

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum

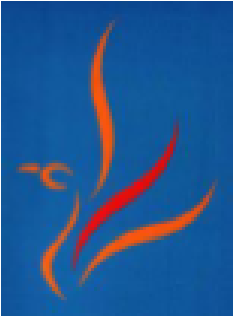
October 2026

East Sheen Primary School



East Sheen Primary School: Our Vision

Our purpose is to nurture happy, confident children who think deeply about themselves and others in preparation for the challenges ahead.



We do this by inspiring and celebrating:

- ➡ curiosity and love for learning
- ➡ collaboration and kindness
- ➡ creativity and enthusiasm
- ➡ resilience and achievement

We are...

Happy, curious, resilient and kind!



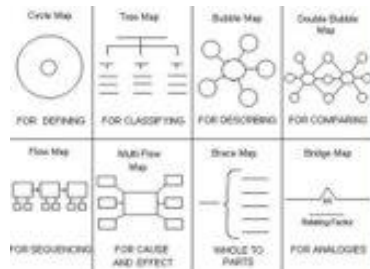
Thinking School tools

East Sheen Primary School is a **Thinking School** - where we explicitly teach children *how to think*. We help pupils become confident, independent learners who can make connections, solve problems, explain their ideas and reflect on their learning. We use three key approaches to develop thinking skills:

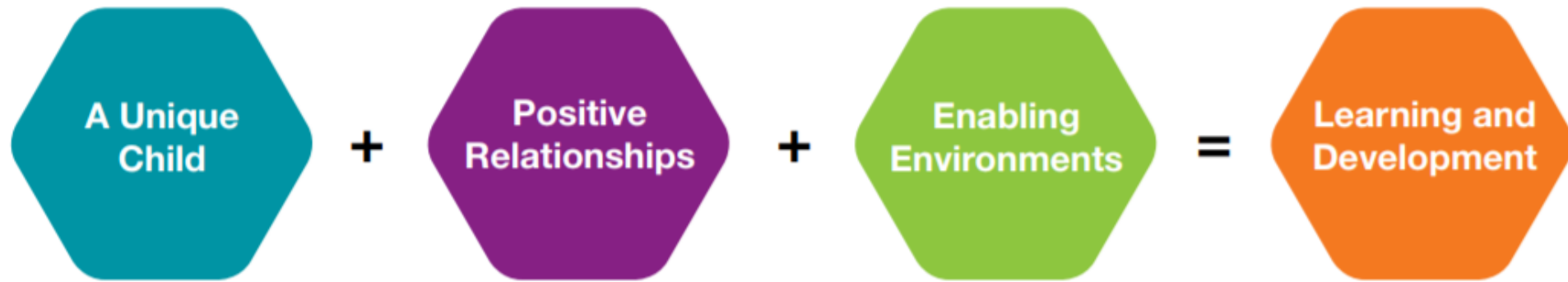
Thinking Maps are eight visual tools that help children organise and show their thinking. They support pupils to sort information, describe ideas, compare and contrast, identify cause and effect, sequence events and make connections.

Thinking Hats are eight coloured hats which give children different ways to look at a question, idea or problem. Each hat represents a different type of thinking.

Habits of Mind are positive thinking behaviours that help children become successful learners. These include **persisting, thinking flexibly, questioning, managing impulsivity, listening with understanding and empathy, and reflecting on their learning**. We encourage children to recognise and develop these habits both in school and in everyday life.



EYFS Curriculum



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning. By recognising children as individuals (unique), building positive relationships with them and providing purposeful and engaging environments we will be supporting children to learn and develop across the 7 areas of learning.

Areas of Learning

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring

ENGAGEMENT
Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning

MOTIVATION
Being involved and concentrating
Keep trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creative and Critical Thinking

THINKING
Having their own ideas
Making links
Working with ideas

Areas of Learning and Development

Birth to 5 Matters Aspects

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making Relationships
	Sense of Self
	Understanding Feelings
Physical Development	Moving and handling
	Health and Self-care
Communication and Language	Listening and Attention
	Understanding
	Speaking

Specific Areas

Literacy	Reading
	Writing
Mathematics	Mathematics
Understanding the World	People and Communities
	The World
	Technology
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials
	Being Imaginative and Expressive



Overview of learning...

For an overview of what we are learning across this half term, please visit the school website. Head to the Year Group pages and click on Reception. You'll find lots of useful information including our timetable, gallery and bulletin overviews. Below is the direct link to the Bulletin.

<https://www.eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=12008&type=pdf>

Please note, to be able to access photographs of your child engaged in their learning throughout the school year via the 'Year Group Gallery' on the website, you will have had to have given permission via the registration packs for this. If you have not, photographs of your child will not be uploaded. If you'd like to change your permission relating to photographs (to include or withdraw) at any point please let us know.



Topics for the Year...

Throughout the year, children enjoy a range of exciting topics, including

- All About Me
- Day and Night
- People Who Help Us
- All Around the World
- Traditional Tales
- Life Cycles and The Blue Planet

These themes inspire curiosity, encourage creativity and help children make sense of the world around them. These are a basis to all of our learning so activities are purposefully plan not only these themes but our learning intentions for each of the 7 areas of learning.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

PSED is a key part of the Reception curriculum and helps children become happy, confident and independent learners.

Children develop skills in:

Self-Regulation – understanding and managing their emotions.

Managing Self – becoming independent, resilient and confident.

Building Relationships – making friends, sharing, taking turns and showing kindness to others.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) continued

PSED is developed throughout the school day through play, discussions, stories, group activities and positive relationships with adults and peers.

We help children learn to express their feelings, solve problems, work collaboratively and develop a positive sense of self.

We also follow a PSHE curriculum – Jigsaw, which is used to deliver planned lessons which explore feelings, behaviour and emotions.



The Zones of Regulation
Sheen uses the Zones of Regulation
purpose is to help students with
alertness level and self-regulation
regulations.

We use Zones of Regulation for
thinking and problem-solving.
feelings are a key part of
understanding and managing
tool/strategy.

We use Zon
thinking an
feelings are
understand
tool/strateg



Communication and language

Is a prime area of learning within the EYFS and is fundamental to children's success across all areas of the curriculum.

Children develop skills in:

Listening, Attention and Understanding – listening carefully, following instructions and understanding what they hear.

Speaking – expressing ideas, sharing experiences, asking questions and developing vocabulary.



Communication and language continued

In Reception, communication is at the heart of everything we do.

Through stories, discussions, play, role play and daily interactions, children are encouraged to talk, listen and build confidence in their communication skills.

Our aim is for every child to become a confident communicator who can express themselves clearly, listen to others and develop a rich vocabulary to support future learning.



Physical Development

Physical Development is a prime area of learning within the EYFS and supports children in developing strength, coordination and independence.

Children develop skills in:

Gross Motor Skills – running, jumping, balancing, climbing and moving confidently.

Fine Motor Skills – developing hand strength and control for tasks such as drawing, writing, cutting and fastening clothing.

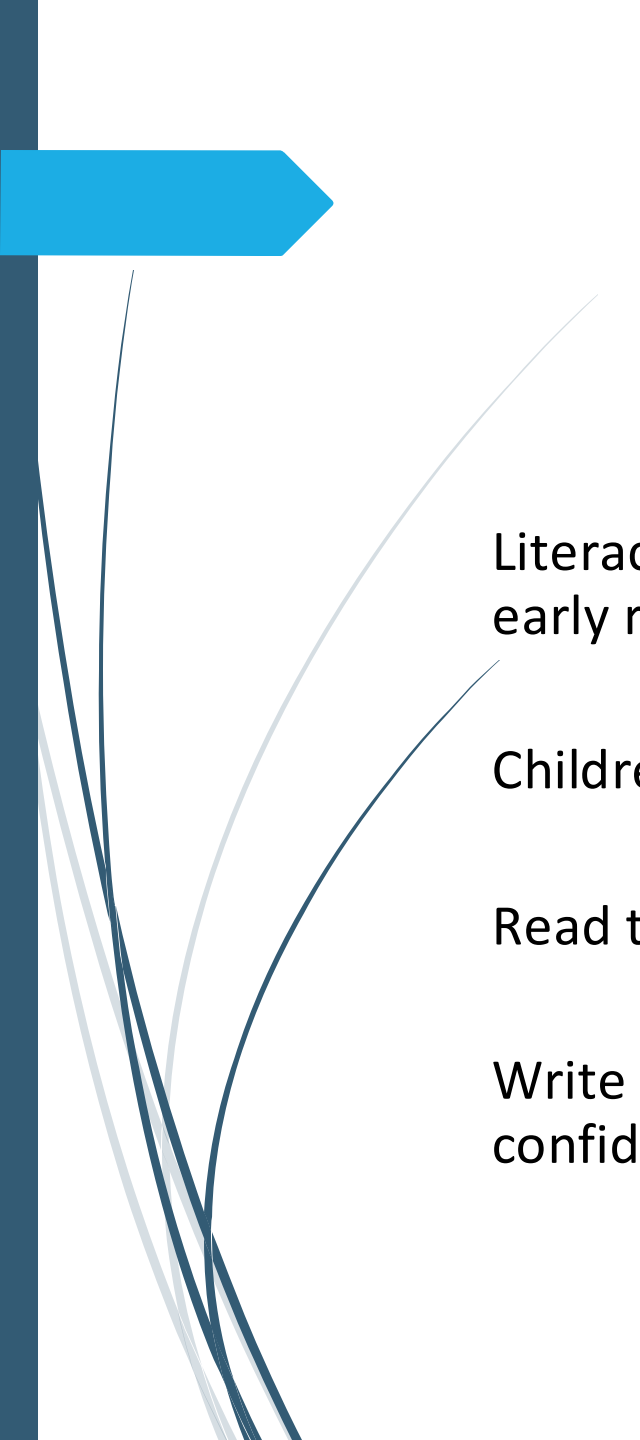


Physical Development

In Reception, children have daily opportunities for active play, outdoor learning and practical activities that help develop both large and small muscle movements.

They also participate in two PE sessions per week (Tuesday and Wednesday). One with our specialist sports coaches and one delivered by their class teacher.

They also learn about the importance of healthy lifestyles and self-care. Our aim is for every child to develop the physical skills, coordination and confidence needed to support their learning, wellbeing and independence.



Literacy

Literacy is an important area of learning within the EYFS, helping children develop early reading and writing skills.

Children learn to:

Read through daily phonics lessons (RWI), stories and sharing books.

Write for a range of purposes, developing letter formation, spelling and confidence in expressing their ideas.



Literacy

In Reception we foster a love of reading through regular story times, high-quality texts and the teaching of phonics.

Children are encouraged to see themselves as readers and writers, using their skills in meaningful and engaging contexts.

Our aim is for every child to develop confidence in reading and writing, laying strong foundations for future learning.

Phonics

We teach phonics daily, using the phonics programme Read Write Inc (RWI).



Miss Matthews will be holding information sessions for parents on all things Phonics and Reading on Monday 19th October @ 2.45pm in the school hall.

Home learning work is set weekly, using the RWI worksheets, which will help them to work on their letter recognition and formation.

We teach 4 sounds per week (Monday – Thursday) and use the 5th day (Friday) to recap all sounds taught to date, as well as introduce red words (words which cannot be sounded out).



Mathematics

Mathematics in Reception focuses on developing children's understanding of numbers, patterns, shapes and measures through practical, hands-on experiences.

Children learn to:

Develop number sense by counting, recognising numbers and understanding how numbers are made up.

Explore patterns, shapes, measures and spatial reasoning through play and everyday activities.

Mathematics



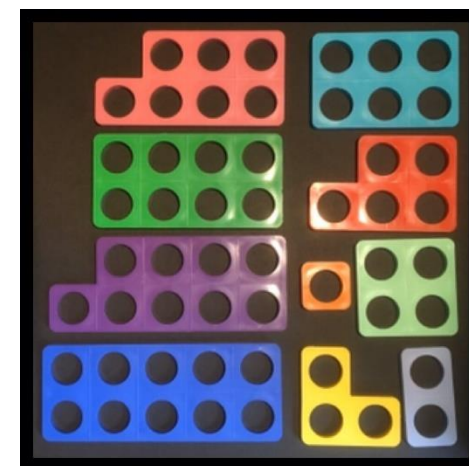
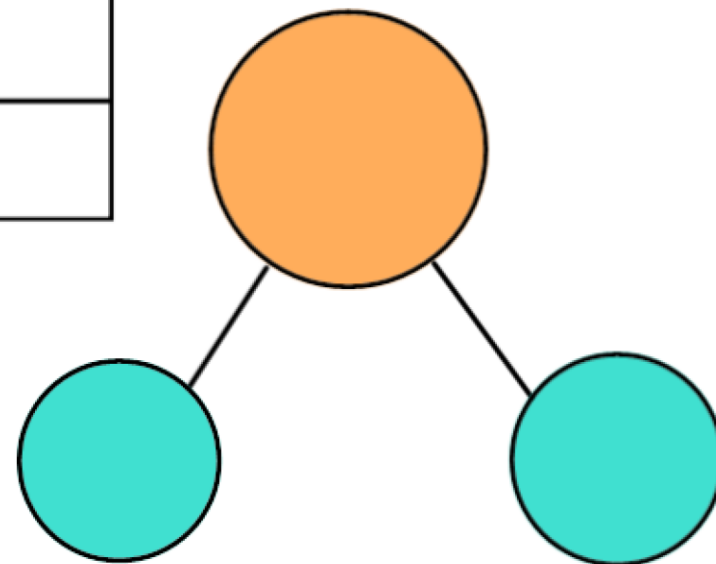
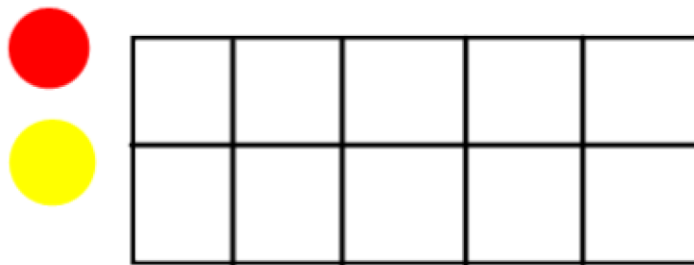
In Reception, maths is taught through a combination of structured lessons (delivered via Mastering Number – a programme established by The National Centre for excellence in the teaching of mathematics) and playful learning opportunities, helping children to apply their mathematical thinking in meaningful contexts.

Children are encouraged to talk about their ideas, solve problems and build confidence with numbers.

Our aim is for every child to develop a secure understanding of early mathematical concepts and a positive attitude towards mathematics.

The Mastering Number programme is now in its sixth year and aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. The aim over time is that children will leave KS1 with fluency in calculation and a confidence and flexibility with number.

Mathematics



Understanding the World

Understanding the World helps children make sense of the people, places and environments around them.

Children learn to:

Explore the past and present, learning about themselves, their families and the wider community.

Discover the natural world through observation, investigation and exploration including seasons and weather.

Understand different cultures, beliefs and traditions, developing respect for diversity.

In Reception, children learn through hands-on experiences, discussions, stories, outdoor learning and exciting topics that encourage curiosity about the world around them.

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design encourages children to use their imagination, creativity and curiosity to explore and express their ideas.

Children learn to:

Create with materials using a variety of art, craft and construction resources.

Be imaginative and expressive through music, dance, role play, storytelling and imaginative play.

In Reception, children have opportunities to experiment, make choices and develop their creativity through a range of hands-on experiences.

They are encouraged to explore, create and express themselves in ways that are meaningful to them.

Our aim is for every child to develop confidence in expressing their ideas, thinking creatively and enjoying the process of creating, performing and exploring.

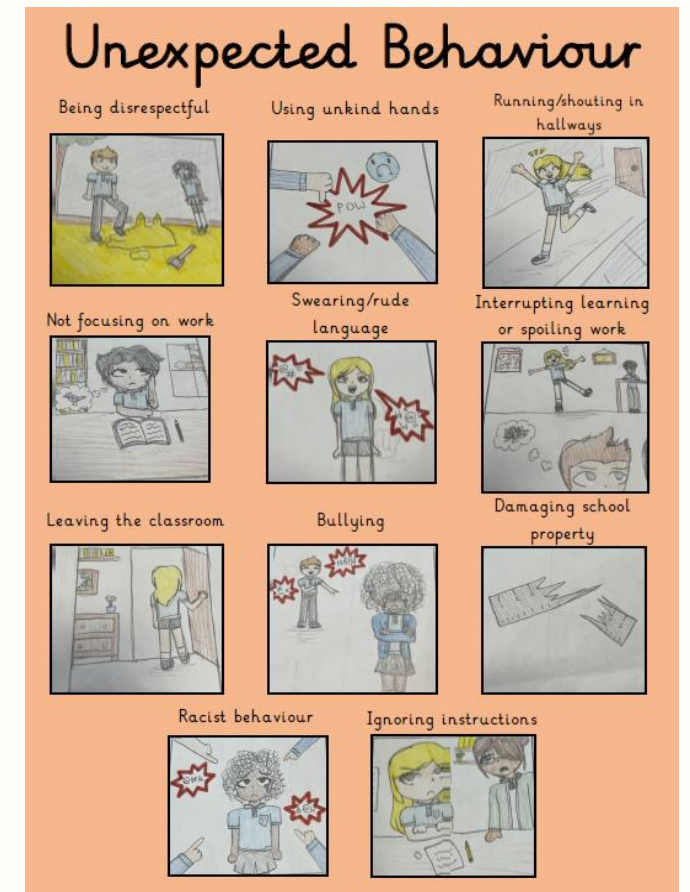


Miscellaneous...

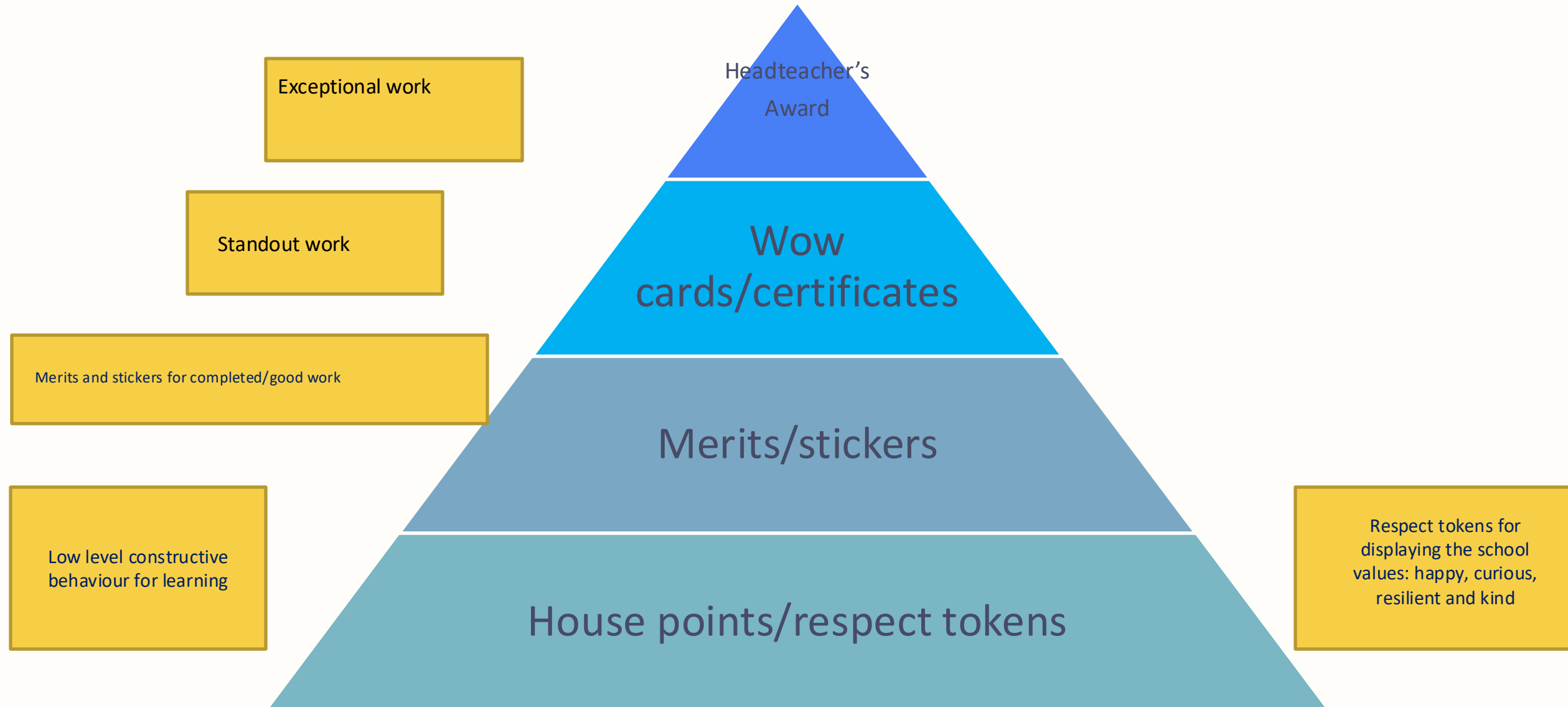
- Snack time - Nothing containing nuts! Only fruit and/or veg please.
- Birthday – Birthday book
- Uniform – Label EVERYTHING!
- Hair – long hair needs to be tied up
- Parent volunteers – reading, cooking and trips.

Behaviour

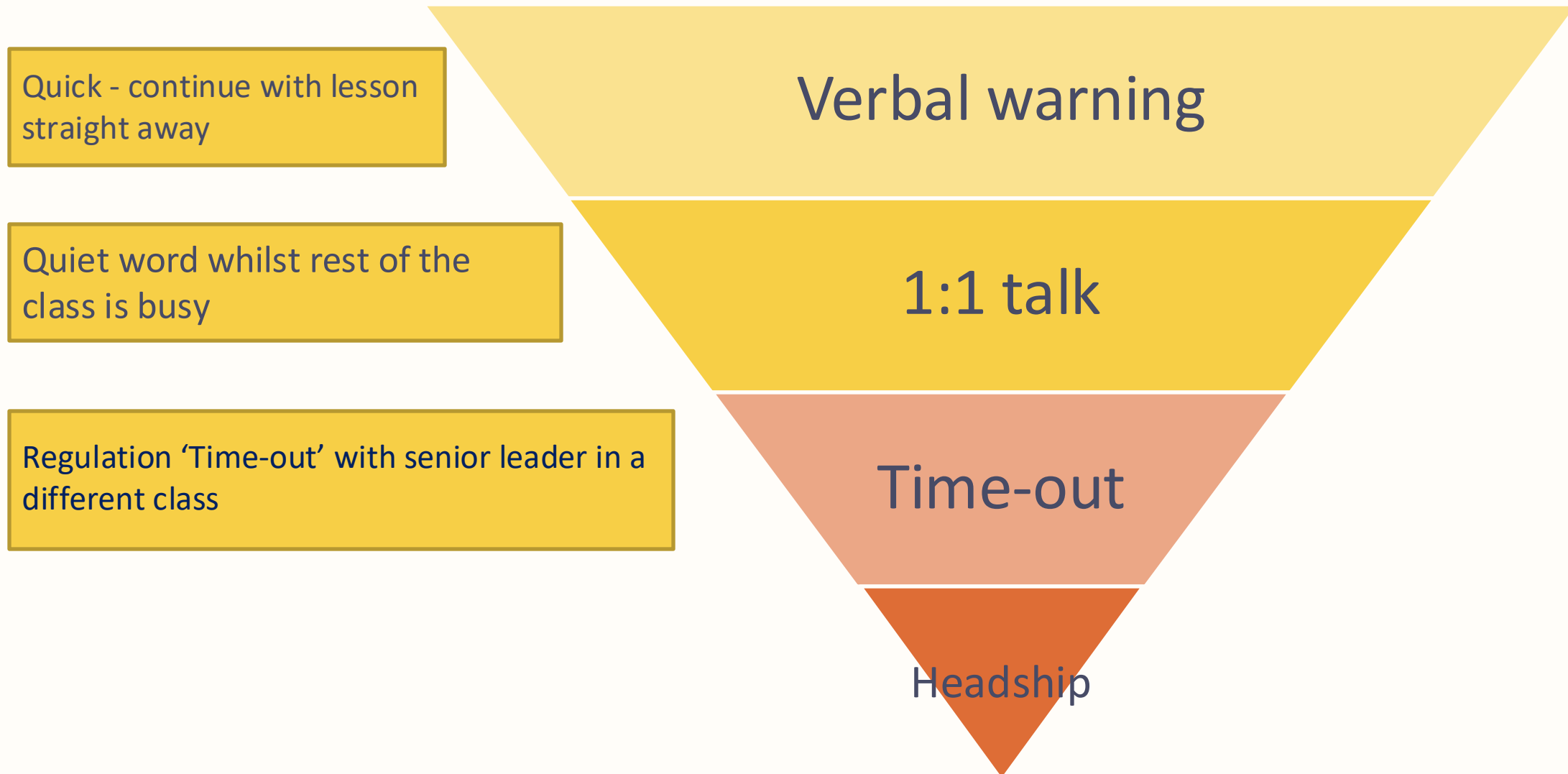
- School rules
- Behaviour chart
- Stickers
- 10 star treat
- Class teddy
- Wow Cards!



Reward systems at ESPS



Consequence systems at ESPS



Importance of Attendance -

Attendance:

School aim for all students is 97% - **no more than 5 days of learning missed.**

Why is good attendance important?

- so that children are able to make the most of the educational opportunities available to them
- it supports children in achieving their full potential in learning
Missing even a single day of school can make it harder for children to keep up with their learning
- it increases their sense of belonging at school, which is linked to better mental health
- it enables children to establish a resilient work ethic early in life
- it improves children's future life chances



Punctuality also impacts the progress of children within school.

We'd like to work with you to make sure your child is with us as much as possible, enjoys school and achieves their very best. We are here to support in any way we can.