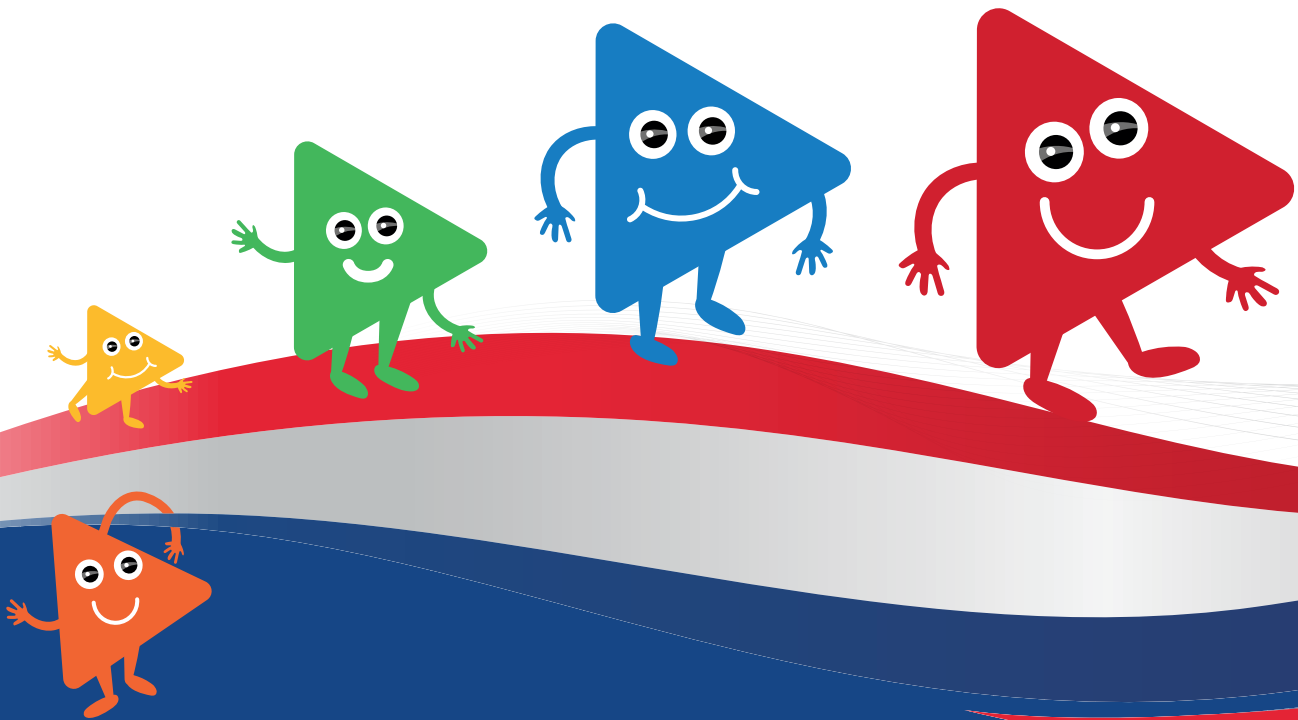


THE
BRITISH
SCHOOL
OF AMSTERDAM
EARLY YEARS
SCHOOL



Welcome to Reception

Contents



- 2 Class Allocation
- 4 The First Week
- 6 Starting School
- 8 Snacks and Lunch
- 9 School Uniform
- 10 The School Day
- 12 Attendance
- 14 Teaching and Learning
- 18 What We Expect?
- 20 Little Stars Fitness
- 21 Sports and Games
- 22 After School Care
- 23 Supporting Your Child
- 24 Activities
- 26 Extracurricular Activities
- 27 Class Parents
- 28 Child Protection
- 30 Contact

Head's welcome

We are looking forward to your child joining Reception.

We want you to know that your child will be nurtured and well cared for. Our dedicated staff strive to ensure that your children feel happy in their environment and feel part of the school community.

Some children will be transferring from our Nursery department, other children are joining the Early Years School for the first time. Regardless, we are sure that parents will want to find out more about our Reception department and will want to know how they can support their child's transition.

We look forward to welcoming you all,

Kind regards,

Claudia van der Laar-Newson

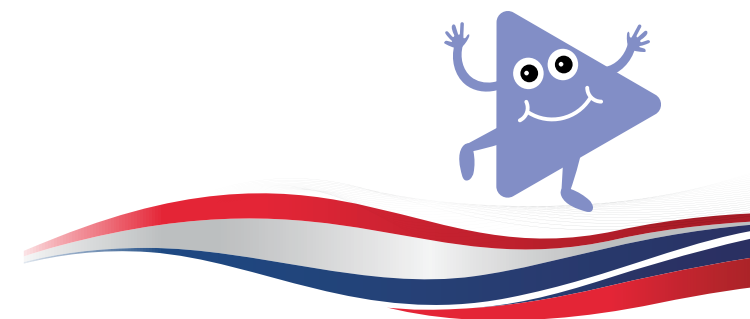
Head of Early Years

c.newson@britams.nl

Jane Grove

Year Group Leader

j.grove@britams.nl



Class Allocation

Classes are created for the start of each year. Children are grouped according to the number of classes in the year group. There are 4 Reception classes with a maximum of 24 children in each class. There is a teacher and a full time support member of staff in each class.

We try to ensure equal allocation of the following in classes:

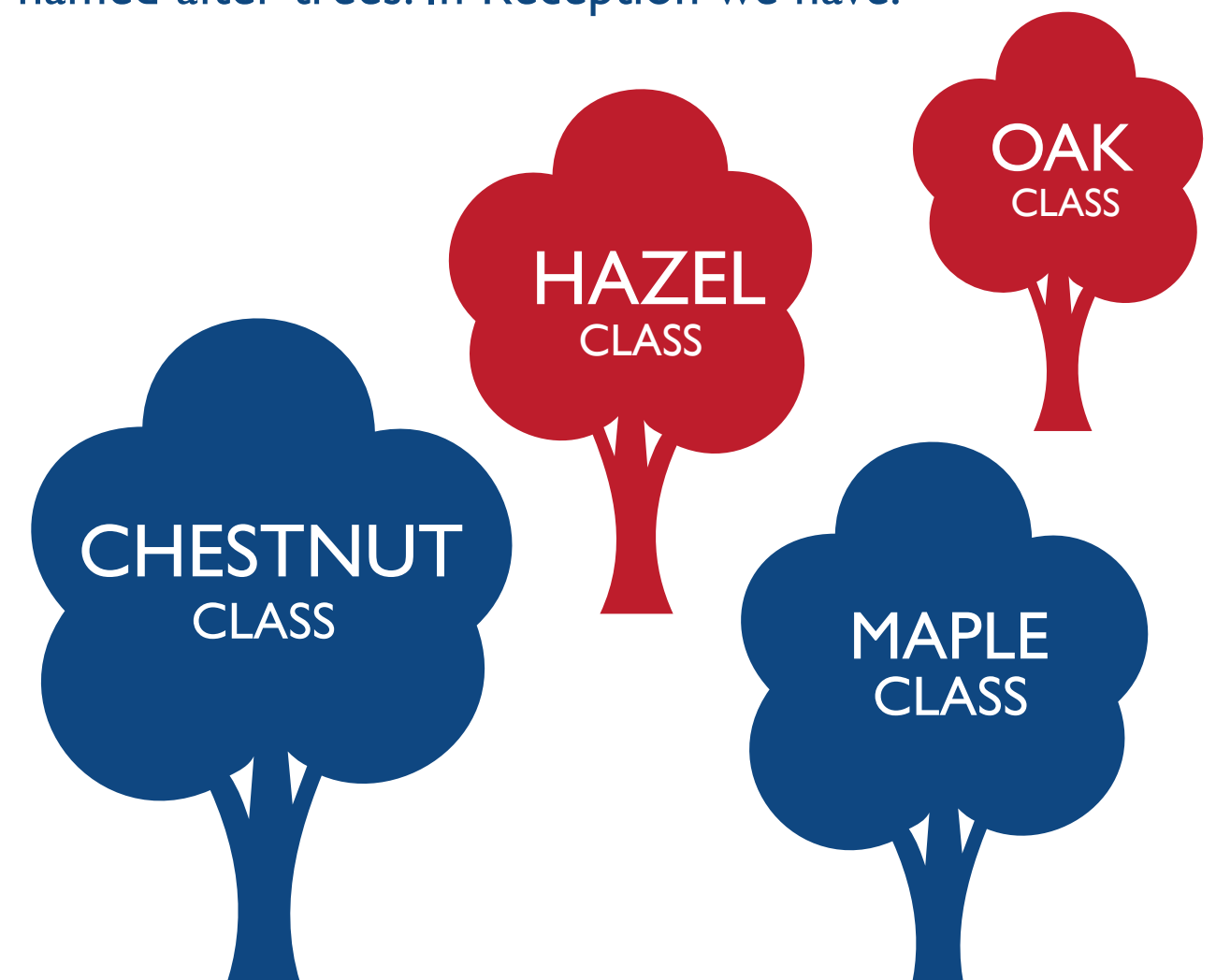
- number of pupils
- ratio of boys and girls
- number of children with English as an additional language

- number of children that need learning support
- a language 'buddy' who shares the same language as your child



Many of the children in the Early Years are learning English as an additional language. Such children often start school speaking little or no English but very soon gain the confidence and skills to communicate quite freely in English; this being their second and in some cases their third language. All recent research indicates that a child will learn English more effectively if they continue to develop their first language at the same time. Children's knowledge and skills transfer across languages from their first language they have learned at home, to the school language. With such evidence in mind we do not separate children who speak the same language, rather we try to ensure that there is at least one other child in the class who shares the same language.

All the classes in the Early Years School are named after trees. In Reception we have:



The First Week

What to Expect

In order to make the transition as smooth as possible, we stagger the days the children start school. All children starting Reception, even those who have attended our Nursery full time in the previous school year attend part time during the first week. Children starting Reception attend just two full days during the first week.

The class is divided into two; one half will attend on **Thursday 7** and **Monday 11 September (08.50 – 15.10)** and the other half on **Friday 8** and **Tuesday 12 September, (08.50 – 15.10)**. This ensures that each child receives more individual attention and the staff can spend more time getting to know your child. Children begin to familiarise themselves with their environment and classroom routines. They start to build friendships. You will be notified before the end of the term which days your child will be expected to attend.

Prior to starting school, we will arrange an online meeting so that staff can introduce themselves to children starting school for the first time.

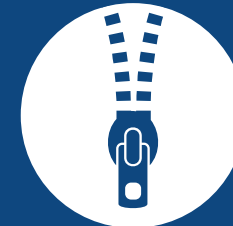
From Wednesday 13 September, all children are expected to attend full time. There is no option for children in Reception to attend part time.



Starting school

Getting prepared

Even children who have been in Nursery or a day care setting can find starting Reception a big step. For some children it will be their first experience of full time school. Some children may have never been to school or a similar setting before. Please help your child prepare for Reception by talking about coming to school.



David
not
DAVID

You can also help by:

- Teaching your child to put on their coat and fasten the buttons or zip.
- Teaching your child to dress and undress independently as children are required to change for PE. **Choose shoes with velcro rather than laces and clothes with easy fastenings.** Shoes should be well fitted and comfortable. Please make sure **EVERYTHING** is labelled, this is the only way to track lost property back to the rightful owner.
- Encouraging the children's independence in meeting their own needs. Children need to be able to go to the toilet independently and know to wash and dry their hands afterwards. Children must be able to feed themselves and know to tidy up after themselves.
- Involving your child in choosing items for school, e.g. a lunch box and a water bottle so that they are familiar with them and that they have things that they like. **Please choose a box that can be easily opened.** Children must have a back pack for their snack box, lunch box and water bottle.
- Helping your child to recognize his/her name. Reminder – capital letter for the first letter of your child's name, lower case letters for the rest. **Please do not teach your child to write his/her name in capital letters.**
- Arriving at school in plenty of time for the start of the school day and in time for the end of the day. Please be punctual.



School starts

08.50



School ends

15.10

(children can be
dropped off from 08.30)

Snacks and Lunch

What do I need to provide?

Children need a fruit or similar healthy snack for snack time every day. This is eaten in the classroom after playtime. Snacks should be packed in a named, plastic box.

Children need a water bottle so that they can drink water throughout the day. Children eat their lunch at school. Parents can either supply the lunch from home or can arrange for lunch to be provided by our school catering service Markies.

Children have their lunch in the EYS hall between 12.00 - 12.30. They are supervised by members of staff. Please pack a reasonable amount of lunch, teachers assume that parents expect their child to eat most of what they have provided. Please note there is no facility to warm up lunch provided from home.



We aim to be a 'nut-free' school.

There are a number of people in the school with a severe nut allergy, so we ask you to ensure that no snacks or lunch contain nuts/traces of nuts. For example, items such as Nutella, pesto, hazelnut yoghurt or peanut butter.



Children are very welcome to celebrate their birthday in school and may bring a small 'treat' to share with their class at snack time, e.g. a small plain cake, a small box of raisins or some fruit. Please don't forget we are a nut free school. Party bags, small toys, sweets or lollipops may not be supplied.

School Uniform

Everyday uniform



Branded items in school online shop:

- navy blue branded sweatshirt or cardigan
- navy blue branded polo shirt

Not sold by school:

- white polo shirt
- grey or navy blue trousers and/or skirts
- school shoes (must be suitable for outdoor use and easy to use such as Velcro straps)

PE Kit and Outerwear



On days children have a gym session, they may come to school dressed in their PE kit. The kit can also be left in their gym bag in school to change into.

Not sold by school:

- white t-shirt
- navy shorts



Children need a pair of sport shoes/plimsolls for sport. Children also need a spare set of clothes to change in to, this does not have to be school uniform but should include extra underwear.

Details of the school uniform can be found on the school website and on firefly.

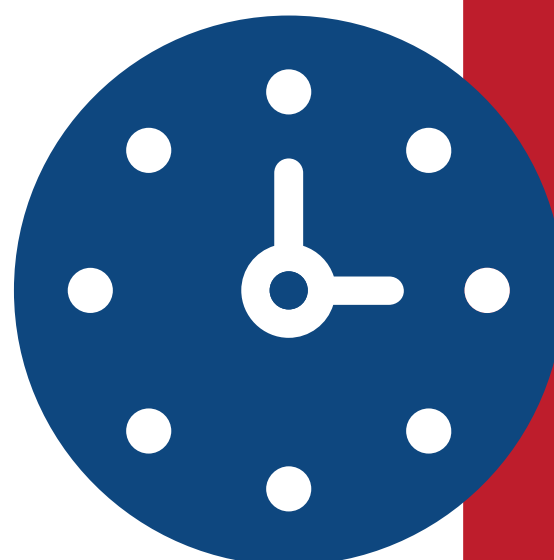


Only branded school items can be purchased from our Uniform Shop. For non-branded items, you can purchase them from Marks & Spencer or other external retailers.

The school day

The Reception School day is structured as:

Welcome	08.30 – 08.45
Registration	08.50
Play time for Reception	10.00 – 10.30
Lunch time/Play time	12.00 – 13.15
End of School	15.10
Extra Curricular Programme	15.30 – 16.30



A few children may find it difficult to leave their parents, especially at the start of a new school year or term. We know that this is also difficult for you as parents but we would ask you to follow the advice of the class teacher which often is to leave quickly. The school will always telephone you if your child continues to be upset though in almost all cases children settle quickly once their parents have left.

Attendance

Every school day counts. Children are expected to attend every day unless they are sick.

Registration/Punctuality

We have an electronic registration system which records the children's attendance. The register is taken at 08.50am and at the start of the afternoon. Anyone arriving after the close of registration is recorded as 'late'. Lateness should be avoided at all times. Children who are late for school not only interfere with their own educational development but also with that of their peers. In the event a child does arrive at school late (i.e. after 08.50), he/she must report directly to the Reception to receive a late attendance mark in the register and to be escorted to their class.

Sickness

If your child is unwell then they must stay at home. If symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea they **must** stay at home for 24 hours after they were last ill.

A child who has had a fever (temperature above 37.5) must be free of the fever without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

The Head of School has the right to exclude pupils from school if they feel a pupil is too sick to attend and/or are causing risk of infection to others.

The Head of School may exclude pupils who have, or are suspected of having a contagious disease. Parents must inform the School if their child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease.

This will be communicated to all parents including the symptoms and possible side effects. Parents are advised to contact a doctor should they feel concerned.

Absence Procedure

Absence due to illness:

Call or email the Receptionists before 9.00 am. You only need to notify us on the first day that your child is absent; you do not need to call every day.

Absence due to holiday or family events:

Complete a 'Leave of Absence Form'. You can always find the form on Firefly.

If you do not notify us when your child is absent from School, we will contact you to ensure that your child is at home.



To avoid us calling you unnecessarily please follow these steps. **Please ensure that you telephone or email the School before 09.00am** if your child is going to be absent.



Teaching and learning

Which curriculum do the children follow?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

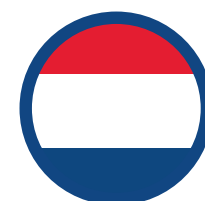


There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in Early Years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.



Dutch is taught as an additional language to children who are native English speakers or children who are proficient additional English language speakers. Native Dutch is taught to native Dutch children. Children must have at least one Dutch speaking parent and speak Dutch every day in the home.



English is taught as an additional language to additional language learners. EAL is taught by the EAL teacher and children are withdrawn for sessions.

Observations

What we see

Part of our job as Early Years practitioners is to observe the children at various times and record these observations.

Through our observations of the children interacting and at play we can discover many things.

- Personal interests/dislikes
- Level of knowledge/ability
- Social skills and much more...

Our observations help us to plan the next steps to provide for the needs of each child and also help us to assess how each child is learning and their developmental levels.



Assessment

And record keeping

The staff in the Early Years use the **Evidence Me** profile app to record children's achievements against the Early Years profile. Teachers are able to take a photograph to capture the child's learning, to add notes and record the achievement against the EYFS curriculum. In February and June, parents will be sent copies of the reports generated through this app.



What do we expect?

For children joining Reception there are no special expectations – children do not need to be able to read and write or count to a certain number.

Sample timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08.45 – 09.00	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION
09.00 – 09.30	PSHE Assembly	Maths	Write Dance	Sports and Games	EAL/Dutch
09.30 – 10.00	Show and Tell/ Class Mascots		SNACK	Phonics	
	SNACK	SNACK	EAL/Dutch	SNACK	SNACK
10.00 – 10.30	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND		PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND
10.30 – 11.00	Phonics	Phonics	PLAYGROUND	Maths Beginner EAL	Phonics
11.00 – 11.30	Communication, Language and Literacy (C.L.L)	Maths			C.L.L / Library
11.30 – 12.00	Beginner EAL	Beginner EAL	Phonics		
12.00 – 12.30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH
12.30 – 1.15	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND
13.15 – 13.30	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION
13.30 – 14.00	Music	Topic / 7 areas of learning	Ballet	C.L.L / 7 areas of learning Native Dutch	Maths / Yoga
14.00 – 14.30			Maths / 7 areas of learning		
14.30 – 15.00	C.L.L / 7 areas of learning				
15.00 – 15.10	Story and home time	Story and home time	Story and home time	Story and home time	Story and home time



During the first weeks of the term staff will carry out an on entry assessment to identify each child's needs. Children continue to work with the Foundation stage curriculum. They are all working through the developmental levels towards the goals in each of the areas which they should achieve during this school year. Records from Nursery are automatically passed on. Any records of their progress from previous schools or settings should be passed to your child's teacher. It is an individual approach to learning with children being taught individually, in small groups and sometimes as a class. There are different expectations for different children.

At the start of the year, children record very little of their work, the emphasis is on practical activities. Much of the teaching and learning is still achieved through play based activities.

Work is often sent home rather than kept in school, so that children can share their learning.

There is a timetable which may appear very structured, this just ensures sufficient amount of time is spent on each subject.



Little Stars Fitness

Little Stars Fitness provides a stimulating learning experience to teach children about the importance of health, nutrition and fitness. It is hands-on and gives children a practical experience that can be taken home.

- It has a constant and consistent healthy message to inspire the children and their families
- Little Stars Fitness believes the key to bringing good nutrition into the home is through the children.
- Children will enjoy fun fitness sessions using real mini gym machines and exercise equipment followed by smoothie or juice making.



Sports and Games

In Reception children enjoy a regular sports and games session with a sports coach. Children develop fundamental movement skills, become increasingly competent and confident in balance and coordination, individually and with others.

We teach yoga and follow the Massage in Schools programme. There are optional weekly ballet lessons lead by a teacher from the English Ballet school. There is an additional fee for these classes.



Educational visits

We go on educational visits throughout the year to local attractions linked to what the children are learning. These are a wonderful opportunity for children to make exciting, real-life links with their learning.



After school care

Majest Global

The British School of Amsterdam works in partnership with after school care provider **Majest Global** to provide reliable, good quality after school care for children. Majest Global provides after school care exclusively to British School children between the ages 3 to 12 years.

The facility is open every day after school 3.00 – 6.00pm and during school holidays 8.00am to 6.00pm.



For all enquiries, please use the contact or meet us buttons on the school website: www.britams.nl



Supporting your child

At home

There are no specific expectations but if you would like to help your child at home in the holiday, on the following pages there are some suggested activities to help develop gross and fine motor skills (especially for pre-writing skills).

In addition, we teach phonics using Jolly Phonics. You may like to download the app for your child.



Activities

To develop large motor skills

- Balancing along a bench, wall or beam (encourage use of arms), start on a wider object and over time reduce to narrow
- Jumping both feet together
- Star jumps
- Hopping on one foot
- Standing on one foot, then the other (should be able to maintain for 10 seconds)
- Bouncing on a trampoline
- Musical bumps (stop still when the music stops)
- What's the time Mr. Wolf? game
- Hopscotch
- Skipping with a skipping rope (jumping from one side to the other of a rope on the floor is enough of a challenge to start with)
- Walking with fairy steps (feet toe-to-toe)
- Walking with giant steps
- Walking, hopping, running, skipping, jumping according to given directions (walk forward, skip to the side, jump back 5 times)
- Kicking a football
- Bowling
- Skittles
- Marbles
- Frog and rabbit jumps
- Jumping down the stairs one step at a time (under guidance!)
- Slithering like a snake
- Swimming
- Rotating wrists whilst keeping elbows still
- Walking on tiptoes forwards and backwards
- Walking on heels forwards and backwards
- Walking on insides of feet
- Recognizing fingers touched when obscured from view (hold a book over hand and touch one or two fingers, can s/he tell you which were touched)
- Finger sequencing (touch thumb with each finger). Left hand, then right, then both
- Touching end of nose with finger in an arc, eyes closed. Repeat this several times with alternate arms
- Playgrounds and parks (see saws, swings, climbing frames)
- Dressing up play, and getting self dressed and undressed

To develop fine motor skills

- Cutting pictures from magazine to make a collage
- Threading beads, pasta etc.
- Bread making (esp. kneading)
- Playdough
- Playing a musical instrument (eg. Piano, keyboard)
- Exposure to a variety of textures (sandpaper, cloth, vinyl, plastic, wood) and ability to describe what they feel without looking
- Hand exercises and games (mirroring your hand movements, clapping games, cats cradle)
- Finger rhymes and songs with actions
- Making large arm movements (to form letters, numbers etc)
- Large and free style painting and drawing on very big pieces of paper
- Drawing on a (mini) whiteboard
- Drawing on a chalk board
- Chalking on the pavement or in the garden
- Construction activities such as lego
- Sewing/threading through large binca
- Craft activities related to an area of special interest for the child
- Specific teaching of skills such as cutting (open, shut movement and finger placement) and sticking (don't glue up in the air, glue around the edges of the object, don't wind up a pritt stick too far)
- Help with positioning for fine motor tasks (not too near or far from a table, at comfortable height)
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Doll play or soft toy play where clothes can be changed (zips, buttons, laces)
- Experimenting with different textures through use of : shaving foam, clay, playdough etc.
- Opening and closing containers (being shown how to do so independently)
- Water play – involving pouring from one container to another
- Picking up beads or peas or other small objects from a bowl with a pair of tweezers and placing them in a different bowl
- Sorting buttons or coins or other similar objects
- Learning to tie laces



Extracurricular activities

What we offer

Our extra curricular activity programme opens from the start of the Spring Term and Reception children may join one activity per week.

Our extracurricular activity programme is not open during the Autumn Term as we have seen that children are not ready as they are still adapting to full time school.



Class Parents

Each class will have one or two class parents. They will update you and remind you about things happening in your child's class – such as term themes, non-uniform days, class events etc.

If you are willing to be a Class Parent, please inform your child's class teacher.



Child Protection

The British School of Amsterdam is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and parents to share this commitment. The school has a child protection policy and guidelines which are in line with Dutch national procedures and which all members of staff are expected to adhere to. All reported incidents are legally obliged to be investigated following a strict code.

It is important for parents to know and to adhere to the rules of the host country. In the Netherlands any form of physical punishment - for example, smacking or hitting is against the law. If a child discloses that they have been punished in this way, as a school, we are obliged to follow up with parents and carers and, depending on the severity, report the incident to child protection services (Veilig Thuis) in order that appropriate support can be given to the child and their parents and carers.



Here to help

Contact us

We are here to help you. If you ever have any questions or queries or just want to ask for some advice, please contact us.



Claudia van der Laar-Newson,
Head of Early Years:
c.newson@britams.nl

Jane Grove
Reception Year Group Leader
j.grove@britams.nl



THE
BRITISH
SCHOOL
OF AMSTERDAM

EARLY YEARS
SCHOOL

JUNIOR
SCHOOL

SENIOR
SCHOOL

www.britams.nl

Havenstraat 6
1075 PR Amsterdam

+31 20 67 97 840