

Northgate Primary School

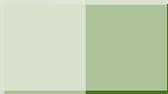


An Academy School

Every child, Every chance, Every day



Early Years Foundation Stage



Meet the Foundation Team



Mrs Aziz
Foundation Stage Leader
Reception Teacher



Mrs Boom
Reception Teaching Assistant



Mrs Smith
Reception Teacher



Mrs Claxton
Reception Teaching Assistant



Mrs Wilkes
Nursery Teaching Assistant



Mrs Sullivan
Nursery Teacher



Mrs Curtis
Nursery Nurse

Our staff would like to welcome you all to Northgate Primary School, We look forward to getting to know each and every child as we grow together this year.

Welcome to the Foundation Stage at Northgate Primary School

Welcome to Northgate Primary School. We are pleased that you have chosen us as your child's first school and we look forward to getting to know you and your child as you join our school community.

Mrs L Hotson
Headteacher

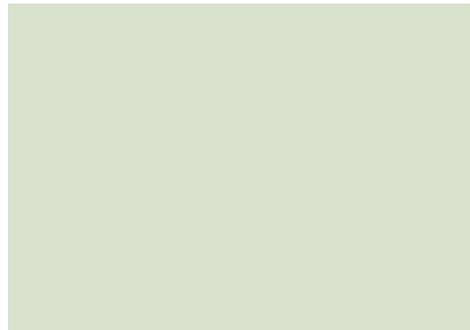
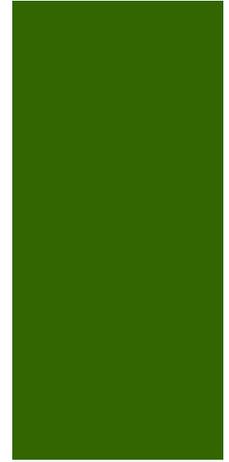
The Foundation Stage Unit forms the basis of your child's school life. It is here where foundations are laid in a secure, consistent and caring environment taking account of their age and their previous experience.

Our aim is to ensure that your child settles happily into the Foundation Stage and they feel secure within the learning environment.

As your child starts on their school journey we strive to foster a questioning approach and a love of learning. Your child will experience stimulating and exciting learning opportunities and be encouraged to grow in independence and confidence. They will also begin to learn the skills needed to be successful lifelong learners.

Children learn best when school and home work together in the best interests of the child. It is time, support and commitment that your child and the school need to ensure your child gets the best from their time at Northgate.

Mrs G Aziz
Foundation Stage Leader





The Foundation Stage Curriculum

As children develop throughout their first year at Northgate Primary School, they will enjoy acquiring many new skills. The children's progress is observed, and staff plan for consolidation and extension of learning.

The Early years Curriculum is organised into three prime areas and four specific areas of learning. These are used by all the foundation staff to plan the learning environment, activities and experiences for the children.

The Prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

'Learning is exceptionally good in the Foundation Stage. Planning is thorough, and provides the children with an excellent range of opportunities to support the development of each Individual.'

Ofsted

The prime areas:

These areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.



Communication and Language Development

This prime area involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development

This area involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This prime area involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

The specific areas:

Through these areas, the prime areas are strengthened and applied.

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write.



Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.



Understanding the World

Understanding the World involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive arts and design

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.



A typical day in Early Years

At the start of your child's day, they are welcomed into class and are helped and encouraged to be independent when sorting their personal belongings.

They take part in 'busy fingers' which are activities to encourage their fine motor skills.

Register / self registration is carried out and the children in reception will choose their lunch options if they have school dinners.

Children take part in Phonics sessions as a whole class and in groups.

Children have time for child-initiated learning.

During this time they have access to snack (milk, water and fruit).

Class and group sessions are also carried out, which can have a Literacy, Numeracy or topic focus.

Activities follow on from this where the children work independently or with an adult.

The children will attend an assembly at least once a week.

At various times during your child's day, all the class come together for a story and/or songs. We also make the time to ask the children what they have enjoyed during their school day. This makes them feel that their opinions are valued and helps the teachers to support in future learning.

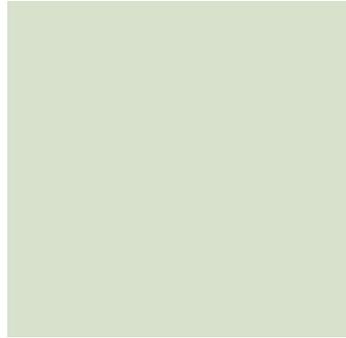
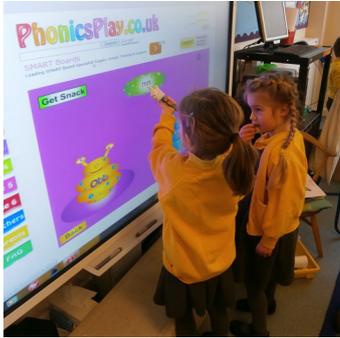
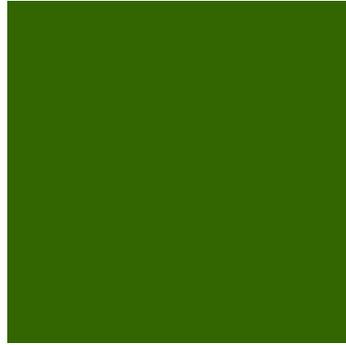
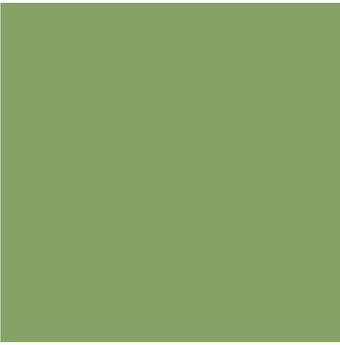


Play - What does it mean?

The word 'play' is used in many different ways at Northgate Primary School. We define 'play' as an active method of learning which engages children's attention and interest and provides them with opportunities to develop their skills in all areas of the curriculum.

Play activities fall into one of the following areas:

- A planned activity supported by an adult where specific skills and knowledge are taught in small groups. (This is called Adult-led time).
- Child-initiated Learning (sparkle time). This play is a vital part of encouraging children's independence and helps them to make sense of the world around them. Learning through play and first hand experience is a fundamental part of their development.
- Lunchtime play gives the opportunity for children to socialise with children from other classes (Reception).
- Outdoor and indoor play are of equal importance and during child-initiated learning the children have the choice of whether they wish to be inside or outside. The outside area is a wonderful opportunity for all of the foundation children to play together.



Assessment in the Foundation Stage

Throughout the year, both Nursery and Reception complete assessments against the Development Matter statements. Alongside this, the Foundation Profile is completed at the end of the academic year for Reception classes. Nursery and Reception parents will also receive their child's Learning Journey at the end of the summer term, and will have opportunities to view and discuss them with the teacher during the year. This is a celebration of their work and achievements throughout the year. The Learning Journey also provides evidence to support our assessments.

At the end of Nursery and Reception you will also receive a summative report which will include how well your child is achieving against the development matters statements (nursery) and the Development Matters statements and Early Learning Goals (reception). For more information on this please visit <https://www.early-education.org.uk>

The foundation staff also record your child's development against the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'; these are the ways in which your child engages with other people and their environment.

They are broken down into three main areas (engagement, motivation and thinking); they underpin learning and development across all areas and support your child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

These are reported on at the end of the year in the final report.

Assessment in the Foundation Stage

Parent Consultation Evenings

We hold parent consultation evenings during the year where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. You will have the opportunity to look through the Learning Journey. You will also be given 'next steps' to give you guidance on how you can help to support your child in their learning and development.



Learning Journeys

Your child will have a Learning Journey to record the learning that they are doing during their time in Foundation. The Early Years Team spend time observing and extending children's play and thinking during child-initiated play and during adult-led activities. These observations and photographs are then added to their Learning Journey.

Throughout the year you will be encouraged to contribute to your child's Learning Journey and will also be given opportunities to look through it with them. At the end of nursery and reception the Learning Journey will be passed on to your child's new teacher to support their knowledge of the child.

When your child enters their new year group in September, you will receive your child's Learning Journey to keep. We hope you will treasure it!



Completing the Profile



In the final term of the year in which the child reaches age five, the EYFS Profile must be completed for each child.

The Profile provides parents and carers, practitioners and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their progress against expected levels, and their readiness for Year 1.

A copy of this will be given to you when your child has finished Reception and forms part of the end of year report.

'The excellent care, support and guidance, and high quality teaching ensure that the children reach high standards and acquire a very wide breadth of skills, knowledge and understanding'.

Ofsted 2008



Northgate Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs Louisa Hotson

Cricketfield Lane
Bishop's Stortford
Herts. CM23 2RL

Tel: 01279 652376

Fax: 01279 759033

Email: admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.northgate.herts.sch.uk

