

Littleborough Community Primary School and Nursery

Bringing out the best in every child





Welcome to Littleborough Community Primary School

At Littleborough Community Primary School our children are taught in a happy, caring, stimulating environment in which they can flourish and develop to their full potential.

Each child's skill, interests and talents are equally valued and our teachers are devoted to meeting their individual needs through the highest standard of care, teaching and curriculum provision.

We equip all children with a desire and motivation that underpins all learning through high quality, planned, and differentiated teaching and a wide variety of challenging learning experiences both in and out of the classroom.

We are proud of our Celebration Assemblies that celebrate not only good work, but also effort and good character through the weekly Class Champion award.

Our partnership with parents and carers is crucial to the development of successful, confident, independent and caring learners.

Our mission statement is very simple, and sums up our school perfectly: "Bringing out the best in every child."

Ofsted says...

“Focus on improving the quality of teaching has ensured that all groups of pupils are making accelerated progress and are achieving well.”

An Inclusive school

All of our children are encouraged to be caring, confident and responsible members of our community and to develop the social skills they need to voice their opinions, ideas and concern for others.

To do this, our children have the opportunity to take part in a range of initiatives including the School Council, Borough Buddies (an initiative where Year 5 and 6 pupils offer support and friendship to younger pupils), fundraising for charity, Young Leaders and community events.

Developing self-belief and aspiration are important aspects of our school, and we take every opportunity to build character by giving children the chance to participate in a range of activities. These involve performing for the public,

through awarding Class Champions, Friendship awards, class dojos and credits, and by running Curriculum projects about those who work in our community.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school, and to a happy and successful partnership with all of our new children and families.

Mrs M Sinker, Headteacher

Mr R Mitchell, Chair of Governors



About Our School

Littleborough Community Primary School is located in the quaint village of Littleborough, overlooking the picturesque hills of the south Pennines.

Classrooms

All children benefit from access to spacious well-equipped classrooms and a range of facilities to support the interests and needs of all learners. Our Foundation Stage accommodation is on the ground floor, with an enclosed and secure nursery and three large reception rooms.

The Year 1 and 2 classrooms are positioned around a large resource area, giving children access to a rich environment, including role-play and creative spaces, a small world area, and mathematics and English challenge areas.

State-of-the-art facilities and resources

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and computers, and the school's laptops, iPads and iPods are accessed using a state-of-the-art wireless system. We also have a well-resourced and attractive library, an audio room and a computer suite.

Our dedicated playing fields are used for games, athletics, sports days and football matches. Our playground has a separate play area for each key stage, its own multi-use games area (MUGA) with basketball nets, and a new play area with shaded seating and climbing equipment.

Our newly developed 'Rainforest' therapeutic inclusion room is equipped with computers, visual and sensory resources, providing a warm and relaxing environment for children with additional needs.

With a separate dining hall, a hall with its own stage and a sound and lighting system and a sports hall and gym, our school offers pupils a rich and stimulating environment, whether they are learning, socialising at lunchtime or taking part in our full curriculum of sport.

Ofsted says...

“In all classes, staff provide a nurturing and stimulating place to learn. Activities are well planned and enthuse pupils about their learning.”





Foundation stage

Igniting little minds

All children in Foundation stage follow seven areas of learning. The curriculum is designed to ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, build their capacity to learn, encourage them to form relationships and most importantly to thrive. All areas are carefully linked, and play a vital role in ensuring children's progress.

Prime areas

Communication and Language

Our children benefit from a rich language environment, which includes stories, drama, role-play and talking about their ideas with their friends, all designed to develop confidence in communication.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We place great importance on helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, respect for others, greater social skills and a progressive attitude to learning. Our holistic approach to learning supports children's emotional wellbeing, and gives them the confidence to try new experiences and to develop a deep understanding of themselves.

Physical Development

Children develop skills in coordination, control, manipulation and movement, and learn about the importance of exercise and making healthy life choices. They have access to a range of outdoor resources.

The prime areas of the curriculum support learning through four specific areas:

Literacy

Literacy includes the teaching of phonics through the Government's 'Letters and Sounds' programme. In Reception classes, children work individually and in small groups - both independently and with teacher support - on differentiated tasks to develop reading and writing skills.

Mathematics

Children are given indoor and outdoor opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using number and to use shapes, space and measures in practical contexts. Activities are designed to encourage our children to develop problem solving skills.

Understanding of the World

Through engaging topic work, children are supported in developing knowledge, skills and understanding that helps them to make sense of the world. Investigative skills are nurtured through opportunities to encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environment and in real-life situations. They are encouraged to take part in practical experiments and to work with different materials.

Expressive Arts and Design

Using imagination is key in the Foundation Stage curriculum. We provide children with a range of stimulating and exciting activities which encourage them to respond creatively to a variety of art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role-play situations.

Space to grow

Children in Nursery and Reception can make use of stimulating and challenging indoor and outdoor play and tasks that support independent and teacher-led learning. This includes a secure outdoor area with grass and a canopy, making outdoor play fun in all weathers.

Children have access to the school hall and gym, where teachers deliver discrete dance, gym and games sessions, and regularly visit our school library for story time. Reception children may also borrow books from our school library to take home and share.

Key Stage 1 and 2

All children follow the National Curriculum, where they learn through experience, challenge themselves and each other, and receive encouragement to develop to their maximum potential.

English

Lessons are dedicated to speaking and listening, reading, writing, handwriting and spelling. In Key Stage 1, children also have a daily lesson of phonics.

Daily reading and guided reading sessions utilise our reading scheme, the Accelerated Online Reading programme and carefully selected text. Our children are encouraged to develop their love of reading by visiting the school library once a week, where they read and listen to a range of text.

Emphasis is placed on providing children with stimulating purposes and real audiences for whom to write. Mystery parcels, bubbling potions and the appearance of magical tunnels are amongst the many exciting stimuli that are used to captivate the children, and encourage them to develop their writing skills.

Foundation subjects

Many of our subjects, including art, design and technology, geography, history and music are taught through Learning Challenges, which encompass a question. These challenges stimulate the interest and imagination of our children, and enable them to steer their learning through enquiry and research opportunities. These questions include 'What did the Romans do for us?' and 'What makes the Earth angry?'

Each theme is introduced through a Wow Day, designed to engage and motivate children in their learning. These days include drama workshops and educational visits to museums and other places of interest.

Children are also taught science, religious education, computing, physical education and PSHE through discrete lessons to allow coverage of the main objectives and age-appropriate skills development.

Throughout the year, children participate in themed days to extend their acquisition of skills and knowledge, including Anti-bullying Week, Safer Internet Day and World Book Day.

Mathematics

Mathematics is taught daily, and lessons involve development of mental maths skills, problem solving and reasoning activities. Our annual Maths Wow Day extends their love for mathematics by exploring maths in a range of situations, including the use of sensor kits to collect environmental data before using charts to record and analyse the data.

Ofsted says...

“Pupils attain particularly well in reading and mathematics.”

Languages

French is taught to children in Key Stage 2 through song and games. These lessons help to develop children's ability to understand spoken French, to read basic French words and phrases and to take part in spoken interaction with confidence.

Our children say...

“I think the lessons are good because the teachers make them challenging and fun.”



Extra-Curricular

Our outstanding range of extra-curricular activities provide all children with the opportunity to extend and develop their interests and skills. These activities include football, netball, singing, music lessons, cookery and archery. The list of in-school and after-school clubs for each term is available to view on our school website.

Sport

Our physical education curriculum gives children the chance to take part in a wide range of sports and physical activities, carried out in a safe and supportive environment. Effort and hard work, as well as success, is celebrated.

Our school boasts a successful Years 5 and 6 football team, which has competed at local and national level, winning the Rochdale Football League and the Rochdale Athletic Football Club Kids Cup. We also have a Key Stage 2 netball team, a successful athletics team - we were overall Year 6 winners at Springhill Athletics, and a Year 3 programme of swimming lessons and gala attendance.

Music

Children in Key Stage 2 are given the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, including the drums, cornet and clarinet, and may take the ABRSM music grades (additional lessons are offered).

We have a senior and training band, comprising of brass, percussion and woodwind instruments and a successful choir. Both take part in local concerts and music festivals.

We encourage our children to perform in concerts and all three of our bands have recently won the Rochdale Music Festival and National Music Festival. BBC CBeebies have recently made a programme about our amazing bands!



Outside the classroom

The School Council

The School Council is an important part of life at our school. Each class elects two councillors, a boy and a girl, to represent them on the School Council. Children discuss and vote on issues important to them and have already influenced many elements of school life, as well as organising charity events. The School Council has achieved the prestigious Gold School Council Status.

Forest Schools

Forest Schools is an initiative designed to encourage and inspire individuals through an educational approach to outdoor play and learning in a woodland environment. We are fortunate to have our own woodland area and

Foundation Stage children take part in these popular sessions based on the needs of the group. Sessions are designed around a theme, such as exploration, butterflies, fairies or nature investigators. Many areas of the National Curriculum are intrinsically covered.

Educational visits

School trips and visits are an integral part of the education of children, and we value the opportunities such visits offer to our pupils. We have a number of organisations that visit our school and we arrange trips aimed at bringing learning alive and providing first-hand experience.

Children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to take part in an inspiring and enriching residential visit.

Parents say...

“My child is provided with wonderful opportunities to learn and play with exciting equipment. She has enjoyed the forest schools programme and looks forward to coming to school every day.”

Ofsted says...

“Learning is enriched with a wide range of trips and visits that are closely linked to curriculum themes and cultural opportunities, all of which pupils enjoy greatly.”



Homework

As well as reinforcing learning in the classroom, homework helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful independent lifelong learning.

Homework is set in line with our school's policy, with tasks planned to appropriately challenge all pupils. Children have a learning log, which provides them with a selection of homework to choose from. This homework is tailored to the children's individual abilities and interests and is closely linked to their learning in the classroom. They also have access to MyMaths - an online programme that helps the children to develop their understanding of maths through engaging and interactive activities.

Fun, Fitness and Finance week

Each year, the whole school comes together to work on different projects and initiatives, including our 'Fun, Fitness and Finance' week. Children get involved in a range of activities, specially designed to develop their understanding of how to manage money and to develop their knowledge of how to keep the body healthy and safe. Activities include running a business, visits from Rochdale Football Club, taking part in zumba and yoga lessons, learning about water safety and making healthy food.

Gardening and pets club

Children take care of the school's pets (rabbits, guinea pigs, stick insects and gerbils) with occasional visits from tadpoles, ladybirds, worms and butterflies! They also plant bulbs, look after the plants around our school and sow vegetables. The children work with Hare Hill Court care home and help the residents to plant vegetables and flowers.

Respect for all

Our school is built on a foundation of respect, with a well-established system of rewards and sanctions which, alongside our excellent provision and high expectations, means that behaviour here is outstanding.

Ofsted says...

“Pupils behave exceptionally well in and around the school. They are polite, enthusiastic and highly value the opportunities that they get to learn and play at school.”

Parents in partnership

We welcome parents and carers into our school and we believe that parents and carers are our essential partners in the education of their children. There are many opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in the life of the school.

Parent communication

Our monthly newsletter, text messages, school website, news app, workshops and informal social events provide parents and carers with regular information about our school and their child.

We hold regular open mornings, when parents, grandparents and carers join their children in the classroom to engage in their child's learning, and drop in mornings provide parents and carers with the opportunity to informally ask questions and discuss their child's learning.

Parents are regularly invited to assemblies, including our Celebration Assembly when children are rewarded for their academic achievements, as well as their behaviour and attitude with our Class Champion and Work of the Week award. There are parents' evenings throughout the year.

PTA

Our PTA exists to support the life and work of our school and is open to all members of the school community. The Association holds regular meetings in school and provides invaluable support to our school through organising many social and fundraising events, involving parents and the wider local community. These enjoyable events provide opportunities for the children and their families to come together as a community and help to raise funds to provide extra facilities and equipment for the pupils.

Littleborough Community Primary School
Calderbrook Road
Littleborough
Rochdale
OL15 9HW

Tel: 01706-378556
Email: office@littleborough.rochdale.sch.uk

Head: Mrs M. Sinker