



Holm Primary School

Nurture Group Information Leaflet



The Nest is a place where children will have the opportunity to grow in confidence, become engaged and become successful learners in their classrooms and the school community

Who is Nurture Group for?

It is for children who:

- may find it difficult to cope in the classroom
- may get angry or upset easily
- may be quiet, shy or withdrawn
- find making and keeping friends difficult
- find it hard to talk about and express emotions appropriately
- struggle to listen or join in
- find it challenging to share or take turns
- have low self-esteem and confidence
- find it hard to manage anxiety or pressures
- are going through times of transition or change such as bereavement, family changes or breakups



What is a Nurture Group?

- The Nurture Room is a place of learning
- It is a short term focussed intervention which works in the long term. A placement may last 2-4 terms
- It encourages social, emotional and behaviour development through an adapted curriculum
- It is a highly structured, set and predictable environment which allows children to develop their individual needs
- It provides careful, targeted learning opportunities to raise levels of achievement



- It is a class of 8-12 children; the composition is well thought-out to create a balanced and functional group
- It is taught by 2 members of staff
- It provides play opportunities to help children work together, share, concentrate and plan
- It provides children with a chance to develop positive relationships with the staff and each other
- It promotes children's self-esteem and confidence building

What difference do Nurture groups make?

Children in Nurture Groups:

- become more confident and equipped with skills to reach their potential
- make and keep better friendships
- view school as a more positive place and are happier in the school community
- improve concentration, listening and engagement
- develop problem solving skills
- develop greater resilience
- learn to share, take turns and accept losing in a game
- are better able to talk about and manage emotions appropriately

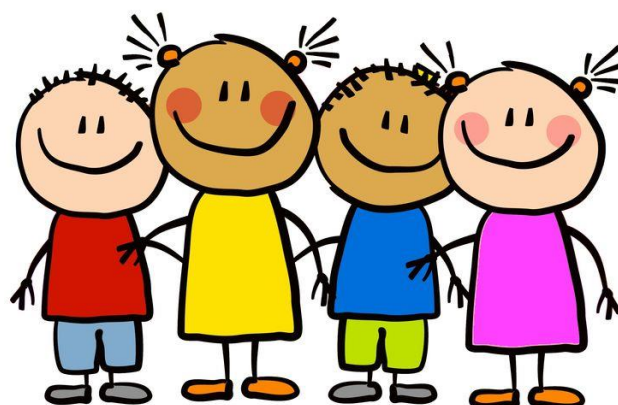


What will the Nurture Group at Holm Primary School be like?

Our Nurture Room is called The Nest. It is located in A Block with access to outdoor space.

Our Nurture Group will:

- run for 4 mornings a week 9.30 – 11.30am (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)
- take place in a specially resourced room which is a hybrid between home and school environments; it will have living room, kitchen, dining, play and work areas
- use snack time to further develop social skills and encourage children to attend to the needs of others
- be run by caring, Nurture trained members of staff
- assess children's needs and work on individual goals
- have good communication with families / carers and invite them in regularly
- have close links with the child's base class and teacher ensuring the child is a valued member of both classes
- support transitions e.g. new class / school



A typical session in The Nest may involve:

8.45	Staff available in the nurture room
9.20	Staff to collect children from class
9.30	Group welcome and morning routines Check in, circle time, feelings etc
9.45	Teaching session / Activity time
10.15	Snack time (build up to preparing with children)
10.45	Teaching session / Activity time
11.15	Closing session - story, song, reflections, calm down activities
11.30	Return to class



We provide a structured routine with clear boundaries, so the children feel safe and secure. The group runs on consistency, positive reinforcement and praise.



We will follow the 6 principles of nurture groups:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally

Planned activities within the nurture group reflect the curriculum of similar children in the school but is adapted as appropriate for the developmental stage of each child in the nurture group. Nurture group staff meet regularly with class teachers to discuss the children's' learning, emotional needs and their progress.

2. The classroom offers a safe base.

The nurture room provides a bridge between home and school, a warm and friendly environment where children feel emotionally safe and secure.

The development of self-esteem is an important aspect of the nurture group

With growing self-esteem children will be more able to face the challenges of everyday life, to solve problems and to tackle new experiences.

4. The development of language skills for communication is vital.

Great attention is paid to the use of language with high levels of child/adult interactions, everything is explained and explored.

5. All behaviour is communication

The children learn acceptable ways of communicating their likes, dislikes and feelings. There are clear rewards and sanctions understood by the children, within the group.

6. We recognise the importance of transition in children's lives.

Managing transitions is a key feature of our Nurture Group, preparing the children for day-to-day events and changes to the usual routines.