



WELCOME
TO

EARLY YEARS
at

Nightingale
Primary School



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Nightingale Primary School. At Nightingale, we believe that the Early Years are vital in setting the essential foundations for children's life, learning and success.

Our curriculum incorporates everything we want the children to experience, learn and be able to do. Your child will partake in an ambitious curriculum which is designed in a sequential way to ensure progress towards our end of year curricular goals. Our curriculum has been carefully planned to meet all the requirements of the educational programmes in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Our aim is to provide warm, happy, safe and stimulating environments throughout our learning areas. These learning areas encourage our pupils to develop their own ideas, have active bodies, confidence, independence and caring attitudes towards others and their environment. Emotional well-being and warm, caring relationships, in which children can flourish, are given our highest priority and are at the heart of all that we do.

We have an experienced Early Years team here at Nightingale, who are highly qualified and skilled in facilitating a wide range of enjoyable and stimulating activities and environments, through which children can learn about and build social skills, explore and experience the world around them. In turn, children develop their own innate creativity and curiosity, whilst gaining new skills and understanding.

Our staff pride themselves on knowing each and every child extremely well, so that they can cater for their individual needs and carefully plan for playful, practical and purposeful learning opportunities. We provide play of many different types, both indoors and out, in open-ended, child-initiated and structured activities. This ensures that our Early Years children move on to the next stage in their learning journey with social awareness, confidence and a readiness to learn.

We hope your visit to our school inspires you to choose Nightingale for your child's next stage of education where they will be prepared to tackle new challenges with confidence and a positive mindset.

We look forward to making a positive and successful partnership with you, and your family, in the future.

Mrs Gates
Early Years Leader

Mrs Beckett
Headteacher



THE 7 AREAS OF LEARNING

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

Children mostly develop the 3 prime areas first.

These are:

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

PERSONAL, SOCIAL &
EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

LITERACY

MATHEMATICS

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN



These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. At Nightingale our experienced Early Years teaching team ensure that tasks and challenges are suited to your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the Early Years learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking. Our environment indoors and outdoors is continually enhanced with resources designed to scaffold and maximise learning.





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WE ALSO SET THEM UP
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DEVELOPMENT MATTERS 2021



OUR SCHOOL VALUES



Our values make us who we are and help us to stay focused on what we do here at Nightingale and how we do it. After consulting our community, we decided that respect, courage, compassion and friendship, encapsulates our vision for our children.

This is reflected in these words;

‘Through our values of Respect,
Courage, Compassion and Friendship,
we learn to inspire to aspire.’

When the children enter Early Years at Nightingale they quickly learn that experiences, challenges and new learning can be seen through the lens of being brave and resilient in the face of challenge. They will become respectful, kind and responsible citizens, who are curious, creative, knowledgeable and imaginative.



WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE IN EARLY YEARS?



Your child will be welcomed into school, at **8.35**, by their class teacher at the Early Years gate.

You will say a short goodbye to your child and they will go into school independently to put away their own belongings. They will go into their classroom to start a 'funky fingers' activity within a small group. Once complete, they will then sit on the carpet ready for our register to be taken.

A day in Early Years then usually looks like this:

- **9am: Talk through stories session**

These sessions develop the children's love of books along with their listening, speaking and attention skills. Children learn new vocabulary and learn to use these new words within their conversations.

- **9.30 -10.30: Play and Learn**

The children immerse themselves in their self-directed learning within our learning environment.

- **Snack** will be provided and can be accessed throughout the day.

- **10.40-11.20: Phonics**

We follow the Read, Write, Inc Phonics scheme and begin by teaching the children their Set 1 sounds.

- **11.20-11.30: The Poetry Basket session / Red Words**

Our children will learn a new poem and learn by sight their 'red words' (words that cannot be sounded out).

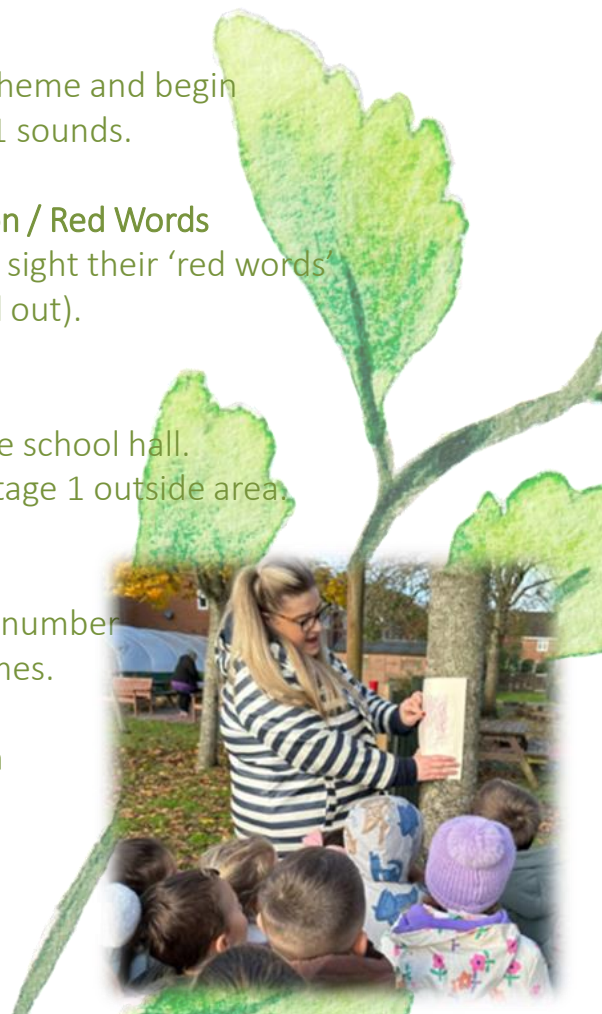
- **11.30 -1pm: Lunch**

The children will have their lunch in the school hall. This will be followed by playtime in the Key Stage 1 outside area.

- **1 -1.30: Maths**

The children will begin to explore number to 10 through songs and rhymes.

- **1.30 -2.30: Play & Learn**



WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE IN EARLY YEARS?

The end of the day learning differs each day – throughout the week the children will experience:

- 2 **adventure playground** sessions
- a **PE session** led by Coach Jake
- a Technology session led by **Computer Explorers**
- a visit to the **school Library**
- a **PSHE** lesson following the Jigsaw scheme of work
- a **Music** lesson in our Music Room
- **Forest Session** in our Woodland Walk



At **3pm** we always end our day with a story (the children vote between two books and the story with the most votes gets read). The children then independently get their own belongings ready for home. The children listen and wait for their name to be called ready to meet their adults outside the gate at **3.15**.



SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

In Woodpecker and Kingfisher classes, the children start their journey with us by experiencing a range of learning opportunities both inside and outside. Every Friday afternoon, the children enjoy their Forest Sessions in our Woodland Walk which is led by Mrs Brown.

We offer a unique set of learning experiences that integrate seamlessly with our curriculum covering spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through our Life Skills curriculum. The children experience many opportunities to use our cookery room to cook and bake a range of things, as well as go on a local litter pick.



Each half term the children experience a 'Fly Away Day' where they make their own passports, and 'fly' to another country. The children get to try food from that country, listen to music and learn about traditions that happen in the country they have flown to.

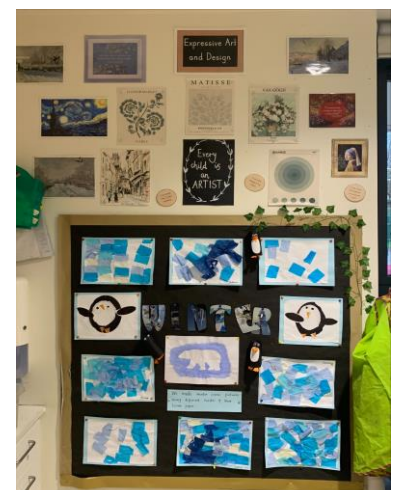
In the Spring Term the children get to experience the farm visiting our school. They learn all about farm animals and their young, meet a real farmer and learn about their job as well as enjoying hands-on learning though meeting the animals.



OUR EARLY YEARS PROVISION

In our Early Years setting, we have two classrooms: Woodpecker and Kingfisher. Children have access to both classes and the outside area for large portions of the day. Between the two classrooms the children have access to their own toilets.

When allocating classes, lots of factors have to be taken into consideration including: when the child was born, gender, specific needs, friendships and information gathered from parents and pre-schools. Our pupils enjoy being able to spend time with friends from both class bases for much of the school day and we love observing the children form new friendships.



OUR EARLY YEARS PROVISION

The EYFS framework highlights the significance of outdoor learning and play. It views the outdoors as a rich and dynamic environment for children's development and our pupils love our outdoor provision within our Early Years setting.



Our outdoor provision is aligned with the EYFS 7 areas of learning. The EYFS framework recognises the importance of outdoor learning and we provide our children with opportunities for physical activity, cognitive growth, social interaction and a deep connection to nature.

Our pupils find our outdoor provision engaging, well-resourced and our Early Years team design it to foster curiosity and wonder. The area encourages exploration, investigation and imaginative play.



Assemblies

We hold assemblies most days and cover a wide variety of topics and themes. We sometimes have visitors from the community to give talks or demonstrations during our assemblies to the children.

Once a week we hold celebration assemblies, where we award certificates to the children for a number of achievements each week. EYFS children will attend celebration assembly virtually and will join in with whole school assemblies during the summer term.



School Trips and Visits

To provide children with a broader curriculum and exciting opportunities, we arrange to have visitors in school. In EYFS we welcome the farm into our school. As the children progress further through our school, the children will have the opportunities for many school trips. Parents are asked for a voluntary contribution towards transport and admission costs without which these wonderful opportunities simply would not be possible. When children are in Year 4, they will enjoy a residential trip to Minstead. In Year 6, our pupils have the opportunity to spend a week in the Brecon Beacons in Wales.

Parent Helpers

At Nightingale we encourage parents to come into school to help with activities such as listening to children read, as well as going on educational visits. If you are interested in becoming a parent helper or have any particular skills that you would like to share with us, please speak to a member of staff – we would love to welcome you into our school!



OUR WOODLAND WALK



We are fortunate to have a wonderful Woodland Walk in our grounds at Nightingale. Each week our children get to immerse themselves in outdoor learning through our Forest Sessions. These sessions are planned, resourced and led by Mrs Brown, our Woodpecker teacher and Forest Lead.



The children explore our natural world through climbing trees, finding insects, planting seeds, crafting with natural objects, den making and sawing wood using a bow saw.

Our Forest sessions offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

“Let Nature be your teacher.” – William Wordsworth



OUR WOODLAND WALK

During our weekly Forest sessions our children:

- Develop resilience and problem solving skills.
- Develop communication and language skills.
- Enjoy free play and being outside to learn.
- Work together to achieve a goal - **Friendships**
- Have the opportunity to show creativity, innovation and imagination.
- Develop confidence in achieving new skills.
- Be excited to learn things and face new challenges - **Courage**
- Develop physically - both fine and gross motor skills.
- Become more caring of nature and the world around them - **Compassion**
- Learn how to take risks in a safe and controlled environment.
- Develop their social and emotional skills - improving mental wellbeing.
- Learn life skills, such as cooking over a fire.
- Become teachers to others, building teamwork and collaboration – **Respect**.



“Not all classrooms have four walls” – Margaret McMillan



HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

Building positive relationships with the families of Nightingale creating a 'triangle of trust' between children, parents and staff begins in the Early Years. We understand that when parents relinquish part of the care and teaching of their child to the staff in our school it is a big step. We pride ourselves on creating an environment that is warm and welcoming. Each day leads to a deeper knowledge and understanding of each child and their family.

Each week Mrs Gates will send you, via Class Dojo, a weekly learning overview, which details what your child will be learning in school the following week and how we are covering all of the 7 areas of the EYFS curriculum.

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development and have a really long lasting affect on your child's learning as they progress through school. You are your child's first educator and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child. Working together as partners will set the scene for your child to thrive at Nightingale.

Make time for your child to run, jump, climb and **PLAY OUTDOORS!**

Cook / bake together

Allow your child to see you reading for pleasure or writing for a purpose such as making shopping lists or writing birthday cards

Play games that encourage sharing and taking turns



Share a book

Play board games that involve moving a certain amount of steps on, and play with dice and dominoes

Sing and tell nursery rhymes

Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch

Talk to your child at every opportunity – e.g. what you are doing that day

HOW CAN I FIND OUT HOW MY CHILD IS GETTING ON?

We provide many opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education and find out how your child is getting on. These include:

Access to **Tapestry** online learning journal. This provides parents/carers with real time access to observations teachers have taken in class.

Parents Evening - in the Autumn, Spring and Summer term, you will be invited to discuss your child's progress. A summary of their development will be discussed with you and how you can support their learning at home.



During the Spring term we will discuss your child's progress and provide you with their spring targets.

When your child is 5 (At the end of the EYFS) – in the summer term of the reception year in school, teachers complete an assessment which is known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is carried out by your child's teacher and is based on what they and other staff caring for your child have observed over a period of time.

A written **end of year report** will come home towards the end of the Summer term and opportunities are given for you to come in and discuss this with the class teacher.

Throughout your time at Nightingale, you can find information on current learning on our **Class Dojo** page and a half-termly newsletter will be emailed to you containing school news. At the beginning of each term, a Curriculum Newsletter will be sent to you detailing all the learning that your child will be immersed in.



GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Nightingale Primary School is a two-form entry primary school. The school has classes from Reception (4 and 5 year olds) to Year 6 (10 and 11 year olds), and is split into three phases known as Key Stages.

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) - Reception
- Key Stage 1 - Year 1 and Year 2
- Key Stage 2 - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Nightingale Primary School Staff

Nightingale Primary School has a dedicated team led by Mrs Hannah Beckett our Headteacher and our two Assistant Headteachers Mrs Clegg and Mrs Saunders. Mrs Gates is the Early Years Foundation Stage Leader.



Our dedicated Admin Team are located in the school office to help you with any queries you may have. Our SENDCo Mrs Saunders, works with a skilled team to ensure that any pupils with specific learning needs receive the support they need in order to access the curriculum. Mrs Sharp, our Welfare Leader, provides support for both children and parents with many issues but particularly attendance and behaviour.

Lunch Times

Our fantastic kitchen team provide a choice of healthy and nutritious meals freshly cooked on the premises. All children in Year R, 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals, however children are free to bring a healthy packed lunch if you prefer. The Lunchtime Supervisors and Learning Coach team help the children whilst eating lunch and on the playground. We are strictly a NUT FREE school and politely ask that all foods containing nuts, including chocolate spreads, are enjoyed at home.

Snack

Children in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to free fruit and vegetable snacks daily at school so there is no need to send in an additional snack. We do however ask that the children come to school each day with a drink bottle containing water.



Breakfast Club

At Nightingale we are proud to run a popular Breakfast Club that opens from 7.35am daily and takes place in the school hall. Children can take part in a variety of activities such as art and craft, games, quizzes and much more. For information about availability and pricing please contact the school office or visit the school website.

After School Club

Junior Adventures Group offer an on-site after school club providing after school care and activities. Please see the school website for contact and booking details.



Friends of Nightingale

Parental involvement is greatly valued at Nightingale and parents are recognised as an integral part of the school team. All parents automatically become members of Friends of Nightingale when their child starts school. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can support the school through fundraising and events, please speak to a member of staff who will happily refer you to our wonderful Friends of Nightingale committee.





THANK YOU FOR VISITING NIGHTINGALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

You can find a more detailed document outlining our philosophy and policy for Early Years at Nightingale on our website. This provides a thorough outline about how we teach early reading, phonics and maths. It shows how we use assessment in the EYFS and how important our interactions are with your child.

"Pupils are happy and motivated to learn. Strong relationships between adults and pupils help pupils feel safe in school. The school values of respect, courage, compassion and friendship permeate throughout. Right from Reception Year, children play well together and enjoy learning collaboratively." Ofsted March 2024