



Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant School



**'Together, we enjoy learning in a happy, caring
and friendly environment'**



The Curriculum Booklet

HIGHAM FERRERS NURSERY AND INFANT SCHOOL

Care, Share, Enjoy, Respect, Friendship

OUR VISION

Our vision is for Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant School to be an inspiring and exciting place which is innovative and forward thinking. We strive to create an environment and develop a community of children, parents and staff who work together effectively to achieve our school values.





Pupils are at the heart of every decision and are offered a range of opportunities during and after school. There are approximately 320 children on roll aged between 3 and 7 years. We have a Nursery for up to 26 children per day and the school has a three form entry with up to 90 full time places in each year group. We are a vibrant, forward-thinking school with a strong sense of community. We foster great links with our neighbouring Junior School.



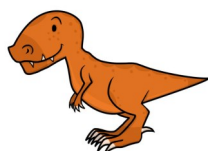
At Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant school we believe in developing children's positive mental health and resilience, equipping children for the life ahead. We have introduced some resilience "dinosaurs" and "Inside Out" characters to all year groups, these exemplify the characteristics of learning, encouraging children to persevere, talk about their learning, develop different learning strategies, explore their environment and work hard to solve problems. Alongside this we talk to the children about their mental wellbeing and ways to "fill their buckets up" so that they have strategies to cope when things get tough.

We are also a protective behaviours and attachment awareness school. We follow the two protective behaviour themes:

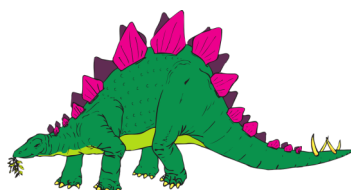
"We can talk about something with anyone, even if it feels awful or small."

"We have the right to feel safe all the time."

These form the basis of our PSHE lessons with all year groups as well as the theme for several assemblies throughout the year.



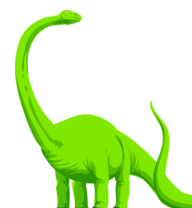
Askaraptor



Exploreasaurus



Solveasaurus Rex



Thinkadocus

The Curriculum at Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant School.

As well as striving for academic excellence we firmly believe that children learn best through an active, exciting, stimulating curriculum.

Teachers ensure that each topic connects subjects to make learning as informative and relevant as possible. This involves launching learning in a way that motivates and engages children, as well as organising visits and inviting visitors to our school to deepen their knowledge. Subjects are linked to provide regular opportunities for children to constantly reinforce core concepts and apply skills to new and interesting situations.

All these aspects combined, make for a thought-provoking and inspiring curriculum across the school.

Staff use innovative strategies to deliver the curriculum, allowing children to take ownership of their day-to-day learning as well as planning activities that aim to develop deeper and higher levels of thinking.



Effective Learning

The environment in which learning occurs is critical. Everything that is available for our pupils to use, is chosen because it is the 'best suited' to a particular task, at a specific stage of development. We acknowledge that children learn in different ways and recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in the way that best suits them.

A range of groupings are used, giving the children the opportunity to work as an individual, a pair, in a collaborative group, whole class or team. A rich and varied curriculum will take into account all of the following National Curriculum subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Information, Communication Technology
- History
- Geography
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Art
- Music
- Design & Technology



The Wider Curriculum

We believe that children learn best through first-hand experiences very often found outside the classroom. These can range from using the local environment through to travelling further a-field such as visits to London, Woburn Safari Park and Whipsnade Zoo to name but a few!



Through high quality teaching, our committed staff :

- Engage children as partners in learning
- Plan experiences that are exciting and stimulating
- Provide a safe, nurturing and challenging environment
- Celebrate success
- Foster equal opportunities
- Meet the needs of every child
- Set high standards/expectations
- Make the best use of resources
- Encourage risk taking as an important part of learning
- Deliver a broad and balanced curriculum
- Value the local environment and community



Children are encouraged to play independently as well as in pairs and small groups. Staff in the Foundation Stage team take time to observe children at carefully planned practical activities, intervening when required, to extend the child's learning through questioning. This enables them to gain a deeper understanding of how the children are learning and how interested they are. Staff use results of observations to review and change the learning environment regularly, ensuring that it continues to be stimulating and exciting.

The outdoor environment is an extension of the classroom where children learn by exploring equipment and other apparatus, often on a larger scale. The outdoor area also encompasses the prime and specific areas of learning.



Nursery



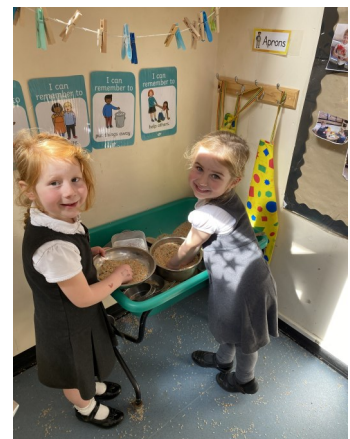
Our fabulous Nursery is Teacher led. The Nursery emphasis is placed on encouraging the children to develop socially and become independent learners through a wide range of exciting, play based experiences. The outdoor environment has a grassed area, sand pit, large play space, climbing equipment, a play house and many toys that allow our children to develop their physical skills.

Staff plan a wealth of activities that promote opportunities for children to explore, create, investigate, and imagine. This exciting environment provides for all to become confident communicators and above all, enjoy their learning. Nursery staff are keen to develop a strong partnership between home and school. Parents are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of Nursery life.

Reception

In Reception we value the children's interests and use them as a means through which to teach. Research shows that children are far more engaged when they have contributed to the content of their learning. Young children learn best by being actively involved in 'hands-on', imaginative and inspiring experiences.

Children enjoy a variety of purposefully planned play-based experiences that encourage them to explore, investigate, test, enquire, collaborate, share ideas through speaking and listening and above all become independent learners.

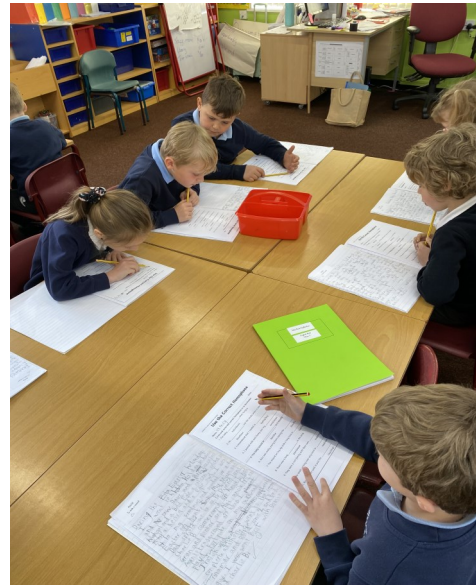


It is through learning that we aim to develop the 'whole child'. We provide rich experiences that allow them to develop their own lines of enquiry as well as being carefully planned for by skilled practitioners who have an understanding of child development and who know how to support and extend learners.

Key Stage 1

Year 1 and 2

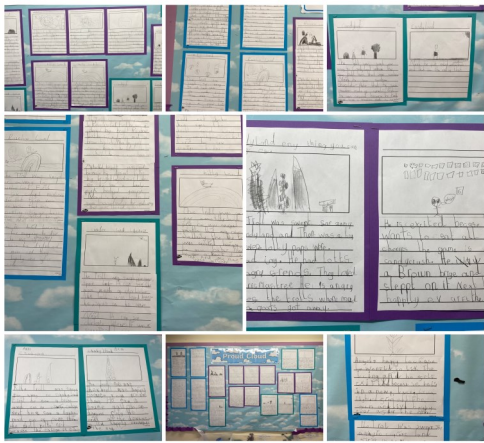
Staff in these year groups plan collaboratively, linking learning to the development of skills across all subjects. Skills are taught throughout all of the National Curriculum subjects.



Through a whole school connected approach to the curriculum, the subjects are planned in conjunction with one another wherever possible. For example in the Spring Term, Year 1 children explore the theme of 'Traditional Tales'. History is taught through literacy as the children learn about the characteristics of non-fiction texts so that they can write their own information books about Space. There is a clear purpose to the learning and teaching. This approach allows the children to apply skills across many subjects and it makes their learning much more relevant.

To start with in Year 1 play is still very much part of day-to-day learning. In both year groups, staff prepare activities that often combine subjects, allowing children to think creatively and critically, building on their strengths, interests and experiences.

For example Year 2 children study the topic Starry Nights linked to Florence Nightingale, Remembrance Day and Keeping Healthy. In the other terms the children look at their local area and compare it to London and Kenya.



Transition

We carefully plan the transition between all year groups across the school, so that children have time to familiarise themselves with their new teacher and classroom. You will also be invited in each year to meet your child's new class teacher.

Staff prepare children for the change over in a range of ways, to ensure that this is a smooth and happy time.

We also have very good transition links with our junior school, sharing resources, policies and having a joint Family support Worker. So if you choose for your child to go there in year 3 they will be familiar with the school before they start.

