# Grade 1-3

These grades are a happy, secure and inclusive environment, where every child is valued and loved. We nurture the child's creativity and individuality whilst discipline and maintaining high aspirations for all. Our shared goal is that each child discovers the enjoyment of learning, gaining the confidence to reach their full potential.

## Reading

We aim to encourage a love of reading in all children. We endeavour to develop confident readers who enjoy talking about books and ask questions about what they have read. We believe success in reading has a direct effect upon progress in all other areas of the curriculum. We ensure children have the opportunity to read a wide range of books from variety of different genres and a wide range of author.

Reading is linked with speaking, listening and writing skills and we teach all of these skills in a way that makes them dependent upon each other. We immerse children in a rich reading environment which inspires children to want to read.

#### **Phonics**

In Phonics we follow a program called Letterland. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting from the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven. The letters and sounds programme focuses on securing word recognition skills as these are essential for children to decode (read) and encode (spell) words accurately with ease and so concentrate on comprehending and composing text.

# **Environmental Science**

Children are introduced to a variety of scientific topics from physical, natural and environmental areas. Pupils are taught to ask questions that they can be answered in different ways, observe closely, perform simple test, identify and classify, use their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions and gather and record data to help in answering questions, thus opening their minds to new ideas.

### **Mathematics**

Throughout these grades there is a focus on learning Mathematics using practical objects, then pictorial recording before teaching children symbolic recording. We encourage children to explain how they arrived at a specific answer, and compare different ways of calculating to decide which is the most effective. This 'mathematical reasoning' is a significant part of the Mathematics curriculum and enables us to find our whether children really understand what they are doing and why. We encourage children to work systematically and accurately.

#### Assessment

Our teachers use a variety of strategies to assess each student's work. This includes observing their work in class and looking closely at the work they produce throughout the year. Three times a year teachers also assess each **primary school student's** achievements assessing them academically and in terms of character development. A written report is sent home at the end of each term, to give you a clear picture of your child's achievement. Parent consultations are also conducted each term to give the parents an opportunity to discuss their child's progress with the teacher.