

Celebrating Achievements

We love to celebrate every little step in your child's learning – no matter how big or small! We believe that using positive reinforcement is the most powerful way of encouraging your children to be the best that they can be. At Stalyhill, we do this in lots of different ways, including the use of;

- Stickers and certificates so that your child can share their achievements with you at home
- 'Proud Clouds' – this is an opportunity for you to share special events from home. It might be that your child received a swimming award or perhaps they ate broccoli for the first time! No matter how small the event is, if it made you proud, we would love to know about it!
- Stickers and prizes for making good choices daily and moving their way up our behaviour rocket.
- Celebration Assembly – this takes place every Friday. Each teacher will select a small number of children to receive a very special certificate.
- Stalyhill Character Awards – a special bronze, silver or gold star badge awarded to children who showcase qualities and attributes that will help children throughout their lives.
- Behaviour Learning Power Prizes – for those children who showcase special learning behaviours.

New to Reception



Stalyhill Infant School

Welcome!

Welcome to Stalyhill Infant School. We would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for choosing our school. We understand that sending your child to school can be a daunting and worrying time, but we want to reassure you that we will do everything we can to make your child's transition as smooth as possible.

We have been looking forward to meeting you all and we have been working hard to plan and prepare for your child's arrival. We believe that our school and parent partnership is paramount in ensuring that your child can flourish during their first year of school. Therefore, we are looking forward to working closely with you over the next year to achieve the very best for your child. This may be through our delivery of workshops, Parent Evenings and our constant communication through our open door policy.

This booklet aims to give you an overview of your child's first year with us. It may also be useful for you to take a look at our school website for further information and resources.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, then please do not hesitate to come and see a member of our team. We will be more than happy to help!

Thank you,

The Reception Team

Miss Wright, Miss Etchells & Miss Hall ☺

The Wider Curriculum

Outdoor Learning

At Stalyhill, we believe that taking learning outdoors can provide a more engaging and memorable experience for the children. In Reception, we have constant access to our own outdoor learning environment. We also have the opportunity for Forest School using the Outdoor Learning Area, which can be found at the top of the hill.

We like to learn outdoors in all weathers, as each brings its own learning opportunities. We provide your children with wellies and wet suits to ensure that they keep warm and dry when exploring in adverse weather. However, you can also choose to provide your child with their own pair of wellies to keep at school. Please just ensure that they are labelled with your child's name ☺



PE

PE takes place every Friday. We are very lucky to have our own specialised PE Coach, Dave. Each Friday, Dave will teach us new skills and give us lots of opportunities to practice them in both indoor and outdoor environments.

To ensure that the children can enjoy as much time in the PE lesson, we ask that your child comes to school each Friday wearing their PE kit.

Maths

As previously mentioned, at Stalyhill Infants, we work tirelessly, every day to ensure that your children are provided with opportunities to create firm foundations in learning. When teaching Maths, we follow the White Rose Maths scheme. This allows us to ensure that we are covering all areas of the maths curriculum, with clear steps of progress and lots of opportunities to master each element of maths and develop a greater depth of understanding. You can find more information about White Rose via their website – www.whiterosemaths.com.

'Direct teaching may be necessary, but effective early mathematics teaching strategies are playful, not formal, so that all children become cheerful, not fearful mathematicians.'
Gifford, S. (2018)

We believe that by providing learning opportunities in context, it gives children a greater understanding of why maths is important and therefore, becomes more engaging. For this reason, we take a very practical approach to our teaching of maths. We create maths opportunities wherever we can, using a wide variety of resources in both the indoor and outdoor environments. By placing opportunities for maths into the learning areas of the classroom, we provide opportunities for the children to put their knowledge into practice, by following their interests and applying their understanding through play.



Phonics

As we are the first step in children's educational journey, we believe that it is our duty to provide them with firm foundations. We believe that this is achieved through a clear and consistent approach and therefore, teach core subjects through carefully chosen schemes and programmes.

Phonics is a crucial part in supporting your child's journey to reading. At Stalyhill, we follow the Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) phonics programme. It is a very effective and engaging scheme to teach children to read accurately and fluently, with good comprehension. The programme also supports children in learning how to form each letter correctly and how to segment and spell words.

We teach RWI every day from the very start of your child's journey with us. We will assess your child's knowledge of the sounds every half term and place them into a group where they can build confidence from their success, yet make good progress with the appropriate level of challenge. We like to call this 'the Goldilocks level' – it is just right!

It is really important that you feel confident to support your child's reading journey from home. Therefore, we will provide opportunities throughout the year to work closely with you and provide further information on how you can support your child in their journey to reading. We will deliver Curriculum Evenings and specific RWI/Reading workshops, alongside sending home resources such as sound mats, letter formation rhymes and flash cards.



Reading

Reading plays a vital part in your child's success at school and, as research suggests, also in life. Therefore, we ensure that reading is a priority for us at Stalyhill, and we do this in a variety of ways;

Home Reading; Read, Write, In. Book Bag Books

Every week, your child will bring home a reading book to share with you at home. These books are carefully chosen for your child's reading abilities. It is important that your child feels confident to attempt to read and this confidence comes from them feeling successful. Therefore, the books that we send home will only include the sounds that your child knows well, giving them an opportunity to apply their knowledge independently.

Your child's Book Bag Book will be changed at school every Thursday. One week reading the same book may seem strange. However, by reading and rereading the same text, your child will become more fluent and therefore, more confident, in addition to developing their understanding of the text.

It is important to remember to keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable. It should be a special time together where you can sit back and relax. Reading time may be an opportunity for your child to share a book with you, perhaps you could share a book together and read a page each or maybe you just take the opportunity to read to your child and let them relax and listen.



Reading for Pleasure

We know that reading can make a huge impact in children's lives in many ways. Research has shown that reading increases children's attainment, widens their general knowledge, improves confidence, increases mental wellbeing, has an impact on life outcomes and much, much more.

For all of these reasons, reading for pleasure is something that we prioritise and promote on a daily basis. We do this in many ways, such as;

- Teaching our curriculum through a text to inspire our learning
- Creating friendly and welcoming Reading Areas in every classroom
- Our school library
- Protected story time every day
- Inviting parents/carers into school to read with the children
- Promoting reading in all areas of the classroom
- Engage in reading events such as World Book Day

How you can help at home

We would love for you to support reading for pleasure at home too and this can be done in many ways. Here are some ideas;

- Read a bedtime story every night
- Access our school library or a local library
- Create a special reading space at home, e.g. a Reading Den
- Share what you enjoy reading with your child at home, including magazines, articles online, recipes etc.
- Showcase how much you read every day, without even realising it! E.g. text messages, signs, the newspaper.
- Volunteer to come into school and read