

AUTUMN TERM 2023

NIGHTINGALE INFANTS AND NURSERY



WRITTEN BY STAFF & CHILDREN

Find out more about what's been happening at
Nightingale Infants and Nursery



AUTUMN 2023

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LETTER FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nightingale Families,

Welcome to the spring term at Nightingale Infant and Nursery.

We know how difficult it can be keeping up with what is happening in school and how overwhelming it can be receiving lots of information at different times. We have tried to slim down our weekly newsletters so you have only the key information but want to ensure we keep you up to date with information such as the curriculum, progress being made against school improvement and ensuring you know about all of the extra things your children experience while with us at Nightingale.

Each term we aim to send you this 'magazine' written by the staff and children. This term includes an overview of our school improvement plan, an update on phonics and writing and what personal development in school looks like for your children.

Our very positive Ofsted report last year has allowed the team time for reflection and review. This year is mainly focussed on ensuring all subjects in the curriculum are as well developed as those that are completed, and looking at ways we can continue to enhance our curriculum.

Introducing 2-years into our school is a continuing area of development and we are exciting about the recruitment of new staff into our team. We have been overwhelmed by demand for places and feel this is testament to the care and education the team provides.

Last term we warmly welcomed Taverham Breakfast and After School club into the school. We know how important wrap around care is for our families and are pleased we are able to offer this in such a small school. They offer care from 7.30am and after school until 6pm. Please speak to the office if you would like more information.


We always welcome your ideas and feedback so please don't hesitate to catch one of us on the gate in the morning or contact the office to arrange a more convenient time to talk.

On behalf of the myself and the staff team, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another busy and exciting term at Nightingale.

Mrs Hutt
Partnership Headteacher

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Our FLOCK Values



be Fair


Listen and learn

Open and honest

Care for ourselves, each other and the World

Keep trying

Birds of a feather flock together



At Nightingale, the FLOCK values are a huge part of our school life. Adults give out our special FLOCK tokens whenever we catch children demonstrating one of the values in class and around school.



Each week we focus on one of our values which we introduce in Monday's assembly. On Fridays, 2 children from each class who have really shown they're working hard to meet that value are given a certificate.



At the end of each half term, families from 2 children from each class are invited to come into school to celebrate their child in a special assembly. Certificates with special citations about how the children have shown they follow all of our school values are read out to the child and for everyone to hear.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Our school improvement plan is made up of 5 core strands.

Strand 1 - Improving teaching of writing - Introducing Talk for Writing

Introducing a whole school approach to the teaching of writing. This will allow for consistency - ensuring children can build on their learning across year groups with the same use of language and models for writing. Training for staff is taking place over a 2 year period, with visits from our trainer each half term. Leaders work together across our partnership of schools to support each other.

Strand 2 - Continuing to improve the EYFS provision in school

Introducing 2-year old provision into the school nursery.

Developing the curriculum in nursery including early reading and writing so children are well prepared for the next stage in their education.

Development of the outdoor area so it is of the highest quality.

Strand 3 - Improving the quality of education across the wider curriculum

Continuing to build on the long term planning of the foundation subjects (subjects outside of Maths, English and Science) so it is clear what key knowledge, skills and vocabulary are to be taught and how learning builds over time. Developing the quality of teaching and learning so it is of the highest quality in all year groups and in all subjects.

Strand 4 - Communication with families

Evaluating systems already in place, including gaining parent feedback, and identifying improvement required.

Ensuring clear processes for communication are in place.

Ensuring parents are fully informed about what their children are learning in school and have access to materials and support so they can support at home.

Strand 4 - Handwriting and Presentation

Evaluating the teaching of handwriting and developing a system which builds across year groups and is built around the highest of expectations.

Ensuring all staff have the same high expectations of handwriting and presentation of work.





MEET OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council consists of 3 children from each class. They are voted into role by their peers.



We share ideas together. If we don't like something about school we can change it. Like the lunch menu. I feel really lucky to be in school council.

Finn, Livvy, Holly

I like being in our School Council

Tane

To be in school council you meet with lots of other people. You have to be caring and kind, patient, work as a team and be brave to talk to your class.

Amber, Eva and Eli



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT NIGHTINGALE

What do we mean by personal development and what do we do at Nightingale?



PSHE Curriculum

The PSHE curriculum at Nightingale is based on a model from the PSHE Association, a membership association and charity who support over 50,000 teachers and schools with resources, training, guidance and advice. Our curriculum is underpinned by our school FLOCK values. Children's PSHE lessons are fun and engaging, the activities are varied and age-appropriate. The children learn about their feelings and ways to manage them, ways to keep themselves healthy, about the body, about friendship and being a friend, ways they can keep themselves safe, about families and relationships, who can help them when they need help and how choices and behaviours can affect children's health and education outcomes. Assemblies are used to reinforce and discuss the PSHE half-termly units that the children are learning about in the classroom, and to enhance learning with special visitors, marking special occasions or addressing school-specific issues as they arise.



Curriculum Enhancements

At Nightingale we aim to give learning meaning. This means we do not simply follow a classroom focused curriculum. To help our pupils see the value of PSHE, we find a range of opportunities to help the learning 'make sense' and 'come to life.' This is done through strategies such as our School Council, with representatives voted for by their class; visitors from the wider community coming to speak with the children; trips and visits into the local community and beyond; representing the school in a wider event such as sports and presenting and performing for their peers and families.





3

Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

At Nightingale, our curriculum is enriched through our clubs and extra-curricular activities. Every member of staff is invited to host a club that helps to promote their own passions at some point through the year. These might be linked to a specific subject, like Art or Tennis club, or be more focussed on skills such as singing, or sharing and turn taking in Board Games Club. In our recent inspection, the OFSTED inspector was surprised to hear about the number of clubs on offer to such young children, and commented on how lucky our children are!



4

Assemblies



Children experience a number of different assemblies through the week at school. These are all designed to enhance our PSHE curriculum and further embed our FLOCK values.

On Mondays, children are reminded of one of our FLOCK values and this becomes the focus for the week. On Fridays, we all come together again to celebrate 2 children from each class who have done an especially good job of demonstrating this value.

We also have a PSHE focussed assembly on Thursdays, delivered by our PSHE lead Mrs Watling. During these assemblies, we might explore a national event such as Children in Need, Bonfire Night or Black History Month, or we might use stories to explore a theme such as friendship, diversity and equality. Sometimes we have special visitors attending to help enhance our curriculum. In the past we have had visits from dentists, the police and the fire service. This term we are excited to welcome a Paralympian to our school!

5

Special person

Every day in each class there is a 'special person' of the day. This is a child chosen at random and every child gets the chance to have a turn several times throughout the year.

When you are special person, you are allowed to sit on a special chair whilst other children sit on the carpet; are chosen to help with important jobs for the day; walk at the front of the line and finally, choose a friend to sit with them at the special lunch table.



Swallow of the day



SAFEGUARDING AT NIGHTINGALE

SAFEGUARDING QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS 2023-2024

NIANS

ALL OF THE CHILDREN SAID THEY HAVE FRIENDS AT SCHOOL

100% OF CHILDREN SAID THE SCHOOL WANTS THEM TO BEHAVE WELL.

CHILDREN FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THEY KNOW HOW TO CROSS A ROAD SAFELY AND COULD EXPLAIN HOW

CHILDREN AT NIGHTINGALE KNOW THE PANTS RULE

CHILDREN SAID THEY ARE TAUGHT HOW TO STAY HEALTHY

CHILDREN AT NIGHTINGALE SAY THEY ENJOY PLAYTIMES AND FEEL SAFE

CHILDREN FELT THEY KNEW WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE MADE THEM UNHAPPY. THEY KNEW TO SPEAK TO AN ADULT. MOST CHILDREN COULD NAME THAT ADULT

CHILDREN AT NIGHTINGALE SAY THEY TRUST THE ADULTS IN SCHOOL

MOST CHILDREN SAID THEY ENJOY SCHOOL

MOST CHILDREN COULD SPEAK ABOUT HOW TO STAY SAFE ONLINE. RECEPTION CHILDREN WERE UNSURE OF WHAT THIS MEANT BUT KNEW TO TELL AN ADULT IF SOMETHING UPSET THEM.

ALL OF THE CHILDREN SAID THE SCHOOL IS CLEAN

OUR NURSERY HAS GROWN



We have had such an exciting year so far in Nuthatch Nursery! You may have heard that we adjusted our offer to extend nursery places to 2-year-olds, which began back in September. Since then, we have experienced an explosion of interest and growth within our nursery, and we have now doubled the number of spaces we can offer to children between the ages of 2-4. We were lucky that alongside our growth, we were able to secure a grant to buy new furniture, toys and resources. Some of the resources we were able to buy were a cosy cave; a mini soft play set; garden equipment and furniture, including two mini picnic benches for snack times and lots of lovely toys.

Alongside re-introducing a teacher to oversee Nuthatch Nursery, this term we will be recruiting new members of staff, which will be very exciting and allow us to continue to increase our offer to families. Look out for some new faces amongst the staff team!

Please see below some photos of all of the fun we have been having so far this school year.



INTRODUCING TALK FOR WRITING



TalkforWriting

Talk for Writing was developed by Pie Corbett who is an English educational trainer, writer, author and poet.

It is a whole school approach which develops our children as readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

Talk for Writing enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes. The approach moves 'from dependence towards independence' through using shared and guided teaching and eventually children writing independently and creatively.

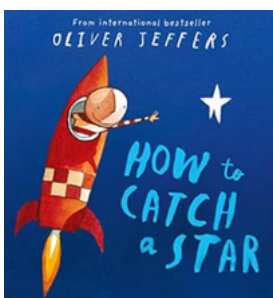
Talk for Writing is a multi-sensory and interactive way to learn, allowing children of all abilities to write a range of story and text types using various methods.

We want our children to leave Nighthale as thoughtful and independent readers and writers.

Talk for Writing has been successful in raising attainment and improving progress of children's writing. You can find out more about this here:

<https://www.talk4writing.com/about/does-talk-for-writing-work/>

In the short time we have been using Talk for Writing we have already seen an increase in vocabulary, excitement for learning and fantastic ideas and creativity for writing.



THE BIG QUESTION

Everyone is friendly and helpful

My teachers like it when I make a mistake - it means I am learning

Everyone tries their best - we love to learn

There's more people and that means more friends. That means people are happy

There's loads of clubs - there's something everyone likes I am sure

What makes Nightingale Infant & Nursery a good school?

Everyone is kind - they remember our values

Maths is great - I like being taught how to use bar modelling

I love playtimes - there's so much to do like building, colouring, climbing and games

My friends help me learn new sounds. And the teachers sometimes too!

My teachers really care about me and my friends

It feels like home

We are a family at school

English is so good. I'm getting better at writing stories