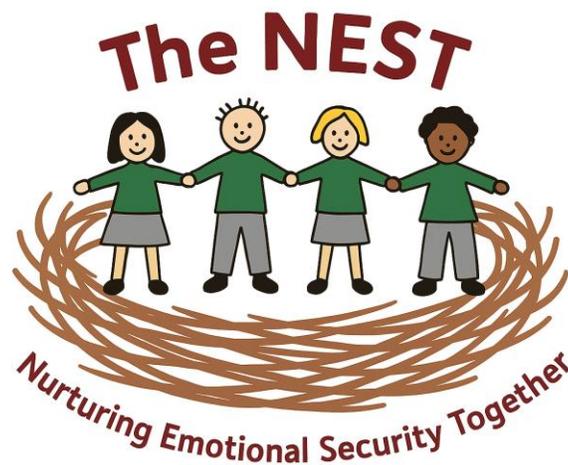




# Dovers Green Infant School



"The NEST Nurture Group aims to provide learning experiences, in a nurturing environment, which allows children in our community to grow socially and emotionally in order to be successful in their education and their relationships with others."

## Introduction

The NEST has been set up to help children who have been identified as having difficulty settling to learn in school.

- The NEST is based at Dovers Green Infant School.
- It is a small intervention group for a maximum of 8 children.
- The children will have lots of support and will be able to work at their own level.
- The children will be attending local primary schools and will be between the ages of 4-7.
- The children that attend will be from schools within reasonable travelling distance.
- The NEST will run 4 afternoons a week:  
Monday - Thursday between 1.00pm - 3.00 p.m. The children will spend the morning session in their classroom and attend The Nest from the end of lunch playtime.

The NEST is run by Mrs Nicky Heath (teacher) and Mrs Jess Lynn (Teaching Assistant)



## The Aims of The NEST

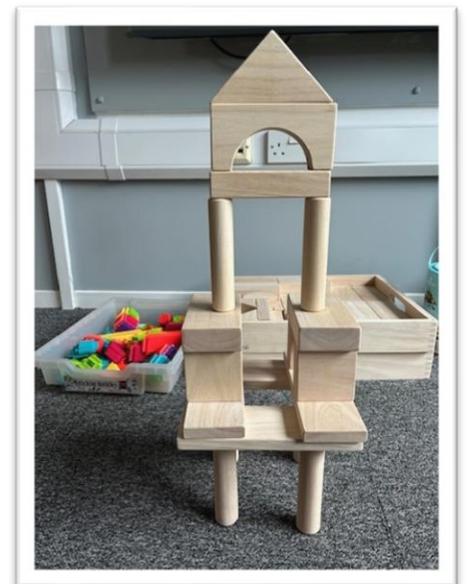
- To give children the support they need at the earliest possible age to prevent problems with learning later at school.
- To help children to learn to behave appropriately, use their curiosity constructively, improve their self-esteem and develop confidence through close and trusting relationships with adults.
- To provide a flexible and preventative resource which is responsive to the individual needs of each child.
- To provide ongoing assessment and support for children showing signs of emotional stress and/or behavioural difficulties with the aim of enabling the child to access the curriculum and participate fully in school life.
- To provide a secure and reliable environment where children can learn by experiencing nurture from caring adults who actively work towards their successful integration into their mainstream class.
- To work in partnership with class teachers and parents to enable consistency of approach, both at home and at school.



## Timetable within The NEST

It is important to provide a stable and predictable structure. Each afternoon follows a common routine and a visual timetable is used to ensure children know what they should be doing and what is coming next.

- Register and welcome each other.
- Sensory circuits to help register and calm
- Talk about the weather and the days of the week.
- Have a 'Circle Time' based on emotional literacy, building self esteem and resilience.
- Share a simple snack -this will usually be a slice of toast and a drink of milk or water, followed by a choice of fruit. The children will be expected to learn good manners, sitting at the table like a family.
- The main session is for learning through play with a strong social focus. The underlying principle will be to respond to the children's needs to learn at whatever developmental level they have reached. These activities will provide a broad and balanced curriculum that will meet the individual needs of the children.
- When appropriate, the session may include adult led small group and/or 1-1 focused sessions to support the children's learning in numeracy and literacy.
- Story sessions and singing will also be important features of the day to develop close bonds and feelings of security and belonging.

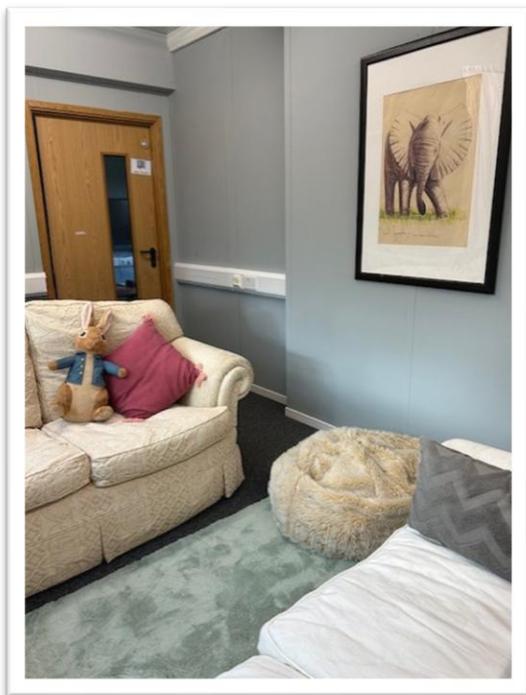


## Working in partnership

It is essential to ensure good communication between The NEST, the child's mainstream school and with parents.

### Parents

- The NEST staff strive to form good working relationships with parents through adopting a very open and non judgmental approach.
- Parents are initially invited to join us for an informal meeting.
- They are provided with a 'home contact book' in which messages are sent home every week and parents are invited to write messages in return.
- Once the children are settled, we encourage parents to visit The NEST for a session, so they can see firsthand how we are working with their child and the strategies we use to promote positive behaviours.
- Parents are required to come to our half termly partnership sessions, which are informal parent support meetings where we can share strategies.



## School

- It is important that the children's class teacher, teaching assistant, SENCO and head teacher are fully committed to supporting the aims of The NEST.
- Regular communication between home and school is vital, either by email, phone or use of the child's 'home contact' book.
- We encourage visits from the child's class teacher so that they can see firsthand how their child is being supported in The NEST.

## Re-integration

- Boxall profiles are used and need to be updated regularly to help assess the progress that the child is making both in The Nest and at school.
- Typically children will stay in the group for between 2 and 4 terms.
- Re-integration is a tailored process that will aim to meet the individual needs of the children. It will require close liaison and monitoring from all professionals involved with the child. The child's and parents views are also sought and considered.
- Once it is agreed that the child will return to class full time then an agreed plan will be implemented to ensure that successful re-integration takes place.



# Dovers Green Infant School

Headteacher: Ms Nicki Starling

SENCo: Mrs Lucy Williams

## The NEST Staff



**Nicky Heath**  
Teacher



**Jess Lynn**  
Assistant

## Contact Numbers

If you have any concerns, queries or would like to visit The NEST please don't hesitate to contact us on:-

Dovers Green Infant School

Ms Nicki Starling 01737 245 515

