

Subject Story: Meerkat

(specialist provision for targeted learners with SEND)

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our value of **Friendship**.

- Relationships built through highly structured, facilitated and modelled play
- Consistently supported communication and language skills aid the building and maintaining of friendships and relationships with adults and peers
- Support in applying restorative approaches to conflict

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our value of **Responsibility**.

- Classroom monitors promote responsibility for within the classroom and school
- Children become independent and responsible for their own belongings and the equipment they need for learning
- Highly individualised behaviour management strategies and reward systems in place to support and promote responsibility for their own learning

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our value of **Honesty**.

- Staff encourage children to understand honesty and identify the importance of honesty of our actions
- Staff develop children's emotional regulation helping them to understand how words or actions might make others feel

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our value of **Love**.

- Strong and secure relationships are the foundation of our curriculum and learning
- We promote a love for learning through exciting and engaging activities
- We encourage a love for our environment by looking after it and being curious about it
- Respect for one another fosters a language of love

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our value of **Courage**.

- Staff work with children to develop a growth mind-set and a can-do attitude showing resilience.
- Opportunities for children to develop collaborative learning in small groups when they are ready
- Visual strategies support children in becoming confident to voice what is wrong or how they are feeling

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our value of **Respect**.

- We support the children to understand and accept diversity and differences through the use of stories and role play
- Where appropriate, children access assembly, where British Values are focused on
- Staff and children respond to the diversity of cultures, faiths and family backgrounds and provide a fully inclusive culture



Children at St. Martin's say this about Meerkat:

- "It helps children to do better!" (year 3, not a Meerkat learner)
- "The Meerkat room is for children that need extra help. It is important because the children need extra time and support. Otherwise if those children did not have the Meerkat, they would not find it easy to learn" (year 5, not a Meerkat learner)
- "I love doing my workstation, it helps me learn and get better at my reading and writing. I can't read or write yet" (year 3)
- "I like water play" (year 2)
- "My numbers (table top activities) are good" (year 2)
- "Board games with my friends" (year 1)



If you were to walk into Meerkat class at St. Martin's you would see:

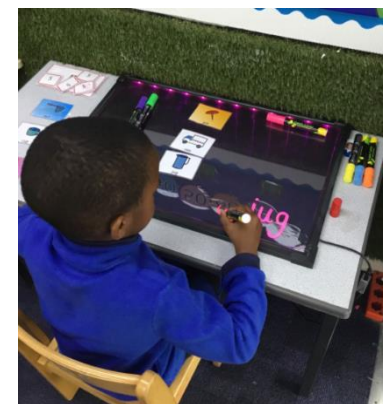
- A calm, nurturing environment built on fantastic relationships between staff and children
- High ratio of adults to children providing individualised support
- Dedicated and skilled staff team who accelerate children's learning
- Happy and settled children who follow routines throughout the school day
- Children who are 'learning to learn'
- Children becoming independent learners who are responsible for their choices
- 1:1 work and small group work
- All children engaging with learning activities
- Specific and individualised behaviour strategies to promote good choices and good learning behaviour
- Approaches and strategies which aim to remove barriers to learning and promote engagement in learning
- Opportunities to develop communication and language skills through activities and play

In our Meerkat curriculum you will see children learning through **exciting, engaging learning experiences which develop their 'cultural capital'**.

- Children access what is appropriate for their level of need with their mainstream classes and peers, for example, school trips, hook days, external visitors
- Events and special days are taught in ways which engage and motivate the children

Our agreed consistencies for Meerkat class are:

- Visuals
- Individual timetables
- PECS (picture exchange communication)
- Social stories
- Attention Autism (bucket)
- Emotion coaching, zones of regulation and 5-point scale
- TEACH approach
- Sensory circuits



In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our school curriculum vision because our children **work with resilience – strive**.

We create scenarios where mistakes occur, model that it is okay and we try again. We develop children's growth mind set by supporting them through barriers. Emotion coaching and approaches such as zones of regulation and 5-point scale supports children to identify and regulate their emotions in order to manage any 'set backs' in their learning and development.

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see our school curriculum vision because our children **dream big - aspire**.

We prepare children to be great learners by developing confidence and self-esteem. The teaching of life skills, such as social skills, emotional regulation, communication and interaction skills and self-care skills prepare each child to become confident and active members within society as they progress through life.

In our Meerkat curriculum you will see our school curriculum vision because our children **flourish - succeed**.

Individualised action plan (IAP) targets drive our curriculum. Children experience exciting and enriching learning opportunities so they can progress through the National Curriculum at their own, appropriate level and pace. Children succeed because we use highly individualised approaches and strategies to reduce barriers to learning.

In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see that we value **inclusion and diversity**.

- Children are taught about understanding, respecting and tolerating differences through the use of story books and The Story Project
- All children are welcomed into Meerkat class no matter their race, religion or disability
- Discussions in Meerkat include a range of thoughts, ideas and opinions
- Each and every achievement is celebrated



In our Meerkat curriculum, you will see how we develop our children's language, **including subject specific and technical vocabulary**.

- Specific vocabulary taught within subjects can be found within curriculum 'knowledge and skills progression' documents
- Staff use extensive modelling of language and work closely with the Speech and Language therapy team to carry out activities related to targets and work on these to achieve individual outcomes

British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Learning (SMSC) in Meerkat:

Spiritual – Where appropriate, children in Meerkat access collective worship and celebrate key religious events with their peers, including visits to the Church. Through discovery and a hands-on approach, children are taught to develop understanding about the world around them. Children are given opportunities to have their sensory needs met, in order to make this possible too

Moral – Children are taught to show respect to one another. In line with our school values, they are encouraged to support each other in their successes and we support children to become independent learners

Social (inc. British Values) - Children are taught and encouraged to appreciate Christianity, other faiths and one another's viewpoints. This supports the British Values of respect and tolerance

Cultural - Diversity is celebrated through exploring other cultures and through Story Project stories which aids understanding and ensures that diversity is promoted

Children achieve well in Meerkat. Highlights of **outcomes in Meerkat for last academic year are:**

IAP targets achieved: Autumn 76%, Spring 80%, Summer 70%

33% children achieved the National Phonics Screening Check

1+ steps in progress; 67% reading, 33% writing, 16% maths

3+ steps in progress; 16% reading, 33% writing, 33% maths



Successes in 2021-2022

- Children successfully reintegrating into mainstream classrooms part time
- Pupils fully reintegrated back into mainstream after spending full time and part time in Meerkat class
- Improved resilience in learning and well-being
- Improved independence
- High percentage of IAP targets achieved
- Outstanding feedback from outside agencies regarding provision provided in classroom

Priorities for 2022-2023

- Targeted teaching staff experience Meerkat class and have a better understanding of our curriculum
- Improve writing outcomes, through talk for writing
- Align power maths as appropriate
- Continue to adjust our curriculum to meet IAP needs