



# Nurture at Thomas Gray Primary



## What is a Nurture Room?

Nurture groups address the social, emotional and learning needs of individual pupils by providing the necessary help to remove the barriers to learning. In the Robin room there is great emphasis on emotional literacy, language development and communication. Pupils are immersed in an accepting and warm environment that helps replace missing/distorted early nurturing experiences and helps pupils develop positive relationships with both teachers and peers.

## The Robin Room is developed around six principles of nurture:

- Learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom offers a safe base
- The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
- Language is a vital means of communication
- All behaviour is communication
- The importance of transition in the lives of children and young people

## Our Nurture Base Environment

The Robin Room has the following areas:

- **A kitchen/dining area** equipped with utensils, baking equipment, mini cooker, fridge etc.
- **A living area** with a sofa, rug, blankets photographs and books.
- **A calm area** with beanbags, cushions and sensory toys.
- **A work area** with English and Maths equipment, paper, card, display boards.
- **A general area** with jigsaws, bricks and games.
- **A home area** with a play kitchen, sofa and role play.

## What difference does the Robin Room make?

Children in Nurture Groups:

- Have increased confidence and self esteem
- Believe in themselves as learners
- Have improved language, literacy and maths skills
- Have and make better friendships
- Enjoy school
- Can concentrate better
- Are able to solve problems



## Sharing Meal Times

Breakfast, lunch and snack are an important part of the the day in the Robin Room. Children learn to socialise with each other, to eat and enjoy others' company, taking turns and to learn acceptable ways of making their needs, likes and or dislikes known. They also take on helpful roles within the group e.g. setting the table or serving the juice.

## Emotional Literacy

At Thomas Gray we understand the importance of developing children's ability to talk about how they are feeling and how to manage these emotions. This development of the children's emotional literacy has a high priority within our Nurture Base.

## Communication and Language

The Robin Room has a great emphasis on communication. We talk together about things that interest the children, encourage choice-making, reinforce word approximations, build on their words, sing songs to reinforce language and ask questions.

