

# The Links Primary School Prospectus



Carnoustie Drive  
Eaglescliffe  
Stockton on Tees  
TS16 9ES

Tel: 01642 785950

Website: [www.thelinksprimary.org.uk](http://www.thelinksprimary.org.uk)

Email: [admin@thelinksprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@thelinksprimary.org.uk)

Head: Miss C Briston

Although we may be a small school, we want our pupils to have big ambitions and high expectations of themselves. We are an outward looking school, with a strong sense of community and we aim to create a curriculum that truly meets the needs of our children. It's our children's voices that we want to drive and shape that curriculum; a rich, exciting and balanced curriculum which enables each individual child to develop academically, emotionally, creatively, socially and physically. Our curriculum will enable the children to share ideas, express their opinions and apply knowledge and skills learned in a wide range of meaningful contexts. It will offer opportunities for all children to investigate, question, debate and challenge. It will enable all children to flourish and to be the very best they can be.

To support the implementation of our vision we will create:

- A stimulating environment for developing inquisitive, independent and resilient lifelong learners who work hard and strive for excellence
- A culture of working independently and collaboratively, where we see getting something wrong as part of learning how to get it right
- An ethos where all children are encouraged and supported and challenge is fully embraced
- Exciting and challenging opportunities to promote our children's personal development and understanding of their own emotional and physical wellbeing
- Opportunities for our children to see that they can **Dream, Believe and Achieve**

## THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE

**The Links is part is part of SPARK Education Trust**

Secondary Schools:

- Conyers School and Sixth Form College (Stockton)
- Egglescliffe School and Sixth Form College (Stockton)
- Huntcliff School (Redcar & Cleveland)
- Laurence Jackson School (Redcar & Cleveland)

Primary Schools:

- Bader Primary School (Stockton)
- Bewley Primary School (Stockton)
- Chandlers Ridge Primary School (Middlesbrough)
- Junction Farm Primary School (Stockton)
- Kirklevington Primary School (Stockton)
- Layfield Primary School (Stockton)
- Levendale Primary School (Stockton)
- Saltburn Primary School (Redcar & Cleveland)
- The Links Primary School (Stockton)
- Whinstone Primary School (Stockton)
- Whitehouse Primary School (Stockton)

We have a board of Trustees that govern the MAT and each school also has a Local Governing Committee.

The Governing Committee of our school is a mixture of people from all walks of life - from parents of children in the school, representatives of the community, who want to give something to the school.

They all give their free time to ensure that your children's education is of a high standard.

The Governing Committee carry this out by setting targets, challenging the way things are done and adopting and checking the policies are being implemented.

The Head manages the school, to carry out the policies defined by the Governing Committee and regular meetings take place.

The full Governing Committee meets about six times a year, during these meetings Governors look at all aspects of school life from curriculum, standards and safeguarding.

The Chair of our Governing Committee is Dorra Laidler.

Name	Responsibilities
<b>Carly Briston</b> Leadership Team	Head of School Designated Safeguarding Lead
<b>Rebecca Kay</b> Leadership Team	EYFS & KS1 Lead Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead EYFS Teacher
<b>Kathryn Barr</b> Leadership Team	SENCO Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 1 Teacher
<b>Lindsey Bamford</b>	Year 3 Teacher
<b>Jane Beecher</b>	Year EYFS / 1/2 Teacher
<b>Sam Mcloughlin</b>	Year 5 Teacher
<b>Abigail Cain</b>	Year 4 Teacher
<b>Katherine Barron</b>	Class Teacher PPA/Leadership Cover
<b>Julie Reilly</b>	Year 6 Teacher
<b>Lucy Spence</b>	TA
<b>Angela Seymour</b>	TA Lunch Time Supervisor
<b>Rosie Carnell</b>	TA
<b>Diane Merryweather</b>	1:1 TA
<b>Emily Nolan</b>	EYFS TA
<b>Kay Salt</b>	EYFS TA

<b>Rachel Frame</b>	TA Lunch Time Supervisor
<b>Joanna Cruickshank-Hunter</b>	Office Manager
<b>Kathryn Ellington</b>	Administrator
<b>Donald Bowen</b>	Caretaker
<b>Sally Ritchie</b>	Little Acorns Manager
<b>Muriel McCabe</b>	Lunch Time Supervisor Little Acorns Assistant
<b>Laura Callaghan</b>	Lunch Time Supervisor
<b>Janet Aspland</b>	Lunch Time Supervisor
<b>Sharon Wilkinson</b>	Lunch Time Supervisor Cleaner
<b>Angela Medd</b>	Cleaner
<b>Helen Gardiner</b>	School Cook
<b>Tracy Savage</b>	Kitchen Assistant

You can view the school term dates, including PD Days please visit [Calendar \(thelinksprimary.org.uk\)](http://thelinksprimary.org.uk)

## Curriculum

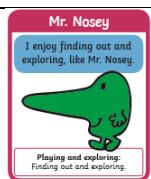
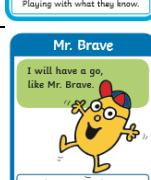
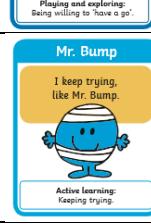
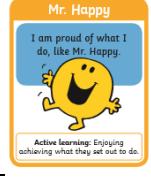
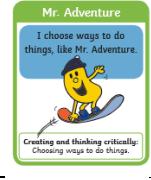
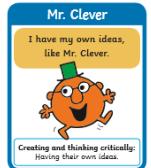
### Early Years

In addition to the whole school curriculum intent and implementation, our curriculum is informed by the EYFS Framework which is adapted to meet the needs of each individual child.

Children's learning is largely play-based using high quality, age-appropriate resources. They will learn through play and exploration both indoors and outside. Children are supported to join in both child initiated and adult led activities both indoors and outside.

Pupils will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development and will have many opportunities to develop the nine characteristics of effective learning through our Mr Men and Little Miss characters, which are adapted to be accessible, age appropriate and enable the children to develop qualities for successful learning. The children will be supported to use the language around characteristics of effective learning through modelling from practitioners and interactive displays.

## The Links Learning Powers for Early Years

Playing and Exploring - Engagement	Finding out and exploring	 <p><b>Mr. Nosey</b> I enjoy finding out and exploring, like Mr. Nosey. Playing and exploring: Finding out and exploring.</p>	I enjoy finding out and exploring like Mr Nosey
	Playing with what they know	 <p><b>Little Miss Curious</b> I play with what I know, like Little Miss Curious. Playing and exploring: Playing with what they know.</p>	I play with what I know like Little Miss Curious
	Being willing to have a go	 <p><b>Mr. Brave</b> I will have a go, like Mr. Brave. Playing and exploring: Being willing to 'have a go'.</p>	I will have a go like Mr Brave
Active Learning - Motivation	Keeping trying	 <p><b>Mr. Bump</b> I keep trying, like Mr. Bump. Active learning: Keeping trying.</p>	I keep trying like Mr Bump
	Being involved and concentrating	 <p><b>Mr. Busy</b> I join in and concentrate, like Mr. Busy. Active learning: Being involved and concentrating.</p>	I join in and concentrate like Mr Busy
	Enjoying achieving what they set out to do	 <p><b>Mr. Happy</b> I am proud of what I do, like Mr. Happy. Active learning: Enjoying achieving what they set out to do.</p>	I am proud of what I do like Mr Happy
Creating and thinking critically- Thinking	Choosing ways to do things	 <p><b>Mr. Adventure</b> I choose ways to do things, like Mr. Adventure. Creating and thinking critically: Choosing ways to do things.</p>	I choose ways to do things like Mr Adventure
	Having their own ideas	 <p><b>Mr. Clever</b> I have my own ideas, like Mr. Clever. Creating and thinking critically: Having their own ideas.</p>	I have my own ideas like Mr Clever

	Making links		I can make links in my learning like Little Miss Brainy
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## The Links Learning Powers KS1 and KS2

It is important that our pupils are equipped with the necessary skills for the fast-changing world in which we live. This means that they need to be adaptable, able to apply their learning in a wide range of contexts and develop strategies for what to do when they are unsure. We want our pupils to be active learners, questioning, investigating, challenging themselves and sharing responsibility for driving their own learning. Above all, we want our children to give their very best and to be proud of their achievements.

These qualities needed for successful learning are underpinned by our Learning Powers of **independence, curiosity, problem solving, risk taking, creativity and resilience**.

**Problem Solving Posse**

You are part of the problem solving posse with Sherlock Holmes and Allan Turn. People in this crew are good thinkers. They see problems as challenges and try to achieve a solution with the use of knowledge and information and through a lot of effort and determination!



"When you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."



Turing joined the government code breaking department. In July 1937, he and his team began to analyse crucial information about the Enigma code. They used a machine built by the Germans to encipher all the military and naval signals. After days of work, they developed a new mathematical technique called Bombe. This helped them to break Enigma messages on an individual scale.

**Curiosity Crew**

You are part of the Curiosity Crew with Marie Curie and Malala Yousafzai. People in this crew are interested in learning about lots of different things and like to ask questions and investigate things they have learnt.



Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas.



"ONE CHILD, ONE TEACHER, ONE BOOK, AND ONE PEN CAN CHANGE THE WORLD." Malala Yousafzai

**INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS**

You are a Independent Individual like Jerome Watson and Sir Isaac Newton. Independent individuals are able to take care of their own needs. They take responsibility for their own decisions and are in charge of their own learning. They are also good at working on their own to solve problems.



**SIR ISAAC NEWTON**

If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.



**Risk Taking Revolution**

You are part of the Risk Taking Revolution with Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. People in this revolution are willing to do things that involve danger or risk in order to achieve a goal.



YOU CAN NEVER CHOOSE SAFETY UNTIL YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO FACE THE SOURCE. Mark Zuckerberg



Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard University and went on to develop Microsoft, a major technology company that has made him one of the world's billionaires. He is so generous with his fortune, he has given away billions.



Neil Armstrong was space-craft commander for Apollo 11, the first manned lunar mission, and became the first man to walk on the moon.

**Creative Circle**

You are part of the Creative Circle with Walt Disney, Leonardo Di Vinci and Albert Einstein. People in the Creative Circle think about things in different and interesting ways when they are finding something tricky they try to find another way to tackle it.



"It's kind of fun to do the impossible."



"Get a good idea and stay with it. Do it, and work at it until it is done right!"

"Creativity is intelligence having fun" – Albert Einstein



**Resilience Ring**

You are part of the Resilience Ring with J.K. Rowling, Charlie Chaplin, Helen Keller and Michelangelo. People in the Resilience Ring are good at sticking with things and trying their best. This means they recover from difficult situations quickly.



Due to the death of his father and the subsequent illness of his mother, Charlie and his brother Sydnie had to find for themselves before the age of 10. Charlie turned to acting and by his mid-twenties, Charlie Chaplin was the most famous man in the world.



He was an Italian master of creative craftsmanship, known for his sculptures and paintings. He brought art to life in his sculptures and paintings. He had a very difficult life, but he never gave up. He was a very successful entrepreneur. He had a very successful business.



One of Michelangelo's most famous sculptures is the David. It is a statue of a young man who is holding a spear. He is standing in a pose that shows he is ready to fight. He is wearing a loincloth and has a determined look on his face.



## Implementation

### Curriculum organisation

- The curriculum is designed to be ambitious and cater for the needs and interests of all learners
- Progression of knowledge, skills and understanding is carefully planned, reviewed and adapted to ensure children's learning builds effectively over time
- Time used creatively and flexibly to suit our intentions and maximise learning

### Quality First Teaching

- Highly focused lesson planning with sharp objectives based upon children's prior learning/interests
- High levels of interaction for all children (including Active Learning)
- Emphasis on learning through dialogue
- Culture of encouragement and praise to motivate children
- The use of learning resources and computing developed to allow children to work independently and successfully

#### **Intervention**

- Provision for intervention is mapped according to need
- Detailed plans are put into place; evaluated and adjustments are made
- Learners are enabled to perform beyond the norms expected for their year group where appropriate
- Progress Meetings regularly take place to discuss current and future interventions engaging in dialogue around the impact of interventions, potential barriers and further actions required

#### **Focussed assessment**

- Meaningful assessment and tracking of children's knowledge is used to directly inform classroom practice allowing children to make good progress and close gaps in knowledge
- Day to day, Periodic and Transitional assessments used effectively
- Assessment for Learning evident across the school – learning objectives, learning outcomes, success criteria, self and peer evaluation

#### **Learning environment**

- Organisation of the classroom/learning environment to be flexible to meet the children's learning needs
- Make effective use of other spaces – 'outdoor classroom', computer suite, hall space
- Displays to be a mixture of celebration of children's work, supportive resources and information

#### **Enrichment**

We are committed to the broadest educational offering, ensuring that opportunities are available for children to further their knowledge, understanding, skills and experiences. The programme is clearly linked to the curriculum progression documents for each subject and across all year groups. A very successful enrichment programme, which draws upon a wide range of adult skills and includes opportunities from working collaboratively with cluster, Local Authority and Trust schools is offered.

- Music and PE specialist teachers work alongside teachers to develop subject knowledge and provide the children with bespoke teaching
- PE opportunities – attending Cluster, Stockton Sports Partnership and Trust events to develop skills and take part in competitive activities, balance bikes, Funky Feet
- Workshops linked to curriculum opportunities are provided by community organisations and businesses (Hosting More Able Writing and Maths Days with other schools, Labman, Evolve, HSBC, Stockton Book of the Year, Roman Day, Zoolab, Farm bus, E-Safety – children and parents, Den Building, Children's First Aid, Bikeability)
- Visitors to assemblies and classrooms (community church links; fire safety and awareness, safety crossing the road, dog safety, NSPCC, charity events – Children in Need, Mental Health UK, Comic Relief, Pantomine)
- Educational visits directly linked to curriculum subjects, which allows the children to have knowledge brought to life and to experience things first hand (remembrance service, space workshop, church visit to observe Baptism, Gurdwara visit linked to RE and children's cultures in school, English – theatre visits, Author Visits, Butterfly World linked to minibeasts)
- Themed days/weeks are also incorporated into our curriculum. These may be designed to fit with national initiatives (World Maths Day, Anti-Bullying Week, Cultural Week, World Book Day, Science Week, Safer Internet Day, Mental Health Day, Black History Month) or to match with

events in the UK (national charity days, elections) and also to highlight our curriculum subjects (Trust Art Week, Spelling Bees, Sports Week)

### **Extended curriculum**

Full range of 'extra-curricular' activities and clubs which enhance and extend the basic curriculum

- We ensure access for all
- Parents and carers, school staff as well as the wider community, are involved in extended provision

### **Impact for our children**

- From their different starting points, all children will make good progress academically, emotionally, creatively, socially and physically
- Knowledge, understanding and skills will be secured and embedded so that children attain highly and are fully prepared for their next stage of learning
- They will have strong communication skills, both written and verbal, and will listen respectfully and with tolerance to the views of others
- They will take pride in all that they do, always striving to do their best
- They will demonstrate emotional resilience and the ability to persevere when they encounter challenge
- They will develop a sense of self-awareness and become confident in their own abilities
- They will be kind, respectful and honest, demonstrate inclusive attitudes and have a sense of their role in our wider society

### **Behaviour**

#### **'Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe'**

The Links Primary School is committed to creating an environment where outstanding behaviour is at the heart of a productive learning environment. Everyone is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same. As members of our community, we adhere to the values of being: 'Ready, Respectful, and Safe.'

#### **At The Links we aim to:**

- Provide a safe, comfortable and caring environment where optimum learning takes place
- Provide clear guidance for children, staff and parents of expected levels of behaviour
- Use a consistent and calm approach
- Ensure all adults take responsibility for managing behaviour and follow-up incidents personally
- Ensure all adults use consistent language to promote positive behaviour
- Use restorative approaches instead of punishments

### **Sharing your children's progress**

Reports – we offer termly attainment and progress reports in the Autumn and Spring term along with a written End of Year Report to all pupils. This outlines their academic performance and behaviour for learning.

Parents evening – We involve parents in open communication throughout the year. We provide 2 opportunities each year for parents' evenings, one informal in the Autumn Term and one formal in the Spring Term. This allows parents and staff to discuss the work that has been completed and talk about the progress of their child/children. We offer a variety of time appointments so that working parents can also attend easily. Although these are formal arrangements, parents are encouraged to arrange an appointment throughout the year if they feel they need to discuss anything with their teacher.

## KEEPING YOU UPDATED

**Arbor** – newsletters and any other letters/information will be sent out via Arbor

**Facebook** – we update Facebook regularly to share with you the wonderful experiences children have in school. [The Links Primary School | Facebook](#)

**YouTube** – we have our own YouTube Channel where we can share performance and work completed by the children. [The Links Primary YouTube](#)

**Website** – all the information you need about the school can be found on our school website. [The Links Primary Website](#)

## OUR SCHOOL DAY

## Nursery

8.45 am to 11.45 am  
12.30 pm to 3.30 pm

## All year groups from Reception to Year 6

8:45 am – 3:15 pm

For security reasons, external doors and main playground gates are locked at 8.50am.

All children have a 15-minute morning break. For children in Early Years and KS1 they are provided a piece of fruit which they can have at this time. KS2 children may bring in a small healthy snack for them to have at this time.

Lunch time is 12:00 – 1:00 for Reception to Year 2 and 12:05 – 1:00 for children in KS2

Children can bring a packed lunch or order a school lunch. School lunches can be ordered in school in the morning. School lunches are free for all children from Reception to Year 2 and for those entitled to free school meals.

School meals currently cost £3.10 per day.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes are entitled to a daily free school meal under the Government's universal free school meals programme.

Children may be entitled to free school meals if they, their parent or guardian are in receipt of certain benefits. If a child qualifies for free school meals, they automatically qualify for Pupil Premium, which is additional financial support paid direct to school to help with other costs such as uniform, trips and learning interventions. Even if your child already receives a free school meal because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and if you are eligible to do so we would ask you to register for a free school meal, as your child can also access this additional financial support. (Your application is

confidential, and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.) To learn more about free school meals and to apply please [click here](#)

You can find out more about school lunches and view the most recent school menu [here](#).

Gates will be unlocked at 3.05pm at the end of the school day to allow parents access to the playground. Please ensure that your children are supervised in the playground before and after school each day.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB INFORMATION**

Little Acorns has been set up to provide our pupils with a safe and fun place to start and end their school day.

The aim of the club is to be informal and friendly, allowing children a choice as to how they start the day and end the day: some children like to wake up slowly or wind down at the end of the day, others prefer to get on and play. The club will provide a quiet space (for reading, etc), a free play area, as well as more structured activities. Play, rather than education, is at the heart of the club.

Each morning a breakfast will be provided and after school a small snack will be provided. The children will be encouraged to sit down and talk together and then clear up their dishes: the idea is that our breakfast and snack time replicates as far as possible the atmosphere of a family meal.

The clubs will take place in the **mobile classroom to the right of the school**.

### **Breakfast Club**

Children will be able to **arrive from 7.30 am** There will be no admittance before this time. Children will enter via the green gates next to the car park where they will be registered. At 8.45 am the children will be taken to their individual classes.

The Breakfast Club will have a fixed cost of £7.00 per session which includes a choice of breakfast and fun activities. The cost does not change depending on the time you arrive or if you choose not to have breakfast with us.

### **After School Club**

Children will be collected from their classes and taken to the mobile classroom. Please note **the end of this session is 6:00pm**.

The After-School Club will have a fixed price of £10.00 per session and includes a choice of snack and fun activities. The cost does not change depending on the time your child is collected or if they choose not to have snack with us.

Sessions are available to be booked/cancelled on Arbor until midnight 2 days before. (E.g. Thurs sessions are available until midnight on Tues night/Weds morn). If you need to book a place and the session is no longer available, please call the School Office 01642 785950. If you need to book a breakfast club place and the office will not be open before you would need to drop off (i.e. you need to book the night before or the morning of) please bring the child to the club and check them in with Mrs Ritchie, it is likely this can be accommodated. The office will then be able to add on your bookings/charges to the system.

## **School Uniform**

### **Nursery**

Navy/Red Striped knitted jumper or cardigan  
White Polo Shirt  
Navy jogging bottoms  
Black school shoes/black trainers

### **Reception**

Navy/Red Striped knitted jumper or cardigan  
White Polo Shirt  
Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore  
Black school shoes/black trainers

### **Year 1 – Year 6**

Navy/Red Striped knitted jumper or cardigan  
White Shirt  
Blue and Red Striped Ties (elastic, clip on or full tie)  
Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore  
Black school shoes  
Summer – navy blue and white checked summer dress

There is also the option of a school-branded active uniform, designed for comfort and flexibility, which can be worn for PE and/or throughout the week. This consists of:

School Branded Hoodie  
School Branded TShirt  
School Branded tracksuit bottoms/shorts/skorts

### **P.E.**

On PE days children will be asked to come to school in their PE kit rather than bringing a kit in to change in to.

For outdoor P.E. children will need navy jogging bottoms, plain white t-shirt, navy sweatshirt or hoodie and trainers, or the active uniform as detailed above.

**You can order your uniform from Motif8**

To order from Motif8 please click on the picture below to be directly directed to their online site. Motif8 stock the full range of uniform for our school.



**Please note that the majority of the uniform can be purchased from any high street shop. The school does have a stock of good quality pre-owned jumpers and cardigans and other uniform that we are more than happy to share with anyone that needs it.**