

# Nightingale Primary School



Starting School Information Pack





# Nightingale Primary School

Blackbird Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9JW

Telephone: (023) 8061 3588 Email: [adminoffice@nightingale.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@nightingale.hants.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of the whole school community I warmly welcome you to Nightingale Primary School. At Nightingale our school vision is to 'Inspire to Aspire' meaning that we strive to ignite a love of lifelong learning and ambition in all of our pupils, supporting them to reach their potential.

In this pack you will find information about when you and your child can come to visit Nightingale Primary School, dates for when your child will start school and some basic ideas on how best to support your child before and during their time at Nightingale. This year however we are living through unprecedented times, and as I am sure you will understand the dates given can only be an indication of what would usually happen. All of the dates given are subject to change, however we will ensure that any changes are communicated to you in a timely fashion.

During your child's transition visits you will have the opportunity to find out more about our school and meet school staff. You will find opportunities in these sessions to meet other parents and children and to familiarise yourselves with the school and classrooms. In addition to this you will be invited to attend an information meeting during your child's final visit, in which we will cover many of the frequently asked questions that arise around starting school. You will be given full details of school meal provision, uniform and other expectations. In the meantime, if you would like any additional information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

We look forward to a positive and successful partnership with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Leanne Clegg  
EYFS Lead

## General School Information

Nightingale Primary School has approximately 450 pupils. The school will have classes from Reception (4 and 5 year olds) to Year 6 (10 and 11 year olds). The school is split into three phases known as Key Stages.

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

### **Nightingale Primary School Staff**

Nightingale Primary School has a dedicated team led by Mrs Hannah Beckett, Headteacher, and Mrs Gosling and Mrs Trumble, Deputy Headteachers. Mrs Clegg is the Early Years Foundation Stage Leader.

Nightingale's EYFS comprises of two classes; Kingfisher Class and Woodpecker Class. We are very lucky to have a supportive team of Teaching Assistants who work alongside the teachers to provide quality learning experiences for your child. Occasionally a different teacher will teach your child to enable their class teacher to engage in training and planning opportunities. These planned absences will often be covered by other teaching staff within the school, however when outside agencies are used to cover class teaching we aim to use supply teachers who are familiar with our school and our values.

Our dedicated Admin Team are located in the school office to help you with any queries you may have. Our Special Needs Co-ordinator, Mrs Gosling, will help children to access the curriculum if they have specific learning needs. Mrs Sharp our Welfare Manager, 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 help the children whilst eating lunch and in the playground. They are assisted by the Eagles, a carefully selected group of older children from Key Stage 2.

### **Breakfast Club**

At Nightingale we are proud to run a popular Breakfast Club that opens from 7.45am until 8.45am 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.

## After School Club

Intergr8 Sports offer an on-site after school club providing after school care and activities. Please see the school website or contact the school office for contact 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.



## School 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 when their class teachers feel that they are ready to do so, and they will attend other assemblies when they reach Year 1.



## School Trips and Visits

To provide children with a broader curriculum and exciting opportunities, we arrange to have visitors in school and go out on school trips. Parents are asked for a voluntary contribution towards transport and admission costs without which these wonderful opportunities simply would not be possible.

## 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.



## Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFS) is a framework for children up to and including the age of five; this includes nursery, preschool and the Reception Year. It promotes teaching and learning through engaging, hands-on experiences and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide a strong foundation for future success through school and life. All children work towards the 'Early Learning Goals', which summarise the knowledge, skills and understanding that most children should have developed by the end of the Reception Year.

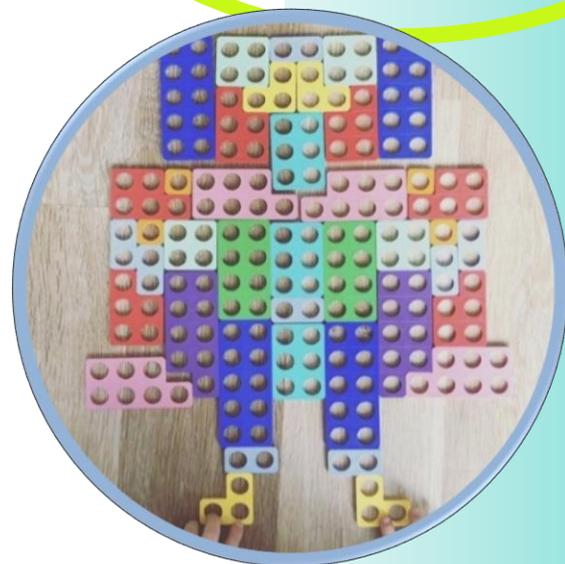
There are seven areas of learning and development that shape the education of the children. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. The three Prime Areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, for building their capacity to learn, and for forming relationships which will help them to develop and learn effectively.

### Prime areas:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication and Language

### Specific areas:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the World
4. Expressive Arts and Design



At Nightingale Primary we consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development of each child in our care. We use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable curriculum with the needs of the learners at its core. Play is an essential component of children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to solve problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

We encourage children to explore and develop their thinking by making links with what they already know. We teach the importance of 'having a go' and build their confidence to keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and to enjoy and take pride in their achievements.

There will be workshops available during the year to explore the curriculum areas of the EYFS in more detail, information on how specific skills are taught and how you can support your child at home. Letters will be sent out to inform you as to when these workshops will take place.

## Classes

The process of allocating classes can be a long and tricky task! 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-school visits. Please do not worry if your child is not in the same class as one of their friends. Due to nature of the Reception Year the children will have access to both classes and the outside area for most of the day. Therefore, they will be able to spend time with friends from both class bases for much of the school day and will also be able to make lots of new friends too! Your child will be assigned to a class during the transition visit process and you will be informed of which class your child will be in at the parent information meeting.



## Class Dojo and Tapestry

At Nightingale, all EYFS children will be given a Tapestry online learning journal account. This is a secure journal which will be used to collate observations and assessments of your child's learning during their time in Year R. You will be invited to access this journal with a secure password and encouraged to add your own observations from home. If your child already has a Tapestry journal from pre-school, their current setting will be invited to pass this up to us to continue at school. Class Dojo is an online system that is used throughout the school and is a fantastic communication tool for parents and teachers. More information about each of these platforms will be given out during our information meetings.

## Starting School

All children begin their school journey with different previous experiences; some may have attended a nursery or preschool on a full or part time basis and some may not, some children will be almost five and others barely four. Therefore, we provide some flexibility when considering your child's entry to school. After the initial week of home visits followed by a week of part time attendance, you may wish to consider whether your child is ready to attend school full time or remain part time for a little longer. These decisions can be made in collaboration with your child's class teacher to ensure they receive the best possible start to their school journey.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet; we are excited to welcome your child and family into our school and look forward to many years of learning together

