**EARLY YEARS AGREEMENT**

*Our shared belief* is that the Early Years of schooling (Reception – Year 2) are vital in laying the foundations for children to become successful learners.

*We uphold a high quality early childhood curriculum that is consistent across all Early Years classrooms by implementing the following practices:*

- Oxford Word lists are glued in Junior Primary diaries and tested each week by teachers
- Children must be able to read all words on a list before moving onto the next list and teachers highlight words in green
- After all lists are completed, children learn to spell the words and teachers highlight words in blue
- All Early Years children are taught a Jolly Phonics lesson from 10:00am – 10:35am (Mon – Thurs)
- The focus is on sounds, blending, segmenting, letter formation, tricky words and grammar
- All Early Years children participate in a Guided Reading lesson during literacy block 4 x per week supported by an SSO
- Teachers monitor Guided Reading lessons and select levelled texts for groups
- Structured creative play sessions are run four mornings a week, finishing no later than 9:30am
- Children must complete morning organisation routines before starting activities including changing readers and practising weekly spelling words
- Focus is on developing fine motor skills and social skills
- All children to record home reading in Junior Primary diary and have it signed by a parent/caregiver
- Diaries are monitored and checked by their teacher each day
- Home reading award presented for each class at assemblies
- Junior Primary fitness program is facilitated by an SSO, 3 x per week for 15 minutes per class in addition to specialist PE lessons
- Focus is on developing children’s gross motor skills and it supports children’s wellbeing and promotes healthy habits

**ASSESSMENT**

- PM Benchmark levels tested using unseen texts at the end of each term
- Children who have reached Level 20 or above to begin Accelerated Reader
- Oxford Words tested at the end of each term (Reception – Reading, Year 1 & 2 – Reading & Spelling)
- I Can Do Maths and SA Spelling test during Screening Week
- Language and Literacy Levels – written and oral
- All data to be entered into MarkIt by teachers