

Foundation stage comprises of Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes.

My name is Mrs McKane and I am head of the Foundation Stage and the Primary 1 teacher. I have taught in the school for many years. Through this time, it has been lovely to welcome back past pupils as new parents. It helps to add to the family feeling we wish to

promote in our school. It is equally exciting to welcome parents new to the school.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage, we are passionate about building strong learning foundations for our children. Our curriculum is very child centred and play based. We are very fortunate to have a well-resourced, designated Playroom with access to the outdoors. We follow "In the Moment Planning" during play. All adults working with the children have been trained to take the child's learning forward from the child's interests. We interact with the children during their play to develop their numeracy, early writing and language through skilful questioning and by challenging them to find out for themselves. This way we are developing lifelong learners and children who are excited to learn.

Of course in the Foundation stage children must also learn early Numeracy and Literacy skills. This again is very child centered. During Literacy your child will learn to read using a well-planned phonics programme, through which the pupils learn to listen, speak and ultimately read with fluency. We are eager that each child will develop a life-long love of reading. We encourage the pupils to browse through our well stocked school library. As we are in the town, we can easily organise visits to Randalstown Library and each class also has a well-stocked library.

During Numeracy, we actively encourage children to investigate numbers practically. We do this through the Numicon approach and other practical resources. Children are taught to become fluent in Maths through Mental Maths lessons. We place a great emphasis on connected learning, children are directed to see Maths everywhere- shapes in the playground, numbers on doors, car registration plates, teams in P.E. and of course, all the numeracy opportunities to learn through play.

In the Foundation Stage, children also learn about the World Around Them, Physical Development, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, and the Arts. We have strong links with Mount St Michael's and the children love to meet new friends in another school. As we are located in the centre of the town, we can visit local shops such as "The Hope and a Future" Charity Shop, where the children can participate in real life shopping experiences.

We would love your child to join us in September and become part of the family at the "Central!"