

## **FAQs about the EYFS (Year R)**

### **What is the EYFS?**

EYFS, is how the Government, and early years' professionals, describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. This is a very important stage in your child's development as it helps your child get ready for more formal school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born, up until the age of 5, the child's early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support his/her development, care and learning needs.

Reception classes must follow a legal document called the EYFS Framework. It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children, must follow, to keep your child safe and promote their welfare
- The '7 areas of learning and development' which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge
- Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the 'Early Learning Goals' (ELGs)

### **How many Reception classes are there?**

There are two Reception classes.

### **What are the average class sizes? Are they ever the max of 30?**

There are two classes in Reception and they each have 30 pupils. We are always full!

### **Do the two classes mix?**

Yes! During child initiated time the children are able to free flow between the two Year R classrooms and the shared outdoor area.

### **How many adults are in the classroom each day?**

There are two adults in each classroom. One is the teacher and the other is a teaching assistant.

### **What is the balance between child initiated and adult initiated learning?**

Each day the children have a reading lesson, phonics, either Literacy, Maths or RE, Worship time and two sessions of child initiated learning time. They have PE twice a week, French once a week and music and computing lessons on alternate weeks.

### **Who takes the class when the teacher is on PPA?**

Planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA) is given to every teacher each week. During the teacher's absence, the class is either taught by the job share teacher if the teachers are part-time or by a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)

**How do you support children that are exceeding in a subject?**

We have exceptionally high standards at Lady Boswell's and always differentiate adult directed learning to meet individual children's needs. In child initiated learning, we guide, teach and extend each child, using their own interests as a platform. We always go above and beyond to make sure every child is supported to reach their full potential.

**How do parents and staff communicate with each other?**

Daily communication is carried out via a contact book. Once a term parents and carers are invited to visit their child's classroom to talk informally with the teacher as well as look at the children's work in their books and on display. Should you need to discuss a particular issue with your child's class teacher, you can make an appointment to meet after school. We also hold two formal parent consultation meetings with each family during the year. We provide two interim reports to update you on your child's progress plus a detailed end of year report.

**How do I find out how my child is progressing?**

At Lady Boswell's we use an online learning journal call 'Tapestry' in their Reception year. This can be accessed by both parents and staff and is used jointly to share photos and observations of your child. These observations are used to assess your child's development as an individual as well as identify their next steps.

**How often do the children go outside?**

The children have lots of opportunities to go outside every day, whatever the weather.

**Do you have a forest school?**

Yes, we have an amazing Forest School which backs onto the beautiful Knole Park. The children visit once a week for our forest school sessions. We also visit at other times for lessons.

**Do Year R children get homework?**

Yes! The children bring home reading books on a daily basis and we ask that they spend approximately 10 minutes a day sharing their book with an adult. Every Friday the children receive spellings, handwriting and a fun and practical 'weekend challenge'.

**How will I know what my child is learning in school?**

Each Friday, you will receive a letter, along with the homework, explaining what we have been learning as a class during that week as well as what we will be learning the following week.