

# Little Oaks

Nurture Group



## *Little Oaks*

*'From the tiniest  
acorn, grows the  
mighty oak'.*

## Parent Information



Stokes Wood  
Primary School



## **'Little Oaks' Nurture Group**

The Nurture Group takes place in the Little Oaks classroom three afternoons per week and the room has been designed specifically to create a nurturing environment, for this academic year. The Little Oaks classroom has been carefully arranged to include the best of both classroom and home furniture in order to create a warm and welcoming environment for the children. The classroom also benefits from a Sensory Area where the children have access to therapy type resources, such as a dark den and interactive LED lighting.

## **What is the purpose of the Nurture Group and it's philosophy?**

The Nurture Group is a small group of children, between 10- 12 pupils who sometimes need a little extra support in order to achieve their own goals. The pupils within 'Little Oaks' are carefully selected in order to create a group of children that will work effectively together in a calm, caring and safe environment. Positive relationships are modelled by the two adults who lead the group, Mrs.Hardyman and Mrs. Smith.

Its purpose, is to offer these children opportunities within a classroom to be a bridge between home and school, where learning can be re-visited and other additional learning opportunities are addressed, according to the child's individual needs. Learning also promotes and supports their social and emotional development. The children are shown how to understand and manage their emotions and therefore support them to become more confident learners within school.

There is much research evidence that children's learning is most effective when they have a sense of emotional well being, good self esteem and a feeling of

belonging to their school community and the team do everything they can to support the children to achieve these goals.

The 'Little Oaks' Nurture Group provides the children with this opportunity and helps to develop their maturity and resilience. The Nurture Classroom is still a place of learning and the staff have the same high expectations for these children.

The philosophy of the Nurture Room is drawn from the principles established by the work of Marjorie Boxall and others, and exemplified by 'The Nurture Group Network' ([www.nurturegroups.org](http://www.nurturegroups.org)).

### The Nurture Group Principles:

- Children's learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom offers a safe base
- All behaviour is communication
- The importance of transition in children's lives
- Has an adult/child ratio of 1:6/ provides lots of opportunities for speaking and listening activities
- Builds upon a child's self-esteem and confidence
- Builds skills for classroom learning
- Has daily crafts, games, a 'snack area' and more!
- Language is a vital means of communication
- Offers a range of learning opportunities that relate to all areas of the curriculum and appeals to a range of learning styles.

*Before children attend nurture provision parents are informed by letter and requested to sign a permission slip.*

### Which children attend Nurture Group?

Children may attend sessions in the Nurture Group for specific reasons, for example:

- Find it a bit difficult to settle into class
- Are quiet, shy, withdrawn
- Have friendship difficulties - keeping/making friends
- Find it hard to listen to others or join in
- Are disruptive towards others
- Find it hard to accept losing a game
- Find it hard to share and take turns

- Bullying
- Have low self esteem
- Have poor relationships with adults in school
- Bereavement
- Family illness or break-up

### **How will Nurture Group help my child?**

Attending Nurture Group intends to boost a child's confidence and self esteem and provides them with the extra help sometimes needed to improve their social skills and independence for example:

- To encourage them to join in
- To support them to settle in
- To teach them good listening skills
- To improve their concentration
- To enable them to share and take turns
- To help them to accept losing at a game
- To build up friendships with their classmates
- It also gives them opportunities and encourages them to develop more positive relationships with their peers and with other members of staff in school.

### **Does this mean my child is naughty?**

No, these sessions are designed to help them manage situations and increase their skills to become learners that are more successful. It is not about good/naughty children, it is about respecting that all children are different and some just need a little more support to achieve their next steps.

### **How long will my child be in Nurture Group for?**

Children will attend on a part-time basis for a period of 2-4 terms. However we ensure that the children do not miss special assemblies, guests in school, outings or anything else that may be different from the normal routine of the week.

## **Are parents/carers involved?**

Yes! We love to have special days where the parents are invited to work with the children within the group. Our door is always open and you are always welcome as parents/carers to visit and join the sessions at any time, we just ask that you let us know in advance if you wish to attend these sessions.

Special event invitations are sent out to parents, inviting them to join us for example; at an open afternoon once every half term, to celebrate Mothers' Day Tea, help with a cooking activity or simply for afternoon tea and a chat about how well your child is progressing within 'Little Oaks'.

## **What happens during the 'Little Oaks' Nurture Group Sessions?**

Children follow a structure and routine that is clear to both staff and children which includes group listening and speaking, work tasks, individual and shared play and social skills. The group runs on consistency, positive reinforcement and praise.

A typical two hour afternoon session in 'Little Oaks' would include the following: The children are collected from their classes after registration and brought to the 'Little Oaks' Classroom.

The session then starts with a settling down activity around the table e.g. practising name writing, number formation, playing a game and sharing a story book. The group then move onto the carpet and form a circle for a circle time activity. During these activities the children are invited to share any news that they might have and give them a chance to speak and sing in a safe structured non - threatening way, exploring their thoughts and feelings and encouraging them to listen each other. Together, we then discuss the planned activities for the session - sharing and explaining the visual timetable, so that they know exactly what to expect.

The children will take it in turns to be the 'helper of the day' - they will be the child that helps to set up the snack time for the rest of the group and help the adults clear away afterwards.

At snack time the children are provided with squash and a snack, this will be toast during a morning session (these could be introduced later on in the year) and a biscuit during afternoon sessions. During the half term the children will have the opportunity to invite one of their friends from their class to join us for snack time. The children have the opportunity to make an invitation and give them to their friend. The 'snack' time is at the heart of this practice when the children and adults sit together and share food and talk.

The session activities may include taking part in art activities such as painting and making. During some sessions there will even be time for some gardening and baking! Here the children are given an opportunity to complete a task which they can feel proud of and to work co-operatively with others in the group.

The sessions finish with a story or music time. This is an opportunity for the children to enjoy a story or some relaxing music perhaps with a cushion or a soft toy, to reflect upon what they have enjoyed and felt during the sessions, to ask questions and to listen attentively and to celebrate the sessions achievements.



We will have lots of fun developing children's confidence, behaviour, speaking and listening skills. The children take part in a range of activities including school work, sensory play, role play, cooking, art, stories etc. These activities are specifically designed to meet the needs of each individual child.



### **Nurture Group Staff**

*If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs T Hardyman and Mrs S Smith- Nurture Group Leaders. Alternatively you can speak to your child's class teacher.*

*Mrs Hatcher will be monitoring the pupils' progress in Little Oaks and will happily be available if you would like to discuss anything about the group.*