures

## What will happen in school?

- Opportunities to count objects and sequence numbers
- Lots of new mathematical language
- Practical mathematical problems
- Lots of activities using 2D and 3D shapes
- Opportunities to measure and sort



# Accurate counting of objects



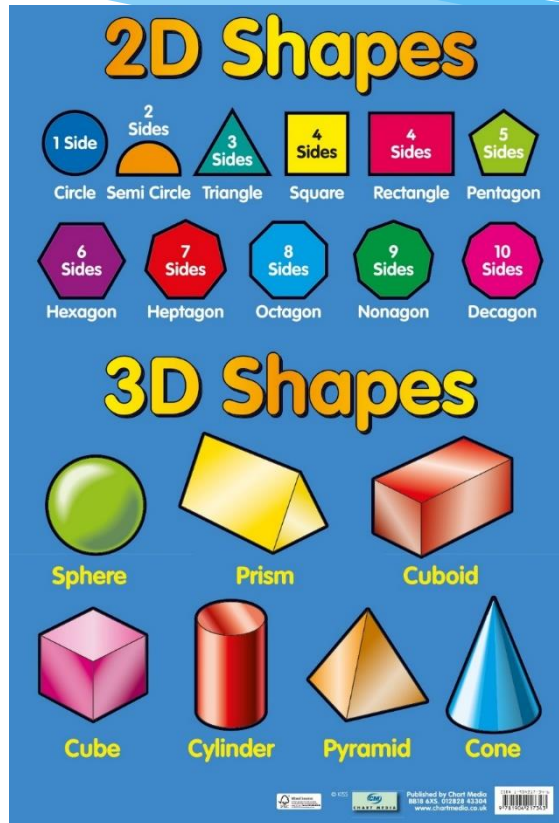
We focus on one-to-one correspondence, meaning children learn that one object equals 1. We encourage children to line up objects and touch each one as they are counting, to ensure that their counting is accurate.

# Accurate numeral writing



We use various rhymes to help the children to learn to write their numbers correctly and to recognise them. I have attached a copy of each rhyme and number formation.

# Naming 2d and 3d shapes



Shape recognition can be done at home using day to day objects.

# Simple number problems with objects



The majority of our maths is done using physical, practical resources. Children can practise counting, adding and subtracting at home using any available objects. Even items such as pasta have come in handy when learning at home.

# Top Tips for Helping Develop Mathematics at Home:

1. Count everything!
2. Look out for numbers in the environment
3. Sing number songs
4. Notice patterns and shapes
5. Activities like baking are great for developing measuring and concepts like 'full' and 'empty'

# Understanding the World

## What does this include?

- Learning and people and communities
- Learning around the world
- Learning about technology

## What will happen in school?

- Opportunities to explore people, customs and traditions
- Opportunities to explore changes
- Opportunities to explore places and living things
- Opportunities to use technology for different purposes

## What can I do to help at home?

- Help your child to notice things when you are out and about
- Encourage your child to notice changes that are happening



# Expressive Arts and Design

## What does this include?

- Exploring and using media and materials
- Being imaginative

## What will happen in school?

- Opportunities to experiment with different ways of making things
- Encouragement to be independent
- Opportunities to develop their own ideas
- Lots of opportunities to play and explore
- Lots of singing and dancing

## What can I do to help at home?

- Sing songs!
- Cutting and sticking
- Make models
- Play imaginative games





# Physical Development

## What does this include?

- Developing moving and handling abilities
- Developing awareness of health and self-care

## What will happen in school?

- Opportunities to climb, balance, run etc.
- Opportunities to use a variety of tools
- Lots of fine motor work like playdough, threading etc.
- Encouragement to take care of themselves

## What can I do to help at home?

- Encourage your child to manage their own toilet needs
- Encourage your child to get dressed and undressed independently
- Encourage your child to make healthy choices



# Practical Details

## School Uniform

- Order form in pack or available online
- **Must** all be labelled
- Have a practice!

## Essential equipment

See checklist in booklet.

Includes: water bottle, wellies, spare clothes, appropriate clothing for weather.

## Lunches

- Free for Reception children via the Universal Free School Meals Scheme
- **Please can all parents fill in free school meal form regardless of UIFSM**
- Token system
- Healthy snack provided throughout the day



# Medical Matters

## Medicine

Any medicine which has been prescribed by a doctor can be administered but a form must be filled in first.

## Absence

Please call the school office by 10am.

## Sickness and Diarrhoea

Must be followed by at least 48 hours absence.

## First Aid

Basic first aid will be provided in school.



# First days

Children may be very tired initially!

Some may be upset coming in to school but I promise it will get easier!

This is completely normal and it doesn't take the children long to adapt and they will soon be bounding in to school on a morning!



Any Questions? Please feel free to e-mail me:  
Reception.Montalbo@durhamlearning.net

