

Pupil SEF 2026

North Heath Community Primary School



Quality of Education

Our school is a fun, welcoming and friendly place to learn. The staff and children are kind and helpful and everyone works together. It feels like one big, happy school family.

In our amazing school, we have 14 classrooms and they all have Clevertouch boards to help us with our learning. There are also three smaller rooms where groups of children can work with an adult. Two of these rooms also have Clevertouch boards.

The Reception classes have a fantastic garden with a shelter, climbing frame, sandpit, mud kitchen, bike track and lots more! The children have lots of fun while learning and exploring outdoors. On the field, we have a new outdoor classroom that all classes can use. Year 5 have particularly enjoyed using it for their drumming lessons. Years 1 and 2 love sitting in there for story time and taking part in drama activities. We are also very lucky to have a new PE trail, which is used by every year group. It is great fun! We like learning outside and would like to have more opportunities.

Our work is displayed in our classrooms and around the school which makes us feel proud of what we have achieved and encourages us to keep improving. The colourful displays also show our parents and visitors what we have been learning. One of our favourite displays is the Time Tables Rock Stars display, which shows the twenty quickest mental mathematicians in our school. Even the teachers try to earn a place on the wall! Work from our whole school writing challenges is also displayed in the corridor for everyone to enjoy.

We really enjoy helping to look after our guinea pigs, Thunder and Lightning. They live in the corridor so everyone can visit them and sometimes we take turns to look after them in our classroom. Looking after our school pets is fun and teaches us how to be responsible.

On the field, we have a colourful running track that we use for the daily mile, PE lessons and sports day. The colours represent our four school houses. We also have an exciting orienteering course around the school grounds. It is really fun and helps us to keep fit and learn important orienteering and geography skills. It also encourages team work as we work together and talk to each other about the different places on the map. Throughout the year, we also take part in special themed orienteering courses for events such as Children in Need and World Book Day.

We have three playgrounds where we have fun and spend time with our friends. The School Council carries out a playtime survey so that every class can help to choose new equipment. Although we already have many toys, we think more equipment would make playtimes even better, especially at lunchtime play. There are rainbow benches and quiet areas where we can read, relax and talk to our friends. The top playground also has colourful markings for games and exercise, as well as a bug house where we can search for minibeasts. We would like more bug houses, bird boxes and plants around the school to attract wildlife.

PE is one of our favourite subjects because it helps us stay fit, healthy and active while enjoying the fresh air. We use our running track for the daily mile, PE lessons and sports day and we play a wide range of sports, including football, netball, hockey, cricket, tag rugby, tennis, rounders and stoolball. In our spacious hall, we take part in gymnastics, dance and sometimes yoga. We also enjoy lessons with visiting sports coaches, including Sports Stars and Kicks Dance. We love Sports Stars because we get to try new sports, such as tri-golf. Throughout the year, many pupils have the opportunity to represent our school in competitions, including District Sports, cross country, football, netball, cricket, rugby, hockey and indoor athletics. This year we also had the opportunity to take part in a Dance Festival at the Hawth Theatre. These opportunities encourage us to demonstrate our school values by being courageous and always trying our best, being kind through showing good sportsmanship and teamwork and being creative while learning new skills.

In our music room, we have the opportunity to learn a range of instruments, including the piano, guitar, clarinet and ukulele. Visiting music teachers help us develop our skills and creativity and we can perform for our parents during special assemblies. We can also join Rocksteady lessons, where we learn to play the drums, keyboard, electric guitar or bass guitar or sing as part of a band. At the end of each term, the bands perform for parents and other pupils which helps us become more confident and courageous.

Every classroom has a class library with lots of books for us to read and borrow to take home. We enjoy reading every day and our teachers read to us too. Our school library has lots of books organised into different sections so it's easy to find the type of book you are looking for. There are seating areas where we can sit and enjoy reading our books. We think it would be good to have a display in the library for our favourite books and authors. We could write book reviews and recommendations.

All of our teachers help us to learn and understand by explaining things clearly and making lessons enjoyable. We can ask questions whenever we are unsure and they encourage us to discuss our ideas with partners or in small groups. Our teachers challenge us to do our best and support us to reach our targets. In the autumn and spring terms, we receive reports which we discuss with our teachers and parents at parents' evening. In the summer term, we receive a report celebrating everything we have achieved.

In every year group, we have iPads to use in the classroom. The school also has laptops to use for computing and topic work. In addition to this, we have visualisers in every classroom, so that teachers can share work and stories with the whole class and we can all see it more clearly. Working on the Clevertouch boards is a good way to explain things, and we get to write on it too. In Reception, the parents even come and watch us! To make lessons more fun, we often do drama and acting to bring our learning to life. We have lots of equipment to help us learn such as books, maps, Numicon, Song of Sounds, writing flippers, word mats and iPads.

The topics in our curriculum are exciting and we often have visitors who help to bring our learning to life. In the juniors, the Young Shakespeare Company performs stories and gives us the opportunity to become actors ourselves by joining in with the performance. Year 5 learn about space through a visit from Wonderdome, where a giant inflatable planetarium is set up in the hall and we experience an exciting journey through the solar system. Years 1 and 2 enjoy learning about the Great Fire of London through a visit from Performing Schools and take part in a RNLI assembly to help them learn about water safety.

During the year, we also have special days related to our topics such as Australian Day in Year 1 and 2 and a Viking Day in Year 4. We get to dress up and have lots of fun whilst we are learning.

As well as this, we enjoy lots of educational visits such as, Arundel Castle, Wakehurst Place, Butser Ancient Farm, Bignor Roman Villa, The Mary Rose and The Natural History Museum. In the autumn term, Year 5 and 6 also go on residential trips to Sayers Croft and Fairthorne Manor. Each year group also go on a local visit for example, Year 3 went to look at the history of Horsham Park and the Town Centre and Reception went for a walk to look for signs of spring at Holbrook nature area. Going on visits is really enjoyable because we not only get to see new places but it also brings our learning to life and helps us to understand a topic.

Leadership and Management

Our Headteacher, Mrs Chesshire, together with Miss Head, Mrs Smith and Ms Roden are really good at leading our school. They always make sure that we work hard and try our best, that we look smart and they encourage us to follow our school values by being kind, creative and courageous. All of the adults at school help us to feel safe and valued. We have fire drills so we know what to do if there was a fire and we also have a lockdown drill. There is a buzzer on the gate and door so visitors have to report to the office and they also wear a lanyard to

show they are visiting. Around the outside of the school there are fences and padlocked gates and only the school staff know the combinations!

The teachers are all very friendly and get to know us really well. They listen to our ideas and help us to achieve our goals. It feels like we are part of a big team. All of the teachers and teaching assistants are nice and kind and we can talk to any of them if we need to. The staff always smile and stop to talk to us in the corridors or say hello which makes us all feel safe and happy, and they make sure we understand in our lessons.

The teachers are amazing because after a busy school day, they then teach exciting after school clubs such as, cricket, rounders, cookery, school council, choir, homework, athletics, art, computing, comic books and many more. It gives us opportunities to participate in activities with different groups, make new friends and work with different teachers. We also have the opportunity to take part in after school clubs run by visiting teachers, such as Kicks Dance, Karate and Sports Stars.

In the hall, we have assemblies on Tuesdays and Fridays. We also have singing assemblies, and class and house assemblies, where the teachers share messages and stories that help us learn about our school values and how to keep ourselves safe both in and out of school, as well as online. In Honour Book Assembly, we share our achievements from both in and out of school, with Mrs Chesshire or a teacher from the leadership team celebrating our work and giving out certificates. Every Friday, during Honour book assembly, tokens are given out for our house point challenge. It is really exciting to see the House Captains dropping the tokens into the towers and it encourages us to work even harder to win points for our team. In addition to this, completed merit cards are also handed out and celebrated by shaking Mrs Chesshire's hand and receiving a round of applause. At the end of each term, we also get attendance certificates. Sometimes we have special visitors during assembly such as athletes, Horsham Library and musicians.

When we do some really good work, we sometimes get to show Mrs Chesshire. She is always proud of our work and she gives us a special Head Teacher sticker for our jumpers so our parents can see it too. Our teachers always give us lots of praise for good work. To encourage good behaviour and hard work, we each have a merit card to earn a sticker or stamp. On completion of each card we are awarded a bronze, silver and gold award. When you get your gold award, Mrs Chesshire plays the song 'Gold' in assembly. If we manage to complete all three, we are awarded a star shaped badge in the colour of our house team. It makes us feel confident and encourages us to always try our best. When we see our work on display, it makes us feel important. We are proud of our school and always want to show people how good we are, like when we go on a visit, we like it when people comment on our good behaviour.

Behaviour and Attitude

We are treated fairly and with respect by all the adults at school. We have a worry box in our classroom so we can talk quietly to our teacher if we are worried or feeling unhappy about something. In RSE, we wrote questions anonymously and our teacher answered them. It meant that we could ask questions that might usually be too embarrassing. The teachers know everyone really well and they help us to achieve our very best.

At playtime, the teachers and teaching assistants help us to play games fairly. Everyone knows our school values and our rules for the playground, which help us to stay safe. At the beginning of the year, we all review the playground rules and share our ideas with our school council class representatives. They then write the rules to include everyone's ideas.

Every year, each class learns how to use the internet safely using the SMART acronym. In Reception, the children listen to a story about Smartie the Penguin who teaches the children how to stay safe when using a tablet to play games on the internet.

In the classroom, we are given jobs to encourage us to be responsible, like class monitors and librarians and at playtime we are responsible for tidying away the playground equipment to try and stop them getting lost or broken.

If we are ill or hurt, the adults always look after us and care for us. We are encouraged to be kind and caring and to be independent. When we are spotted being kind by a teacher, we receive a kindness sticker to show everyone that we are thoughtful and considerate. Often, we have special visitors to help us learn about key safety issues, for example, the fire service taught us about fire safety and we even got to go in the fire engine!

Personal Development

At our school, we have lots of opportunities to be creative and try new activities and to develop our confidence. We can represent the school in sports competitions against other schools and Year 3 have swimming lessons at the Pavilions. Year 3 also take part in the Horsham Children's Parade. With help from a visiting artist and Mr Cousins they create large willow sculptures, cover them with papier mâché and display them during a parade through Horsham town. This year, the theme was puzzles so they made a giant Rubiks Cube. Taking part in these activities helps us to become more confident and independent because we go to different places and meet new people. Year 5 and 6 also take part in Bikeability where they learn how to ride safely and responsibly on the road.

The sports competitions and after school sports clubs encourage us to be healthy and exercise whilst still having lots of fun. In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 we are all offered a piece of fruit at snack time, and we can also have milk or water to drink. Our teachers encourage us to try different fruits and they eat them too. In the juniors, we bring our own fruit for snack time. Our school encourages us to have healthy lunches. The hot dinners come with the choice of salad or vegetables every day and for pudding, fresh fruit is always available.

We have a House system and each year we vote for Year 6 House Captains. They have many responsibilities including, being a good role model and collecting house points from each class. The School Ambassadors help to lead school tours and they also help at sports day. We also have two School Council representatives from each class. They are elected at the start of the year and have three meetings every half term. The School Councillors help to run the school shop which sells stationery. The School Council likes to organise activities to raise money for charities such as Red Nose Day and Children in Need because we like helping those who are less fortunate than us. At the summer festival, School Council run a stall for everyone to take part in and enjoy. The responsibility of being a School Councillor makes us feel proud and excited to tell everyone that we meet, because it's an honour to represent your class and share ideas. The Gallery Council meet with Miss Parker each term and choose outstanding work from each year group, which is then framed and displayed.

Every year, Years R to 6 perform two assemblies to parents as well as Christmas performances. The children in Reception perform a special assembly for Mothering Sunday, Father's Day and a Christmas Nativity. At Christmas, Years 5 and 6 go to St. Mark's Church to perform Christmas carols to their families and the community. At the end of the school year, Year 6 perform a leavers assembly to celebrate their journey at North Heath.

Quotes from children

"I like playing in the garden because we have fun." Year R

"I love story time. Sometimes we sit on the big chair and read our favourite book to the class." Year 1

"When the RNLI came, I learned what the flags on the beach mean and how to stay safe near water." Year 2

"The PE trail and climbing frame are good fun. I am good at balancing on the bridge and I can reach the top of the climbing frame." Year 3

"I enjoy orienteering because it helps me learn how to read maps." Year 4

"At the Wonderdome, I found out lots of new facts about space and it made me want to find out more when I got home." Year 5

"Fairthorne Manor helped me become more independent because I tried activities that I have never done before." Year 6

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