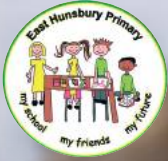


# MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Below are some magazine articles which further demonstrate the brilliant work and learning happening at East Hunsbury Primary School.





# East Hunsbury Primary School

## We are East Hunsbury Primary School

East Hunsbury Primary School (EHPS) is more than just a school. It is a school which develops the whole child right from the start of their educational journey. It is a school which ensures every child has access to the opportunities and experiences they deserve in order to flourish.

In 2022, Ofsted recognised that EHPS has a broad and ambitious curriculum, repeatedly singing its praises throughout the report. However, we are more than a curriculum. We are more than just good results and, whilst we have very high expectations for the standards and outcomes for our children, we know that school is much more than teaching them to read and write. We know that in our ever-changing world, life-skills such as resilience, empathy and critical thinking are essential in supporting children to successfully navigate their futures.

As Martin Luther King once said: 'The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence, plus character – that is the goal of true education.'

So how does, and will, EHPS educate your child above and beyond their exceptional curriculum?

### VALUES

At the heart sit our school values which are to: work hard, be kind and believe. It is these values that provide the foundations and direction for learning and the personal development of our children within our care. All our staff and children are expected to uphold these values and it is within these values we explore some of those key life-skills.

### TEAMS

This year we are launching 5 education teams:

1. Economics and Enterprise – this team will teach the children about financial planning, money and entrepreneurial skills.
2. Health and Well-being – this team will focus on teaching and supporting the children's physical and mental health. They will learn about healthy choices and the impact on these for their future.
3. Our World – this team is focussed on developing the children's understanding of their role and place in the world. It explores the communities in which they live, provides opportunities to take part in local events whilst also looking at the role that they play as global citizens.
4. Enrichment and Critical Thinking – this team looks at providing the children with world class enrichment opportunities and experiences to truly develop critical thinking.
5. Careers and Aspirations – we want every child to believe in themselves and to know the choices and opportunities they have for their future.

### INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

East Hunsbury Primary School is a family and opportunities to unite as a community and foster a sense of belonging are woven throughout our daily practice.

Opportunities from - year group assemblies, nativity performances and summer galas to residential, exhibitions, musical proms and working with outside providers like the Royal Shakespeare Company, Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust, The Saints and Northampton Town Football Club - enables our children to access learning above and beyond the curriculum. Our children are also often found out and about supporting the local community at services, fairs and events.

### HOUSES

This year the school is launching their house system, driven by our school values, to further harness a sense of belonging and being part of a community within a community. The houses will be based on local forests/woods to represent how we can grow and be stronger together but they are also beautiful places to visit and celebrate which are on our doorstep. We have so much already planned to ensure that our Houses provide another level of learning from whole school trips to house assemblies.

Finally, what does every parent want for their child? The best? Well, that is exactly what the staff strive for at East Hunsbury Primary School. By providing an education that is more than just a curriculum delivered in a classroom, we know that we are developing children ready for their next step and equipped with the skills to embrace life's opportunities and the complexities of our world.

#weareeasthunsburyprimaryschool

If you are interested in finding out more about East Hunsbury Primary School, or you would like to book a tour (including for Reception 2024 admission), then you can check out our:

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk>

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/EastHunsburyPrimarySchool/>

**EAST HUNSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL'S OFSTED REPORT:** <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/145206>

Scan the QR code:





# East Hunsbury Primary School



## Building Brilliance from the Beginning at East Hunsbury Primary School

### #WeareEastHunsburyPrimary

It's that time of year again when families are choosing their child's first primary school ready for September 2024 or considering a move. Here at East Hunsbury Primary School (EHPS), we realise what an important decision this is and recognise that children only get one chance at a primary education, so it is vital that we get it right. That is why we are committed to building brilliance right from the beginning.

#### GETTING READY

The moment we receive notification that your child will be coming to our school, the exciting and supportive transition journey begins. We will write to you and invite you and your child to information evenings, stay and play sessions, teddy bears' picnics and much more. It is important to us that your child feels at ease when their first day of school arrives but also that our families feel well communicated with and supported. Throughout the year, families are invited in to share such events as class assemblies, nativity plays and Walk-in-Wednesday sessions. It is these opportunities that enable us to build brilliant relationships with our children and build strong home-school partnerships.

#### A MAGICAL WORLD IN WHICH TO GROW

Over the past 2 years, we have invested heavily in improving our Early Years' environment. When stepping into our research-based Early Years' environment you will find heavy lifting and construction areas, water-play, a creative forest den, role play huts, mud kitchens, a vegetable patch and whole-class learning spaces. For us, our Early Years' setting is not only a place where happy memories are made, but it is a place where our exceptional curriculum can come to life.

#### LOTS TO LEARN

Learning starts on day one at EHPS and our careful blend of academic, personal, social and emotional

learning ensures our children flourish. We have high expectations of our young people; we know not to underestimate what they are capable of and we make sure our learning is inclusive so that every child gets what they need in order to succeed.

'Story' sits at the heart of our provision. Every day we love to read, tell and play with stories and you will often see a story being performed on our miniature stage, children choosing a book from our extensive library or a new story being invented in a group. Reading stories make the impossible, possible and we love to activate the imaginations of our children.

Linked to our Early Years is the Nest, a wonderful small-group provision to support children who need a little bit extra. It is a unique learning space, filled with love and laughter and led by highly skilled adults.

#### BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE

There is nothing we like more than bringing learning to life and you will find us out and about on trips (we are off to see Father Christmas at West Lodge Farm soon) or enjoying visits from the Bug Man! Similarly, outdoor learning is also very important to us and we are proud of our dedicated Forestry area which all children in reception will access and is led by our highly skilled Forest School Manager and our dedicated Forest School Leaders – we even have our own outdoor science classroom!

#### BUILDING ON BRILLIANCE

Your child's time in reception will fly but through our carefully sequenced and aspirational curriculum combined with our 5 Education teams:

1. Health and Well Being
2. Economics and Enterprise
3. Enrichment and Critical Thinking
4. Our World
5. Careers and Aspirations

we ensure that we continue to build on brilliance.

Furthermore, as we do not know what your child will be when they grow up, it is important that we get them to experience a little bit of everything; therefore, we make sure your child will have the chance to participate in a wide range of clubs, school-created initiatives and enriching opportunities such as:

- **100 reads** (reading 100 of the finest children's books as chosen by our staff)
- **70 things** (completing 70 things we believe every child should have the opportunity to experience during their childhood e.g. making a mud pie or performing on a stage)
- Working with the **Royal Shakespeare Company** (Year 5) and the National Gallery's Take One Picture project (Year 4)
- Venturing off on **residential**s (Year 3 and 6)
- Completing prestigious **LAMDA** (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) awards
- Taking part in **professional** led dance, PE and music lessons.
- Being part of one of our **school houses**: Harlestone, Whittlewood, Everdon or Salcey where children get the chance to make friends from across the school and grow stronger together – just like a forest.

To end, our mission is simple, we want children to leave us:

- knowing their future choices and opportunities;
- prepared for the next stage of their educational journey and
- equipped with the skills to be able to contribute to making a better world.

But most of all... knowing that they are brilliant!



To book a school tour visit our website <https://www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk> or call the school office on 01604 677970. Scan the QR code for a 1-minute glimpse into life at East Hunsbury Primary School.





# Every day is a reading day at East Hunsbury Primary School

East Hunsbury Primary School (EHPS) takes reading very seriously and sees it as their mission to find the reader within every child. Here is a taster of the wonderful reading experiences they offer...

## RED October

Read Every Day (RED) October is a much anticipated and exciting annual event at EHPS. Throughout the whole month of October, children have the opportunity to take part in a variety of brilliant bookish challenges including a book-themed RED mufti day which the staff join in too!



Furthermore, throughout the month we invite authors and illustrators into school to inspire our budding writers. Over the last 2 years, we have had virtual, and in-person visits, from Nick Sharratt, Jenny McLachlan, SF Said, James Carter and Luke Temple (and more) and this year we are excited to welcome Mini Grey, Thomas Taylor and @wordguerrilla. Follow our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/EastHunsburyPrimarySchool](https://www.facebook.com/EastHunsburyPrimarySchool) to see the events unfold.

## 100 reads

EHPS is committed to getting children reading widely. The EHPS 100 reads are 100 books specially selected by our staff which we feel every child should experience during their childhood – enriching books that will bring something unique to their lives. Did you know that we have a special poster which was designed by a member of our teaching staff and these books are so important to us, they are on our classroom doors?

Children who read all 100 books, get a very special prize presented in an award assembly (with a red carpet!). Have a look on our website [www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk](https://www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk) and see how many you have read.

## Library

Sitting at the heart of our school is our library which is led by our knowledgeable librarian. Recently, we made a huge investment to ensure that it was filled with quality books that are representative of our brilliant and diverse culture. It is important to us that every child can find themselves represented in literature and it's a joy to see the children choosing a book that they love.

## Reading Ambassadors

Overseeing our reading experiences are our dedicated Reading Ambassadors. They help promote the love of reading across the school, write our termly reading newsletter, keep the library organised and lead assemblies and events! They are amazing and a role model many children aspire to.

## Curriculum

Whilst we understand the importance of raising the profile of reading, we also love teaching children to read through our exceptional reading curriculum. Reading starts from day 1 in the Early Years. Phonics is taught daily by expert teachers and as children move up through the school, they will also have lessons focussed on understanding challenging and rich texts through talk and discussion.

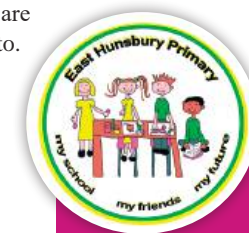
Furthermore, every day children will be read to by an adult from our carefully chosen **reading spine**.

Our reading spine includes a wonderful variety of classic and modern books such as: *The Owl who was afraid of the dark* by Jill Tomlinson, *Charlotte's Web* by EB White and *Orphans of the Tide* by Struan Murray (to name but a few).

We even have a **performance poetry** spine where children read and learn poems off by heart (this year we won the prestigious @NPAT Poetry Slam competition).

This really is the tip of the iceberg for reading experiences and opportunities at East Hunsbury Primary School and if you would like to know more, or are interested in your child joining please contact the school office: **01604 677970** or [office@easthunsburyprimary.org](mailto:office@easthunsburyprimary.org)

**#WeareEastHunsburyPrimary #Wearebrilliant!**



## Is your child starting school in September 2024?

If so scan the QR code to book a tour or click to:

[www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk/eyfs/new-intake-september-2024-school-tours](https://www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk/eyfs/new-intake-september-2024-school-tours)

# Sports and the Creative Arts thrive at East Hunsbury Primary School

The creative arts and sports lie at the heart of East Hunsbury Primary School's aspirational and inclusive curriculum. Whether it is learning from the Royal Shakespeare Company or taking part in Bikeability lessons, children's creative and sporting talents are nurtured at East Hunsbury Primary School.

## Here is a small flavour of what children experience at East Hunsbury Primary School...

Every child in Years 1 to 6 gets the opportunity to participate in dance and PE lessons taught by professionals. Similarly, in our 50-placed Specialist Unit, children also get the chance to enjoy dance lessons led by Ella Styles as well as joining the lessons in main school.

Children in Reception through to Year 6 are taught weekly music lessons by specialists from NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust) and before they leave our school every child will have had the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We also invest in bespoke music sessions for children with additional needs, either one to one or in a small group, with a music specialist.

In Year 5, children learn all about Shakespeare. They work alongside the Royal Shakespeare Company, local artists and Northamptonshire based Silhouette Youth Theatre School to dance, perform, compose and create stunning pieces of art which all accumulates into an inspirational videoed performance.



The children are encouraged to express themselves creatively with Year 4 pupils take part in the Take One Picture project



Children in Year 4 take part in the prestigious Take One Picture project with the National Gallery. The programme aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning by taking one picture from the gallery's collection to inspire cross-curricular work in the classroom. Not only do the children get to create stunning works of art and writing inspired by the painting but they also get to visit the gallery in London.

East Hunsbury Primary School choir is often seen performing at community events and is currently rehearsing for their performance as part of the 'Northamptonshire Big Sing,' which is taking place at the Royal and Derngate in March.



All children in years 1 to 6 are given the opportunity to take part in dance and PE lessons with professional coaches or teachers

In sports, East Hunsbury Primary School has partnered with The Saints, The Cobblers and Northamptonshire Tennis. As part of these partnerships, they receive expert coaching and access to events in both the mainstream and Specialist Unit. East Hunsbury Primary School are also members of NSPORT and enjoy taking part in the many tournaments, festivals and events that they run.

The school is committed to improving its sporting facilities with brand new outdoor gym equipment and an all-weather pitch being installed this year.

Without doubt, this is just the beginning of East Hunsbury Primary School's sporting and artistic offer and they already have many more exciting opportunities planned for the future.

# Forest School at East Hunsbury Primary School



Here at East Hunsbury Primary School, we LOVE learning whether that is indoors or outside and, as part of our commitment to outdoor learning, we have invested and implemented a very successful Forest School.

It is our vision at EHPS, that every child experiences an aspirational, enabling and inclusive curriculum, and we know that in this everchanging, busy world, life skills such as resilience, risk taking, empathy and critical thinking are essential in supporting children to successfully navigate their futures. We believe that Forest School is a brilliant way of helping children develop these skills and that is why it is an integral part of our school curriculum.

We offer regular sessions across our Early Years, Mainstream and Specialist Unit classes, as well as



part of our well-being and pastoral support team offer. Children are outside, engaging in Forest School five days a week, in all seasons and, in all weathers! You will also find us learning offsite in other woodland areas such as Penvale



Park and even our school Houses are named after local forestry areas: Salcey, Whittlewood, Everdon and Harlestone.

Our Forest school sessions are always led by fully trained and qualified Forest School Leaders, and we even have a brilliant Forest School Manager who oversees the whole provision.

## So, what is Forest School?

Forest school is an internationally recognised innovative approach to education, embracing the outdoors as an inspirational learning environment that facilitates holistic development, where the children are free to explore, take managed risks and drive their own learning at a pace that suits their particular needs.

## Why do we do it?

The natural environment stimulates all of the senses and research proves that there are benefits to physical and mental wellbeing, as well as social and emotional benefits to being outside. Forest School suits all learning styles, attributed to its play-based pedagogy and hands on approach.

## What will the children do at Forest School?

Activities include: tree climbing, mini-beast hunting, conjuring up magic potions, cooking, fire-lighting, tool-work, shelter-building, making art from natural materials, exploring and investigating, birdwatching, nature trails and *so much more...*

## Our Forest School Aims are to:

- Create a community of learners where children feel safe and valued, in an environment where we work, play, and learn together.
- Create a world of possibilities, where: "Yes you can," is the answer.
- Foster a love of the outdoors and natural environment.
- Encourage curiosity, exploration and creativity.
- Learn to recognise and manage risk.
- Increase co-operation, communication and awareness of others.
- Empower children to make their own choices, to initiate and drive their own learning.
- Create time, space, and freedom to play.

Our rules at Forest School are simple and few: "Look after yourself, look after each other and look after nature."

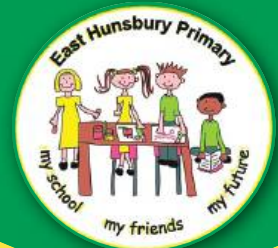
Forest School is all part of our offer to provide our children with the very best education and enable each and every one of them to flourish whilst in our care.

#WeareEastHunsburyPrimary  
#brillianceisourminimumstandard

## If you would like to know more about life at East Hunsbury Primary School, you could:

- Check out our website [www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk](http://www.easthunsburyprimary.org.uk) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EastHunsburyPrimarySchool>).
- Call the school office on 01604 677970 to book a visit where you can see the brilliance in action.
- Scan the QR code to watch a short video all about us >





# Educating the Whole Child – inside and out!

Here at East Hunsbury Primary School, we are all about educating the whole child so whilst our brilliant academic results are a testament to our well taught curriculum, we also prioritise teaching the children how to be emotionally, physically and mentally healthy. We want the children to feel brilliant and know that they are brilliant in every way!

Our school mission is that we want children to leave us:

- Knowing their future choices and opportunities
- Prepared for the next stage of their educational journey and
- Equipped with the skills to be able to contribute to making a better world.

And, our school values are to **be kind, work hard, believe** in yourself and others. At East Hunsbury, we want to teach our children to be good humans, able to do great things for themselves and others.

Therefore, for us to achieve our mission and enable children to uphold our values we know that we have to educate not only the minds of our young people but their hearts too.

## SO HOW DO WE DO IT?

Firstly, we have 5 Education Teams which support our teaching beyond the national curriculum and one of those teams is called Health and Wellbeing.



This team makes sure that the Health and Wellbeing of our whole community is top priority.

The team oversees our Kindness Ambassadors. Kindness Ambassadors are children who have been carefully trained in conflict resolution, helping children across the school to negotiate and communicate with each other kindly. They are there to spot and reward kindness and they attend regular meetings and training. They are also there to support children who, for many reasons, may just need a little bit of extra kindness that day. You can spot them by their pink badges or high-viz jackets in the playground.

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDERS AND NEST NATTER!

We have 6 Mental Health and Youth Mental Health First Aiders in our school which are specifically trained adults there to support the mental health of our children and staff. Three times a week, during lunchtime, we open a central space in our school called: The Nest so that children and staff can pop by for a 'natter' if they need. We call it: Nest Natter and it is a wonderful opportunity for children to receive support with their mental health, friendships or simply have a natter with trained staff.

## KEEPING UP TO DATE

We have two newsletters which are published 3 times a year.

Be you. Be Kind. Newsletter which is written by our Kindness Ambassadors and includes Kindness Shoutouts for staff and pupils.

Be you. Be Well. Newsletter for staff which includes mental health strategies, recognition and more shoutouts.

These newsletters are a great way to share important information about mental health and wellbeing but they also celebrate all of the wonderful things going on in our school, including recognising the brilliance of individuals.

## OUR BRILLIANT CURRICULUM

In September, we are launching our new PSHE+ C (Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship) curriculum which has been carefully written to meet the needs of our children and their community whilst taking into consideration this ever-changing world.

It will be based on our school values and focused on Emotional Literacy which is the direct teaching of emotions with an understanding of the behaviours they can cause (and how to manage them). It will be interwoven with mindfulness exercises, mental wellbeing activities whilst systematically teaching the children about their inner worlds and how to foster positive relationships with themselves and others.



Children will also develop their own Mental Health Toolkit which is based on the NHS 5 Ways to Wellbeing (Connect, Be active, Take notice, Learn, Give) plus resilience. Each year children are taught a strategy for each area and by the time they leave EHPS they will have 7 strategies for each area.

## EVEN MORE...

There are so many other things that we do at EHPS to support the mental health and well-being of our children and their families such as; Forest School sessions, yoga and providing our own foodbank. We are also really proud that a pupil from our school was awarded the joint winner of the Northamptonshire art project: 'What does good mental health look like?' competition. Their design has influenced



a structure that has been made into a willow sculpture at Daventry Country Park.

Furthermore, we have the most amazing support provided by our dedicated and very skilled Pastoral team. They work closely with children and their families to ensure everyone gets the support they need, even beyond the school doors.



## VISIT OUR SCHOOL

If you would like your child to attend a school which prioritises their happiness alongside their academics, please contact the school office on: 01604 677970 to book a tour or scan the QR code to book on a new intake tour for children looking to join our reception family in September 2025.

We would love to show you around our brilliant school and for more information about East Hunsbury Primary School scan the QR code to watch the video.



SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO



SCAN TO BOOK A TOUR



# Community spirit shines through at East Hunsbury Primary School

East Hunsbury Primary School (EHPS) is a school where community sits at its heart and one which is proud to invest back into its local community at every possible opportunity.

At EHPS we have a specially elected group of children who are our Community Champions and their role is to lead the way forward on community engagement. They have overseen projects such as the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, running an Easter Community Café and decorating our grounds for the whole community to enjoy. Most recently, one of our pupils, in Year 4, was a joint winner of the Northamptonshire Healthy Schools Mental Health competition (over 34 schools entered with multiple entries!) and their piece of art will now inspire a willow structure in a local park. It is wonderful to think that our work will support and inspire the local community.

Our gardening club is also often out and about planting poppies at East Hunsbury Library or working with our residents to plant and improve our grounds. Similarly, you will find our choir singing at local community events such as



the Parish Council Festive Fete and the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts (NMPAT) Big Sing! In fact, some of our Year 5 children are currently rehearsing a community inspired dance which will be performed as part of the Northamptonshire Festival at the Derngate theatre.

East Hunsbury Primary School is also always looking for ways to involve and support their families. Every week we hold Walk-in-Wednesday where parents/carers can come in and enjoy sharing a book or two with their child. Each class has the opportunity to perform



an assembly and take part in an event such as: Carols and Christingle, Summer Fete (maypole and country dancing extravaganza) or our Harvest Festival. Having parents play an active part in their child's learning really helps us to build our school community.

We also love celebrating any special occasions such as The King's Coronation with a family tea-party or our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a whole-school family picnic.

We also run weekly classes for parents who have English as an Additional Language and recently, our welfare team set up an East Hunsbury Community Foodbank. This essential resource supports many of our families but also our wider community.

Assemblies are also an important way that we involve our local community. This year we have had presentations and talks from East Hunsbury Library, the Northants Litter Wombles (@NNLitterWombles), the Interfaith Team and the Air Ambulance. These talks teach our children not only about the important job that these organisations do but also the role the children can play in supporting such organisations to the benefit of their community.

As a school, we have also linked with The Saints Rugby, Northampton Town Football Clubs and NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust) to further build our community links. Furthermore, every year you will see us taking part in the wonderful Diwali town parade.

One of our school values is to: Believe and we teach the children that this is about not only

believing in themselves but also believing in others and their community; therefore, it is important that, through our curriculum and enrichment opportunities, we find time for our children to understand the communities to which they belong.

As a school we are committed to continuing to enhance our school's local and wider community links with many, many more exciting plans ahead – watch this space!

## EHPS Community Foodbank

**Our Food bank is here to help the people and families of East Hunsbury.**

**Please consider donating an item or 2 from our shopping list to add to our food parcels.**  
**All donations can be left at our collections points:**

**East Hunsbury Primary School - outside the main office**

**East Hunsbury Library - inside the entrance**

**Alternatively you can make a donation to our just giving page - [justgiving.com/campaign/EHPScommunityfoodbank](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/EHPScommunityfoodbank)**

Milk (UHT or powdered)  
Sugar (500g)  
Fruit juice (carton)  
Soup  
Pasta sauces  
Sponge pudding (tinned)  
Tomatoes (tinned)  
Cereals  
Rice pudding (tinned)  
Tea bags/instant coffee  
Instant mash potato  
Rice/pasta  
Tinned meat/fish  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned fruit  
Jam  
Biscuits or snack bar







## A day in the life of a reception teacher at East Hunsbury Primary School...

In reception, no two days are ever the same! After the children say goodbye at our little gate in the morning, they come into the classroom independently. They wish their friends and teachers good morning, put their belongings away and begin the day with a morning activity which gradually progresses and changes throughout the year.

After registration, we start our day with our **rhyme of the week** and a song or two. This is then followed by a fun **handwriting and phonics session** – these are important lessons where we start to teach the children how to read and write.

After this, the children are ready for some: **'Discovery Time.'** Discovery time makes up a large part of the timetable in reception and we make sure our environment is as rich as possible for children to play and learn in. During this time, children can choose their activities depending on their own interests and enthusiasms.

Due to our brilliantly big learning space, there are always lots of choices for the children during their Discovery Time. There are: **stories to read, a stage to perform on, construction to build, sand and water play, gross and fine motor activities, small world toys and lots of role play resources plus arts, crafts, mud kitchens, bikes and trikes, music** and so much more – there really is something for everyone! Using the knowledge and interests of the children, the adults guide the children to try new things or develop their passions.

Before morning play, the children all come back together again for a story. We know that books and rhymes are so valuable to support language and communication skills as well as igniting creativity and sparking imagination in young children.

After play, it's time for **English**. It's not unusual to find us on a boat trip to the island where the wild things are or discovering video evidence of the gingerbread's man's whereabouts in our provision! We love to excite the children's imaginations as we find this really helps them with their writing.

Following our English, it's time for some more **Discovery Time** and then lunch. During lunch they get the opportunity to play with some of the children from the other year groups. It's a lovely chance for the children to see siblings and try out our new equipment.

After lunch, it's **maths** and then even more **Discovery Time**.

Finally, it's tidy up time and an important opportunity to come together as a class once again. This final part of our day often includes learning around our **'Understanding the World'** or **PSHE** topics as well as weekend news, celebrating birthdays and singing and signing with **Blue Class** (our link class from our Specialist Unit.) You will often find us **singing** just one more song or reading a final story.

And that's not just it - there is even more! Every week, we also:

- take part in **Forest School** - Who doesn't love toasting marshmallows around a campfire or jumping in muddy puddles?
- Have our **music and PE** taught by specialists
- Attend assemblies, events and play with Blue class (our link class from our Specialist Unit).

As the children grow and their capacity to concentrate and complete certain activities develops, their timetable changes. For example, more formal periods of learning are added, and longer tasks are expected to be completed.

To conclude, a day in reception is never the same but we do ensure that the children's experience is always a brilliant one filled with laughter, love and smiles.

The early years is an exciting time in which the foundations of knowledge and positive learning attitudes are built – as a teacher, it really is a privilege to be part of this.

### Our pledge to you and your child:

*'We promise you every day your child will learn something. Some days they will bring it home in their hands. Some days they will bring it home in their heads and some days they will bring it home in their hearts.'*

We have very limited spaces still available in our Reception 2024 cohort. If you are interested in joining our school family then please contact the school office via email [office@easthunsburyprimary.org](mailto:office@easthunsburyprimary.org) or telephone **01604 677970** for more information and advice.



Also, why not book onto one of our 'Adults and Tots' sessions by scanning this QR Code



Or, coming very soon our weekly **Hunsbury Hedgehogs Outdoor and Forest School** learning sessions specially for pre-school children. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for more information about how to book.

# Be kind, work hard, believe!

## Aiming high at East Hunsbury Primary School



It has been a busy few months for East Hunsbury Primary School: a new Headteacher, a glowing Ofsted report, and exciting plans going forward. Kathryn Pennington was appointed as the school's Headteacher in April, taking over from Rita Arundel following her retirement after 21 years in post, and Ofsted inspectors visited on

her second day in post. The 429-pupil school, which includes a Specialist Unit for children with significant learning difficulties, was judged to be Good and the Ofsted report highlighted the many exemplary and exceptional features of this caring school.

"We are absolutely delighted with the incredibly positive report which is testament to every single member of our staff and our children," Kathryn said. "The inspector had the opportunity to witness first-hand our mission to be a community-driven school that delivers an ambitious, inclusive and enabling curriculum in which all children achieve exceptionally high standards from their given starting points. We are one school, mainstream primary and specialist unit aligned, where children all learn from each other and a community where diversity is embraced and celebrated. As the report says, we are 'one big family', and we will now move the school forward under our: 'Be kind, work hard, believe' motto."

Kathryn, who originally joined East Hunsbury as Deputy Headteacher in June 2020 before assuming a dual role as Acting Headteacher alongside Rita from April 2021, said she was "proud and privileged" to lead the school into a new era.

"We want to be a school where everyone wants to be because they feel happy, represented, valued, safe and prepared for every stage of their lives," she explained. "Children only get one chance at primary education, and it is our responsibility to make their education the best it can be. With the uniqueness of our staff and

quality of teaching, together I firmly believe we can be the greatest school. As Head I will always act with all children at the centre of my decision-making, and beyond that we now have a dedicated welfare team who supports our families." As Ofsted reported, a typical comment from a parent was, 'East Hunsbury is a wonderful school. The teachers go above and beyond for the children here.'

In its pursuit of educational excellence, East Hunsbury works in close partnership with external agencies such as: Northamptonshire Music & Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT), Northamptonshire Sport and Freestyle Academy to increase sporting and artistic involvement for all year groups. Furthermore, as part of its commitment to providing the highest level of education, Year 5 children work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Year 4 children also participate in the Take One Picture project with the National Gallery, and the school regularly collaborates with resident artists too. Children also get opportunity to learn Makaton and participate in Forest School. East Hunsbury Primary School is proud of their community links and with children undertaking roles such as Community Champions the school participates in many local and charity events from Diwali parades to Christmastime Shoe-Box appeals.

But the big plans do not end there. The school is currently undergoing extensive renovation of its early years' area to ignite independence, creativity and innovation from the moment the children start school. Additional refurbishment of the school's specialist unit is happening too, including a new sensory room. There is also a commitment to introduce a brand-new multi-use games area (MUGA) – an all-weather sports pitch and ongoing replenishment of quality literature in their library, which lies at the heart of the school.

Additionally, the school has a series of community events planned throughout the year, which will be advertised on its website and locally including workshops for parents with English as an additional language.

East Hunsbury is a school that is going places, led by an inspirational headteacher and dedicated team, it looks set to continue to be a school where pupils are happy and thrive.

