

Welcome to Conkers Class



Dear Parents and Carers,

The whole Conkers staff team are delighted to offer you and your child the warmest of welcomes to our class. We feel both excited and privileged to welcome your child into Conkers Class for the next academic year. We fully appreciate what a big step it can feel when your child transitions to school and we recognise that working in partnership with parents and caregivers greatly benefits your child's academic journey. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to say that our door is always open for a chat - no question or concern is too small!

In Conkers Class we offer a fun, rich and creative curriculum, where learning takes place in both our indoor and outdoor environments. These environments are planned to give children the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking and learning across all areas of the Early Years curriculum. We have a vibrant and stimulating classroom combined with a spacious outdoor area that is surrounded by spectacular rural views. We value outdoor play experiences and therefore use our outdoor area in *all* weathers!

We strive to provide high quality care and education in a safe, supportive environment. We recognise that positive relationships are fundamental to a child's development; young children learn to be strong and independent through loving and secure relationships. The children are at the heart of all that we do. The mix of ages (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) in the class, combined with the staff team gives a real family feel and strengthens the children's social and emotional understanding. This learning environment also helps them to engage in both collaborative and independent learning with greater ease and strengthens their peer-to-peer interactions.

The children learn through purposeful play opportunities and engage in first hand, practical activities. We recognise that play underpins all areas of development and learning for young children. Our rich learning experiences are linked to our half-termly themes, which feature a fun launch and landing day. In September, our theme will be 'Star Gazers'.

In Conkers class, we always foster the children's natural curiosity and encourage them to make their own choices, thus gaining independence. We understand that children develop at their own pace, but with encouragement and opportunities, will reach their full potential and grow in confidence. We use observations of the children to help us better understand their stage of development and to ensure that activities are tailored to their personal and academic needs, as well as their individual interests.

We very much look forward to meeting with you in person at the upcoming parents' information session, following the half term holiday and to nurturing your child into the Conkers family and wider school life.

Our Very Best Wishes,

Mrs Bennett, Mr Mortimer and The Conkers Team