

The Den



Special Educational Needs Provision @ Newport Infant School & Nursery

The Den was established in September 2022 to meet the needs of children in the local area who needed a more specialist type of provision alongside their mainstream offer. In the Den, we offer these pupils a bespoke learning environment with access to mainstream elements of school in line with their specific needs.



The Den consists of up to 8 children with a variety of learning and communication difficulties. The Den is led by class teacher, Miss Harrow (BA Hons and qualified SENCo) alongside a level 3 teaching assistant and an apprentice teaching assistant. The adults working in the den have many years of experience and specific training that allow them to deliver support and interventions to our pupils in the best way possible.

Our classroom offers children an environment where they build relationships, explore their sensory and physical needs, receive a highly adapted curriculum offer and most importantly, play! The children spend time outside for 'Muddy Club', exploring the world around them. As we are an infant school, the curriculum has an EYFS structure with a focus on play-based learning alongside daily phonics and focus tasks.



Our classroom



Our REACH time (continuous provision) is skilfully set up to allow the children to access all areas of the EYFS curriculum through a theme-based learning environment. Please see our [Reception website page](#) for details on the curriculum specifics. Here are some examples of our learning environment:



As a school, we follow the Read, Write Inc. programme for phonics and the children take part in a mixture of whole class and 1:1 teaching to ensure progression and engagement. We develop our reading, fine motor skills, spelling and decoding using resources such as speed sound cards, sound charts and magnet boards.



The children receive focused teacher inputs that are differentiated appropriately according to their level of need as well as their attention and focusing abilities. Some children are able to sit for a focused phonic session and other's have phonics and other elements such as number included in their own play. Our environment is rich with opportunities for learning through play.

To help us with our memory and retention of what we have learned, we often look through our colourful floor books. Looking through these and talking about what we have done helps our communication as well as helping us to remember.

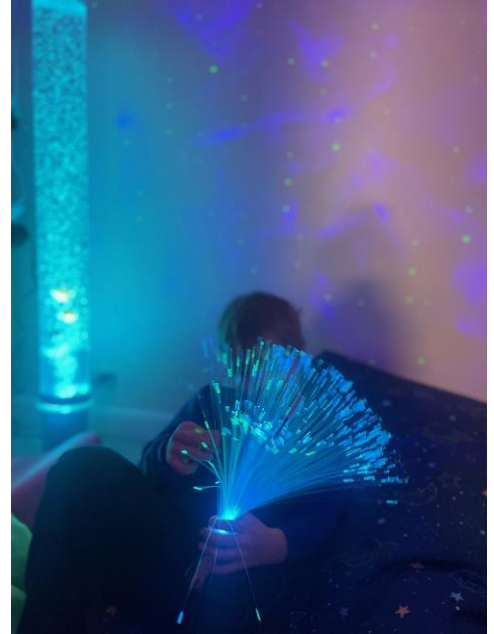


The provision is a nurturing environment that allows children to explore their own interests and learning is adapted with these interests in mind. This allows children to explore their own interests in a safe place and encourages them to be independent learners. Every child in the Den is supported to achieve their full learning potential. Each child has their own personalised learning plan with SMART targets based on their own needs.

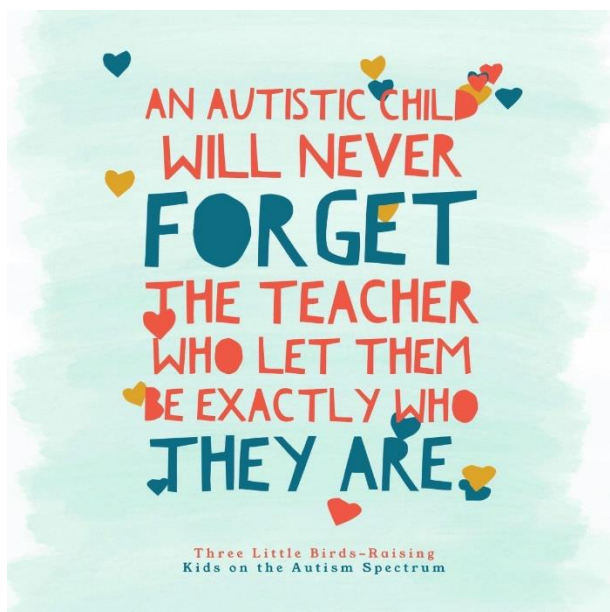
Each child also has opportunities to access mainstream school and learning when we feel this is appropriate and suitable. This may be PE lessons, assemblies, muddy club time or individual lessons. This is supported by a member of our provision staff which allows the child to be appropriately challenged alongside being included in the mainstream environment and making social links with peers.

Sensory Room

We have developed our own sensory room attached to our classroom. This supports our children in many ways such as giving them a calm space to regulate their emotions, explore their sensory needs and feel comforted.



What our parents have to say!



I'd just like to say thank you to you for this term. You have no idea how much it means to see him so happy to go into your class and see how settled he is with you. And that in turn has helped me massively, we worry all the time about [redacted]. But knowing how happy he is with you has made our lives much happier and relaxed. You see [redacted] for who he is and you understand him. And that means the world to us. Thank you to you and the rest of the staff so so much. Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Just seen this and thought how lovely it is.

[redacted] is so happy with you all there and I can't thank you enough already
XX