Reception Curriculum

CANON JOHNSON
CofE Primary School

Reception Curriculum Intent Statement

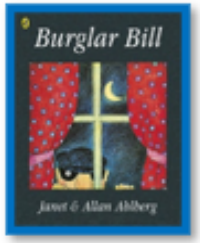
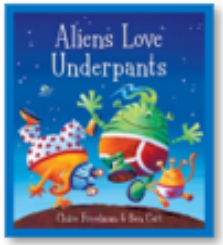
At Canon Johnson C of E Primary School, our Reception Curriculum is thoughtfully designed to provide a nurturing, stimulating, and inclusive environment where every child is recognised as a unique individual with the potential to thrive. Grounded in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, our intent is to build strong foundations for lifelong learning and well-being, with a particular emphasis on communication, resilience, and curiosity.

We understand the importance of responding to the context of our local community, and our curriculum reflects this by prioritising early language acquisition, social development, and emotional literacy. Many of our children begin their learning journey with lower starting points, and we are committed to closing the gap through high-quality teaching, a language-rich environment, and targeted support. Our Christian school family aims to immerse every child in a diverse, thought provoking, memorable curriculum, which places all children at the heart of discovering their true potential, allowing them to become aspirational, valued contributors within an ever-changing society and global community.

The Canon Johnson Curriculum enables pupils to develop their knowledge and skills ready for each stage of their learning journey. It deepens their knowledge, enriches their understanding, and embeds skills. In our school, we split this into three phases:

- *EYFS Through play and exploration create the experiential foundations in knowledge, skills and understanding which will be built upon in the later stages of school.*
- *KS1 Building upon the firm foundations from EYFS in all areas of learning to access the wider curriculum at KS2.*
- *KS2 Build upon pupils prior learning and deepen knowledge, skills and understanding in preparation for their next stage of educational learning.*

Characteristics of Effective Learning

We promote the **Characteristics of Effective Learning** as the golden threads that run through all learning and development in Reception:

- **Playing and Exploring** – Children are encouraged to investigate and experience things, take risks, and engage in open-ended play. This fosters confidence and a willingness to 'have a go'.
- **Active Learning** – We support children in maintaining focus and persistence, celebrating effort and progress. Children learn how to enjoy achievements and recover from setbacks.
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – Children are taught and encouraged to make connections, solve problems, and reflect on their thinking. This underpins our approach to inquiry-based learning.