

Understanding the World

Intention

At York Road Nursery we want to recognise and value all of our children's cultural backgrounds and celebrate diversity. We want to encourage your children to have experiences that involve getting to know about other people, the place where they live and about all aspects of the environment.

Implementation

People and Communities

We share our 'My Books' to encourage the children to talk about their family and friend, as well as their interests and what they enjoy doing outside of nursery.

We talk about how everybody is different. We can have similarities but nobody is the same. We use core books in our nursery to help explain this in an age appropriate manner, one of which is called 'It's OK to be different' and looks at families, communities, disabilities and all round general growing up and how we all change from being babies to children to adults.



We discuss and experience different cultures, foods, clothing and traditions such as Chinese New Year, Sikh/Hindu Diwali story, Eid, Chanukah and celebrate Black History Month each October.



We join in with community activities such as the Christmas Tree festival and fundraising. At York Road we teach the children about British festivals and celebrations:

- Christmas
- Black History month
- Harvest
- Mothering Sunday/Father's day
- Pancake day
- Easter
- Remembrance Day
- Firework night
- World book day
- Feeling good week
- Children in Need/Red nose day

We also canvas our families when their children enrol with us to ascertain which other festivals are celebrated. We teach about these festivals through stories and fun experiences, asking the children to share with us their traditions and how they celebrate. Other festivals and celebrations often include Divali, Ramadam, Eid, Chinese/Luna new Year, Chanukah. In this way all cultures and countries of origin are included and valued.

We encourage parents and visitors from various occupations to come and talk to the children, such as police officers, doctor or nurses, fire departments, vets and explain what they do to help us. We also encourage parents with a second language to come and read stories to the children in their mother tongue.



The World

At York Road we promote well-being and mindfulness and this can be done in many forms. We encourage the children to take notice of their surroundings and natural environment. We explore the mud kitchen and the Forest School woodland. We go for mindful walks taking in the sounds of the outdoor environment, whether that be the wind in the trees, the birds singing, aeroplanes in the sky or cars on the road. We visit local organisations such as the local care home and church at Christmas time.

This aspect also focuses on learning about cause and effect and is developed through having conversations with adults and other children about the things they observe like the weather on a daily basis, or seasonal changes; Gardening and growing our own food, as part of our 5 before 5 'we can eat what we grow' and pets at home, as well our pets in nursery which include the fish, the Giant African snails, the stick insects and our therapy dogs Ebony and Dude.



As well as our pets we also have a farm visit us once a year which can include ducks, rabbits, chickens, a donkey, goats and sheep. This teaches the children about care and concern for living things and is a real joy for the children having live animals in the nursery garden.

Each spring we also introduce the butterfly lifecycle, with each group taking care of eggs and watching them grow and then releasing them into their natural environment as well as having a farm deliver eggs and being able to watch chicks hatch. This does also involve talking about the sad part of the lifecycle when it doesn't quite go to plan where butterflies and chicks may not hatch.

Technology

At York Road Nursery we pride ourselves on interacting with the children in Child Led Activities and active learning. The children have independent use of the interactive whiteboards to do mark making, problem solving and movement activities such as yoga and dance.

We teach the children about the different forms of message sending, which we cover in our 5 before 5 'we can send a message' teaching them about email and texting in terms of electronic message sending.

The children are also involved in the use of music within the nursery and can request different types of music to listen to via our iPad as well as picture taking for progress checking.

Impact

When leaving York Road Nursery School, the children will have had an introduction into the different cultures surrounding them in their community and will have been given the opportunity to experience different cultural environmental activities. They will feel more confident when exploring these areas further as they get older, giving them the passion to be kind to everyone and to look after our planet, bodies and minds.