



Welcome to 'The Den' at Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School.



The Den

The Den was first established in January 2019. It was designed as a provision to run alongside the classes, offering support for children across Key Stage 2. It is an area for learning that has both the feeling of the classroom, as well as the home. A more relaxed space, where children can engage in high quality activities designed to support, foster and grow social and emotional well-being.

The group is run by

Mr Ratcliffe

and

Mrs Moore.



Over time, our learning space has changed and evolved to meet the varying needs of the children who attend. Our indoor space is warm and welcoming, with areas for sitting together to share activities and snack time, an arts and crafts table. A construction/ play area, as well as a sofa to curl up on to share a story or tickle, Bella, our school dog.



Are parents/carers involved?

Yes, we like to feel there is an open door policy where parents/carers can come and chat with the class teacher or the Den staff with regard to their child. So that you have an opportunity to see how we work in the Den room, you will be invited to special events such as craft afternoons where you will also be able to take part in our more regular daily events, and children and parents are invited to our Seesaw group.

What does a session in the Den look like?

Children follow a structure and routine that is clear to both staff and children which includes group listening and speaking, individual and shared playing and social skills.

As we often see children who find it difficult to articulate ideas, solve problems, organise themselves to achieve goals, or work with others, we promote and maintain a consistent focus on the essential skills in the Skills Builder framework. The group runs on consistency, positive reinforcement and praise.

Within the session we share snack time together – a chance to talk around the meal table, listen to each other, take turns to speak and practice using manners.

Taking part in games, sometimes board games or team games, to encourage turn taking and coping with losing.

Circle time and sharing news – taking part and listening, sharing in a small group to build self-esteem and confidence.

We discuss and understand our feelings.

Role play and drama – communication, listening to other ideas, taking on the role of different characters.

Cooking / Stories / puppets / music.

Regular participation in outdoor learning activities, such as gardening in the school vegetable garden, wildlife or team building activities in the Hazels learning zone.

The Den is a place where we want to see children have the opportunity to grow in confidence and become engaged and be successful learners in their classrooms and the school community.

How will the Den help your child?

The Den will help to boost confidence and self-esteem and provide children with extra skills to improve social skills and independence for example:

To engage

To settle

To listen

To concentrate

To share and take turns

To accept losing a game

To build friendship with their classmates

Gives opportunities to talk about and understand their feelings

To work on group led topics and activities

To experience and practice the development of positive relationships

Does this mean my child is naughty?

No. These sessions are meant to help them manage situations and increase their skills to become more successful learners.

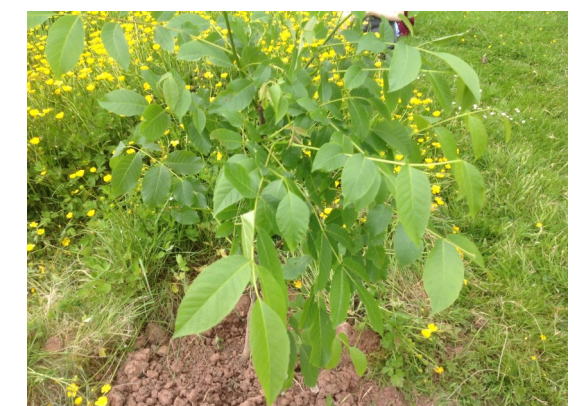
How long will my child attend the Den?

Currently the Den room runs sessions throughout the week, each session is 2 hours in duration. Each child has been grouped specifically to need. They will have both a morning and afternoon session per week. A child may attend for 1-4 terms. However we do ensure that children do not miss special assemblies, guests in school, outings or any special events that the rest of their class are taking part in. The Den team plan closely with the class teachers.

Our outdoor learning space is a huge part of what we do in the Den. We have “The Allotment,” with over 50 square metres of raised beds, a meeting house called “The Shedquarters,” as well as a tool shed and plant nursery. We grow lots of flowers, fruit and veg, and there is always plenty of work and new skills to keep us busy, all year round.



We also have “The Hazels,” a large wildlife garden. We have a range of habitats to tend, such as hedgerow, meadow and pond. There is a newly planted orchard, willow dome, den building area, bird hide, and fire pit. The Hazels are used on a very regular basis for topic work, conservation tasks, and team building activities.



What is the purpose of the Den?

The Den Group works with small groups of 3—4 pupils.

The children are carefully brought together to make a balanced and functional group. The Den continues the ethos of an already nurturing environment within Sir Alexander Fleming school and provides inclusion for all children promoting PSHE provision. Therefore the children are supported within The Den to raise their emotional well-being, self-esteem and have a sense of belonging to the school community. We provide a structured routine with clear boundaries so the children feel safe and secure.



The Den is a place of learning.

We follow the Skills Builder Partnership Framework.



This is a partnership of educators, employers and skills—building partnerships working to ensure every child and young person builds essential skills:

Collaboration



Self-Management



Communication



Creative Problem Solving



Reasons Children might attend the Den

Low self esteem

Find it hard to listen to others or join in

Family illness or break up

Bereavement

Find it hard to share and take turns

Find it hard to settle into class

Friendship difficulties – keeping/making friends

Find it hard to accept losing a game

Quiet, shy, withdrawn

A teacher might identify a child with any of the above needs.

A discussion would then take place with the School SENCO and Den staff.

A Boxall Profile will be completed to identify possible areas of which a child might need support. If it is felt the child would benefit from a small group environment the class teacher will speak to the parent/carer and they will be given the opportunity to accept a place for their child to attend The Den.