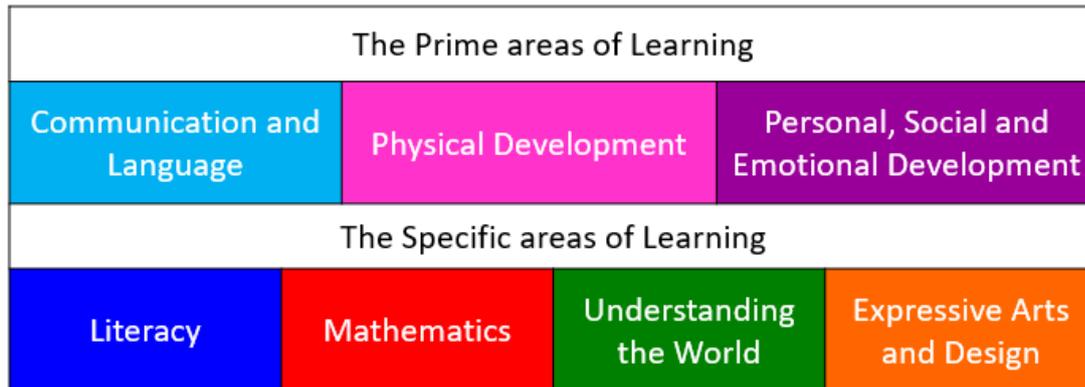




## Victoria Lane Academy Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Overview.

Children in the nursery and reception classes follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum and work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals. The national expectation is that most children will reach the Early Learning Goals by the end of their Reception year. The aim is to ensure that children are confident, have a positive attitude to learning and can work co-operatively with other children and adults. There are three prime areas of learning and four specific areas of learning in which prime areas are strengthened and applied.



Play underpins the delivery of all the EYFS. Young children learn most effectively through structured play. Our Foundation Stage staff work together as a team and plan for children's learning in seven areas of development to ensure that all these areas are covered within an interesting, stimulating and supportive framework. They also ensure that children progressively develop their skills and knowledge throughout this phase of their school life. The children are taught directly and also have a choice of planned activities so that they are able to develop independent learning habits. We actively encourage them to initiate their own activities.

### Prime Areas of Learning

The prime areas of learning are given a high priority throughout your child's time in Nursery and Reception. We recognize that if a child's skills are not nurtured and developed in the prime areas they find it difficult to access the more specific areas of learning encountered throughout their school life. Prime areas are taught through carpet time sessions and play activities. Play activities specifically designed to develop your child's fine motor, gross motor and communication and language skills are planned carefully into each school day.

### Specific areas of learning

**Literacy** - Developing a life-long love of reading is a priority at Victoria Lane Academy. Books, stories and rhymes are at the centre of our EYFS curriculum. Topics are introduced through high quality, varied and colourful books. We teach children to read using the systematic, synthetic phonics program - Letters and Sounds.

In Nursery children are taught to listen to and differentiate different sounds, recognize rhyme and begin to identify the sounds in words. When they are ready they are introduced to some of the letters of the alphabet to allow them to begin to link sounds to letters.

Children are also taught how to hold a pencil and given the opportunity to experiment with writing.

When they start in Reception, children use the foundation they have been given in Nursery to help them to learn to read. In Reception children are taught all the letters of the alphabet as well as combinations of letters that make a particular sound e.g. ch as in chicken or ai as in snail. Letters and Sounds is delivered with the help of a delightful program called StoryTime Phonics which introduces each new sound through a 'real' story such as 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' or 'Aliens Love Underpants.' Children love their StoryTime Phonics sessions which are very dynamic and often accompanied by a visit from the Phonic Fairy or the Tricky Troll!



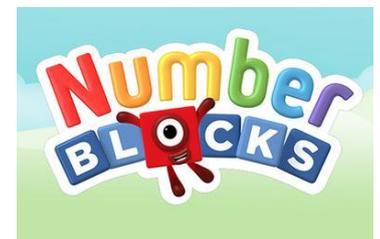
Alongside learning to read, children are taught to form letters so that they can begin to write the words that they can read. They are provided with lots of play opportunities to practice their new writing skills.

**Mathematics** - At VLA, we believe that the development of a firm foundation in the understanding of number in the Early Years allows your child to enjoy and succeed in their maths learning as they progress through the school.

In Nursery children are introduced to the concept of number through counting songs, rhymes and activities. Play opportunities are provided for children to explore and experiment with number. We use the Ten Town resource to introduce numerals to the children - each numeral has a character, story and song associated with it to help the children recognize and remember numerals up to 10



In Reception we use the CBeebies Characters - the Numberblocks to develop children's understanding of number. Through these characters children are introduced to important mathematical concepts such as number composition, subitising (recognizing a quantity without the need for counting), place value, odds and evens and doubling and halving. We aim to develop children's confidence in maths through providing lots of opportunities in taught sessions and during play for children to explore number. Children are encouraged to use their knowledge of number to solve mathematical problems as well as to invent problems of their own to solve.



**Understanding the World** - At VLA we believe that learning about the world begins at an early age. In the EYFS we aim to foster and inspire the natural enthusiasm of young children for learning about the world around them in order to lay the foundations for a life-long interest in science, geography, history and RE. Throughout their time in EYFS pupils are exposed to a range of meaningful, memorable experiences that allow them to explore and begin to ask questions about their world. These include visits from members of the community, outside visits to farms, gardens and museums, practical science experiments and structured play opportunities. Each topic is introduced with a colourful story or non-fiction book to help bring it to life.

**Expressive Arts and Design** - Throughout Nursery and Reception children are given opportunities to express themselves through music, dance, creating, drawing, painting, role-play, junk modelling and construction. Many of these activities are child-led and children are encouraged to select their own resources and let their imaginations run wild. More structured activities are also planned into the curriculum to introduce children to new ways of expressing themselves as well as to help them develop skills such as cutting, tying, sticking, drawing, painting and building.