

Starting School 2026



Staynor Hall

Proud to work, learn
and grow together.





Welcome!

We are absolutely delighted to welcome you and your child to the Staynor Hall community. Starting school is a significant milestone, and we are committed to ensuring it is a positive, warm, and exciting experience for every child and family who joins us.

At Staynor Hall, we are proud to be part of the EBOR Academy Trust and to uphold its values in everything we do. Our school provides a nurturing and inclusive environment where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to learn. We believe that the early years of education are the foundation for a lifelong love of learning, curiosity, and confidence.

This Parent Handbook is designed to provide you with clear information about our routines, policies, expectations, and the opportunities your child will enjoy throughout their time with us. Please take the time to read it carefully, as it will help us work together to give your child the best possible start at school.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to sharing this exciting new chapter with you and your family!



Caroline Towler
Headteacher



Clare Slinn
Class Teacher



Emily Murray
Class Teacher

Collaboration



Vision, Values, and Educational Philosophy



**A place to grow, a
place to thrive.**

Staynor Hall aims to be a welcoming, inclusive, and aspirational learning community where:

- Every child is valued, respected, and encouraged to reach their full potential.
- Learning is engaging, purposeful, and challenges all pupils to aim high.
- Children develop a strong sense of self-belief, resilience, and responsibility.
- Strong partnerships with families and the wider community support children's development academically, socially, and emotionally.



Self Belief



Determination

Our Educational Philosophy

At Staynor Hall, we believe that children learn best through play, exploration, and guided discovery. Our curriculum is designed to support whole-child development by integrating the following approaches:

Social-Emotional Development

- Teaches children how to express emotions and communicate effectively.
- Promotes empathy, cooperation, and self-regulation.
- Creates a warm, inclusive classroom environment.

Early Literacy & Language Development

- Teaches children how to express emotions and communicate effectively.
- Promotes empathy, cooperation, and self-regulation.
- Creates a warm, inclusive classroom environment.

Hands-On Exploration

- Provides sensory-rich experiences through our carefully and progressive curriculum
- Encourages creativity and innovation through interactive projects.
- Develops fine and gross motor skills through active play.

Play-Based Learning

- Encourages active engagement and joyful learning.
- Builds foundational skills in literacy, numeracy, and social interaction.
- Develops problem-solving and critical thinking abilities.

Family Partnership

- Recognises parents as a child's first and most important teachers.
- Provides opportunities for parent involvement in school activities.
- Encourages open communication and collaboration between families and teachers.



Honesty

Early Years at Staynor Hall

We believe every child deserves an education rich in wonder and filled with memorable experiences. Our Early Years provision is designed to nurture children's natural creativity and curiosity, helping them flourish from the very start of their learning journey.

We recognise that children join Reception with a wide range of experiences. That's why we plan thoughtfully to ensure every child feels valued, supported, and challenged, enabling all children to thrive and succeed.

We are committed to creating a safe and stimulating learning environment, both indoors and outdoors, where children can grow into confident communicators who express their ideas clearly, independent learners who demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning, and excited explorers who engage with and investigate their local environment. We want children to think deeply and solve problems, to move freely and joyfully as active adventurers, and to develop their imagination as creative thinkers. By the end of the Early Years, they will be sentence superstars and imaginative creators, ready to take the next step in their journey as valued members of the Staynor Hall community.



Our goal is to guide them in building **confidence, curiosity, and compassion** as they take their first steps in their educational journey.

Our Curriculum



**Personal, Social &
Emotional
Development**



**Communication &
Language**



**Physical
Development**



Literacy



Mathematics



**Understanding the
World**



**Creative
Development**

What is the EYFS?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the statutory framework that sets the standards for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to age five in England. It lays the foundation for children's education and is designed to ensure that every child has the best possible start to their school journey.

As your child begins their Reception year at Staynor Hall Primary School, they will be following the EYFS curriculum, which is carefully designed to support all areas of their development—academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. The EYFS is about more than just preparing children for Year 1. It's about building confidence, communication skills, independence, and a lifelong love of learning.

The EYFS framework is built around four guiding principles:

- Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, with teaching and support from adults who respond to their individual interests and needs.
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

Children in Reception will learn through a mix of play, exploration, guided activities, and adult-led teaching, covering the seven areas of learning:

Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

At Staynor Hall, our approach to EYFS supports the development of the whole child. We focus on creating a nurturing, inspiring environment where your child can grow in confidence, take risks in their learning, and develop a strong foundation for the rest of their time in school.

Helping Children to Learn



We know that being able to focus attention is an important skill for young children as they begin their school journey. That's why we will prioritise teaching social-emotional skills, including how to listen, concentrate, and manage impulses.

We will explicitly teach children how to:

- Look and listen with focus
- Use self-talk to stay on task
- Keep their bodies calm and ready for learning

These skills are introduced through short, structured lessons, and then reinforced throughout the day during learning and play. For example, we might use visual cues, role play, songs, or short stories to model and practise what "focusing attention" looks and feels like.

We know young children learn best when they're having fun—so we embed attention and self-regulation strategies in a playful and interactive way that keeps their interest high.

Whether they're sitting for a phonics session, listening to a story, or exploring independently, our goal is to help every child develop the focus and self-awareness they need to be successful, confident learners.

Our "high energy" approach is all about ensuring that every child is actively involved in their learning—all of the time. We aim for 100% participation, because we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to contribute, succeed, and feel part of the learning experience.

Adult-Directed Learning



At Staynor Hall Primary School, we believe in providing a strong foundation in early literacy and numeracy. That's why every day in Reception includes a dedicated phonics session and a focused maths activity.

Reading – Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised phonics programme to teach children how to read. This systematic and structured approach helps children learn:

- Letter sounds (phonemes) and how to match them to written letters (graphemes)
- Blending sounds together to read words
- Segmenting words to spell them
- Developing reading fluency and comprehension

Phonics is taught daily in short, focused sessions. Children read fully decodable books that match the sounds they've been taught, building confidence and success. They also revisit key sounds regularly to ensure strong recall. This approach is consistent, clear, and designed to help every child become a confident, independent reader.

Maths – NCETM Mastering Number

For mathematics, we use the NCETM's Mastering Number programme. This approach focuses on building a deep understanding of numbers through:

- Practical activities and visual representations
- Fluency in counting, number bonds, and simple arithmetic
- Encouraging children to talk about maths, spot patterns, and explain their thinking

In Reception, children develop strong number sense through engaging, hands-on experiences that help them understand how numbers work, not just how to count. This lays the foundation for future success in more complex maths.



For parents

The resources on this page will help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. There are also some useful videos so you can see how they are...

● Letters and Sounds / May 11, 2021

www.littlewandle.org



Class Structure & Classroom Setup

Learning Environment

Each classroom at Staynor Hall is designed to be a safe, engaging, and stimulating environment where children can thrive. In Reception, our learning spaces are carefully planned to meet the individual needs of every child, offering opportunities for exploration, creativity, and purposeful play throughout the day.



Outdoor Learning Spaces



Welcome to Little Hub!

A. This year, we are delighted to introduce an additional space created especially for our Early Years children – The Little Hub.

The Little Hub is a calm, nurturing environment for children who may find busy classrooms overwhelming or who benefit from more focused support with early language, communication, and interaction. It is an inclusive space that helps children feel secure, confident, and ready to learn.

What The Little Hub offers

- A quieter, low-distraction space for children who need time away from the busier classroom
- Language-rich activities such as storytelling, role play, conversation time, and vocabulary building
- Support with social communication, including turn-taking, listening, and building friendships
- A calm, nurturing environment where children can regulate and build confidence
- Inclusive access, meaning children use the Hub as part of their normal school experience
- These approaches are based on well-established early years principles showing that children make strong progress when they have access to small-group, communication-focused learning alongside their main classroom.

Working together to support your child

Decisions about how The Little Hub is used are made in partnership with our SENDCO, Valerie Steunou, and the Reception teaching team. Together, we consider:

Each child's individual needs

Their confidence in busy environments

Their language and communication development

How we can best support them to flourish

Children may spend short, planned sessions in The Little Hub as part of their weekly timetable. These sessions are flexible and responsive, ensuring that every child receives the right support at the right time.

We know families may have questions about how The Little Hub works or how it might support their child. We warmly encourage you to contact school if you would like to discuss this further.

Your insight as parents and carers is incredibly valuable, and we are always happy to talk about how we can work together to support your child's early learning journey.



Artist impression of Staynor Hall Little Hub

Daily Schedule Overview

Time	Activity	Description
8:45 AM	Arrival & Free Play	Transition activities and social interaction.
9:00 AM	Morning Check-in Circle	Welcome songs, calendar review, and PSED theme discussion.
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Indoor/Outdoor Provision	Child initiated play supported by an adult thorough intercatations and observations
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Snack Time	Healthy snacks and hydration break.
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Phonics	Adult directed group following the Little Wandle Phonics progression.
10:30 – 11:15 AM	Indoor/Outdoor Provision	Child initiated play supported by an adult thorough intercatations and observations
11.15 – 11:30 AM	Maths Meeting	Social mealtime and table manners practice.
1145 – 12:00 PM	Lunch Time	Supported by Class Teachers
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Continuation of Lunch time & Outdoor Provision	Supported by Assistant Teachers
1:00 – 1:20 PM	Adult- Directed Group Session	An area of learning developing knowledge of Literacy, Physical Development, Creative Development or The World
1.20 – 2:30 PM	Indoor/Outdoor Provision	Child initiated play supported by an adult thorough intercatations and observations
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Snuggle Story	Storytime and then preparation for going home
3:15 PM	Hometime	

Restorative School



It is our purpose to provide all our children with a first-class education. However, we will also look to educate them both socially and emotionally. We will look to give the children valuable life skills and the necessary tools to be able to overcome the challenges that they will face as they grow older. We are a restorative school – this means that we proactively support children in managing any conflicts that may arise from time to time: this could be conflict in their learning, but it also may be a conflict with their peers. As a restorative school, the work we do is underpinned by our core values:

Honesty

Collaboration

Self-Belief

Determination

Our approach to behaviour and your child's well-being has those values at the core. We believe in giving children the skills and techniques to talk about their feelings and to be able to express their views on issues that are important to them. Adults support children to resolve conflict using 'solution circles'. We will hold weekly PSHE sessions whereby we teach children about expected behaviour. This will be a time where the children can come and learn about issues such as tolerance, democracy and mutual respect. They will be guided and supported in their development of emotional vocabulary and articulation, in an environment that is safe and empowering. Building resilience and tolerance in our young people is an essential life skill.

We want to work in partnership with parents and carers and would like to extend the opportunity to you, to come in and talk to us at any time. Please support us in our mission to educate the whole child, equipping children with vital skills in order to live a happy and healthy life

Our Behaviour Expectations

Wow!

I have made someone in school proud.
I am always being supportive.
I challenge myself.
I am always enthusiastic and positive.
I set a good example to others.

I am a positive role model.
I am trustworthy.
I will earn a Wow sticker.
I will make my teachers, family, friends
and myself proud!

Good

I make the right choices.
I tell the truth.
I am able to be a good learner.
I can keep to the school expectations.
I am a good friend.
I show respect to everyone.
I follow instructions the first time.

Everybody will see how hard I am trying.
I am a successful learner.
I will be happy and enjoy coming to school.
My team will be very proud!

Wobbly

I have disrupted my learning and that of other
children in my class.
I am not working as hard as I can
I am not considering other people's feelings.
I am not showing respect.

I will be given a friendly reminder.
I will be given a warning.
I will explain my behaviour to an adult.
I will have 5 minutes on the carpet to think
about my choices.
I can turn things around and go back to good.

Unacceptable

I am persistently disrupting my learning and
that of others.
I am making the wrong choices, even when
having chances to make the right choices.
I am using violence - any kind, kicking,
hitting, hurting others, OR threats to do so.
I am encouraging others to make the wrong
choices.
I am using inappropriate language and
actions.
I am not telling the truth.
I have damaged/broken others property.

I will look at the behaviour chart with an adult.
I may have a circle with my team.
I will spend time away from my team to reflect.
I will have a phone call home.
I may be excluded.
I will explain my behaviour to my parents.



School Dinners

School Meals

At Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy our meals are prepared by Apetito. We believe that nutritionally balanced meals are key to supporting our children's growth. A

variety, healthy school meal menu also encourages pupils to try new meals with exciting flavours – developing their taste palate as a result. All Apetito's meals are developed by their experienced talented team of chefs to ensure that all our school meals are tasty and nutritious.

Apetito provides food to cater to all allergens and intolerances. They are able to remove risk whilst giving you peace of mind that your children are eating safe and tasty meals.

Apetito has state-of-the-art Campden Laboratory Accreditations (CLAS) compliant laboratories, and strict procedures make Apetito food one of the safest school catering options available. Every batch of food that Apetito cooks is checked to make sure it is completely free of pathogens before it is released to the school.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Event	Pork Meatballs with Penne Pasta in Tomato & Herb Sauce	Steak Pie	Roast Beef in Gravy	Chicken Curry	Breaded Cod
Vegetarian	Fenne Pasta in Tomato & Basil Sauce	Cheese & Onion Pie	Creamy Vegetable Cheese Bake	Cauliflower, Spinach & Lentil Curry	Plant-Based Shepherds Pie
Accompaniments	Sweetcorn Garlic Bread	Mixed Vegetables Mashed Potato Colcannon Mash (Dairy Free)	Broccoli Golden Roast Potatoes	Sweetcorn Basmati Rice Naan Bread	Oven Chips Peas
Picnic	Freshly prepared sandwiches or wraps with vegetable sticks and tortilla chips Cheese, Ham or Tuna Mayo	Freshly prepared sandwiches or wraps with vegetable sticks and tortilla chips Cheese, Ham or Tuna Mayo	Freshly prepared sandwiches or wraps with vegetable sticks and tortilla chips Cheese, Ham or Tuna Mayo	Freshly prepared sandwiches or wraps with vegetable sticks and tortilla chips Cheese, Ham or Tuna Mayo	Freshly prepared sandwiches or wraps with vegetable sticks and tortilla chips Cheese, Ham or Tuna Mayo
Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings Cheese, Baked Beans, Cheese & Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings Cheese, Baked Beans, Cheese & Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings Cheese, Baked Beans, Cheese & Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings Cheese, Baked Beans, Cheese & Beans or Tuna Mayo	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings Cheese, Baked Beans, Cheese & Beans or Tuna Mayo
Dessert	Chocolate Sponge Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Syrup Sponge Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Raspberry Dessert Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Apple Crumble Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Bakewell Tart Yoghurt Fresh Fruit

School Uniform

We encourage children to wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing that allows for safe movement, active play, and independent self-care. Our dress code promotes practicality, safety, and school identity while allowing children to express themselves.



Staynor Hall Primary Academy
Crew Neck Sweatshirt



Staynor Hall Primary Academy
Sweatshirt Cardigan



Staynor Hall Primary Academy
Polo Shirt



Staynor Hall Primary Academy
Classic Book Bag

All clothing and accessories must be labeled with your child's name to prevent mix-ups.

Extra Clothing Requirement

Parents must provide a labeled extra set of clothes (shirt, pants, socks, and underwear) in case of spills or accidents. We recommend that the children bring these in a backpack that they can carry to school alongside their book bag.

You can find more information on our school website.



School Uniform

Sweatshirt in kingfisher blue with a Tiny Steps logo, navy blue jogging bottoms or leggings, white or navy blue t-shirt.

 Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy

Important Dates



Please do keep in touch via our Tapestry App over the Summer. For our new starters to Staynor Hall, we will send out an email link to help set up your account.



School will reopen for Y1-Y6 the Autumn Term:
Tuesday 8th September.
On this day, the Reception Teachers will be home visiting our new starters.



Wednesday 9th September.
Team Nidd & Swale will attend school at
8.45am-11.30pm.



Thursday 10th September.
Team Nidd & Swale will attend school at
8.45am-1.30pm.



From Friday 11th September.
Team Nidd & Swale will attend school at
8.45am-3.15pm.