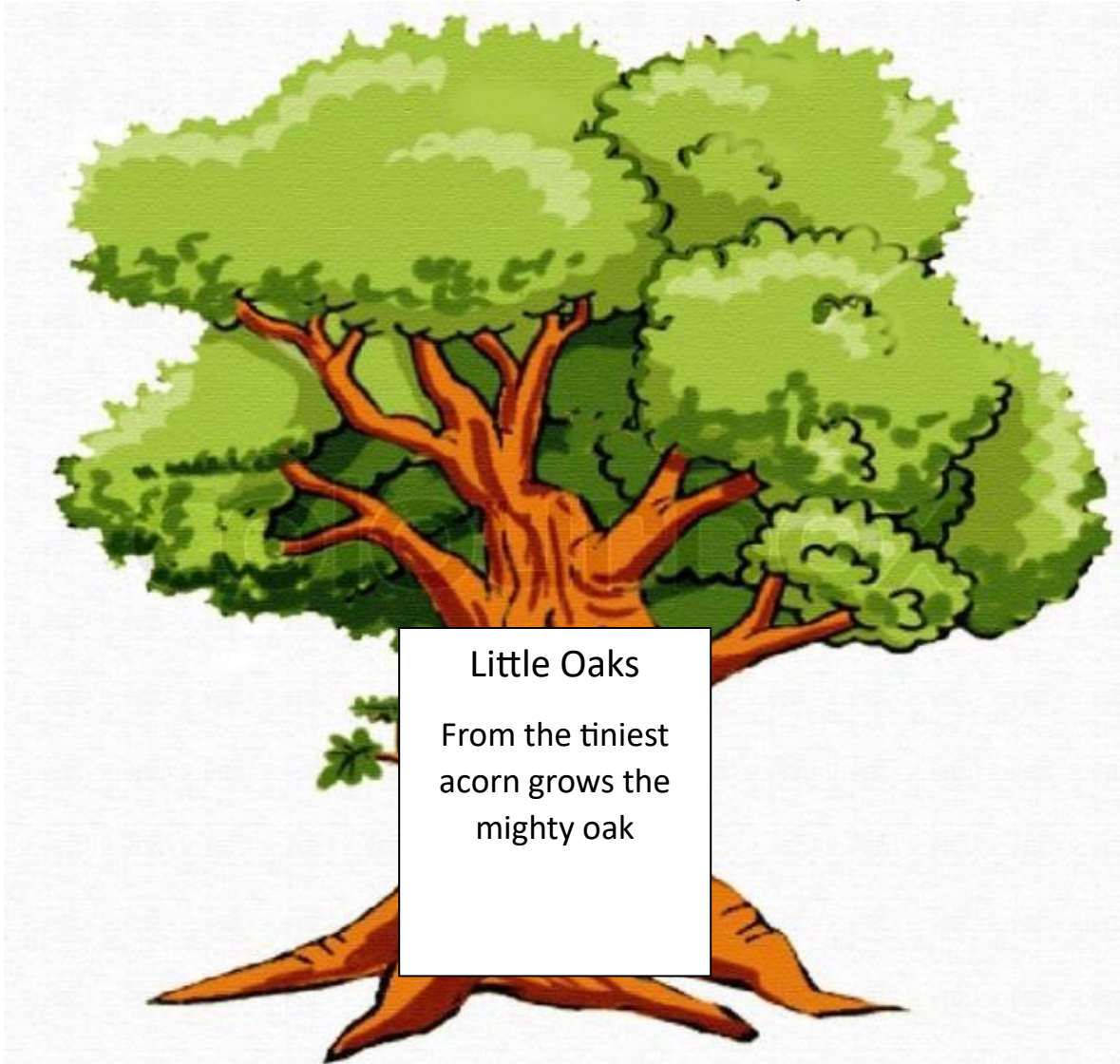


Little Oaks Nurture Group



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. The Little Oaks classroom has been carefully arranged to include the best of both classroom and home furniture to create a warm and welcoming environment for the children.

What is the purpose of the Nurture Group and its philosophy?

The Nurture Group is a small group of children, between 10-12 pupils who sometimes need a little extra support to achieve their own goals. The pupils within 'Little Oaks' are carefully selected 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. Smith and Mrs Ramsell. Its purpose is to offer these children opportunities within a classroom which are 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 are supported to become more confident learners within school. There is much researched 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. The team do everything they can to support the children to achieve these goals. 'Little Oaks' helps to develop the children's 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 Group is drawn from the principles established by the work of Marjorie Boxall and others and exemplified by 'The Nurture Group Network' (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.
- The group has an adult/child ratio of 1:6 and provides lots of opportunities for speaking and listening activities.
- The group builds a child's self-esteem and confidence.
- The group builds skills for classroom learning.
- The group has daily crafts, games, a 'snack area' and more!
- Language is a vital means of communication.
- The group 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 the nurture provision, parents are informed by letter and requested to sign a permission slip.

How will the 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 approximately 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. 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, help with cooking activities or simply for 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 taken 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 of children then moves onto the carpet. The children form a circle for a circle time activity. During these activities the children are invited to share any news that they might have, given a chance to speak and sing in a safe structured non-threatening way, given an opportunity to explore their thoughts and feelings and are encouraged to listen to 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', who 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. The 'snack' time is at the heart of this practice when the children and adults sit together and share food and talk.

The children take part in a range of activities specifically designed to meet the needs of each individual child. The sessions may include taking part in activities such as curriculum work, sensory play, role play, art, stories etc. During some sessions there will be time for some gardening and baking! 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 the children's confidence, behaviour, speaking and listening skills.

Nurture Group Staff

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Smith and Mrs Ramsell, our Nurture group leaders. Alternatively, you can speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you.

