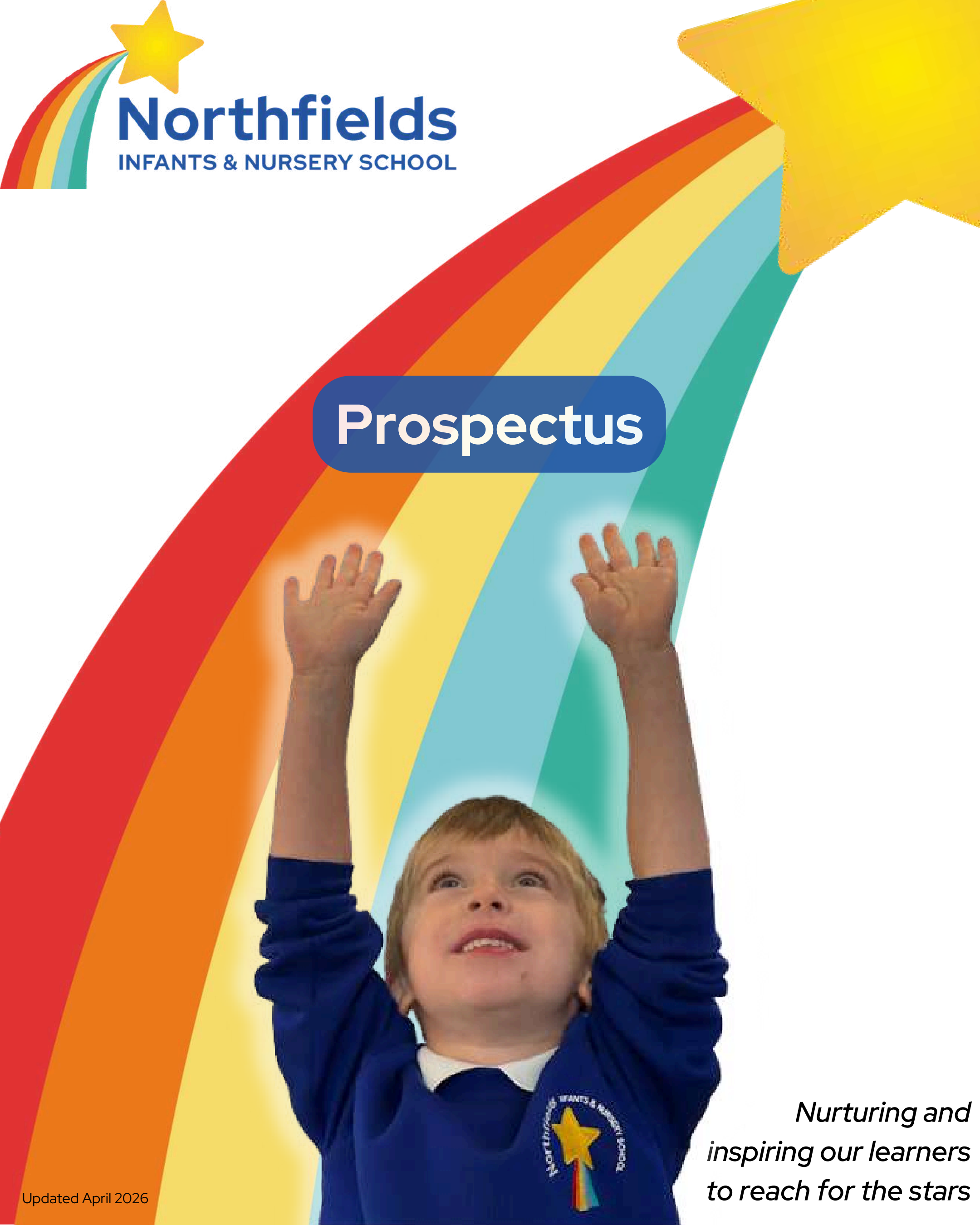
Northfields
INFANTS & NURSERY SCHOOL

Prospectus



Nurturing and inspiring our learners to reach for the stars

Updated April 2026

Welcome to Northfields

Thank you for choosing Northfields Infants and Nursery School. Whether you're joining us in Nursery or starting Reception, you are now part of a school community that places children's wellbeing, curiosity and individuality at the heart of everything we do.

We know the early years of school matter. They're where children build the foundations of confidence, empathy, independence and learning habits that last a lifetime. At Northfields, we work hard to make sure those foundations are strong – and joyful.

Our job is to know every pupil well, support every family honestly, and work as a team to give your child the best possible start.

Welcome to a school that's ambitious for every child – not just in what they know, but in who they become.

Rob Dell

Headteacher | DSL | Mental Health Lead

Our Vision and Values

REACH

Everything at Northfields is guided by our five core values, which together spell REACH:

Respect – We treat others kindly and listen with care. Everyone deserves to feel safe and heard.

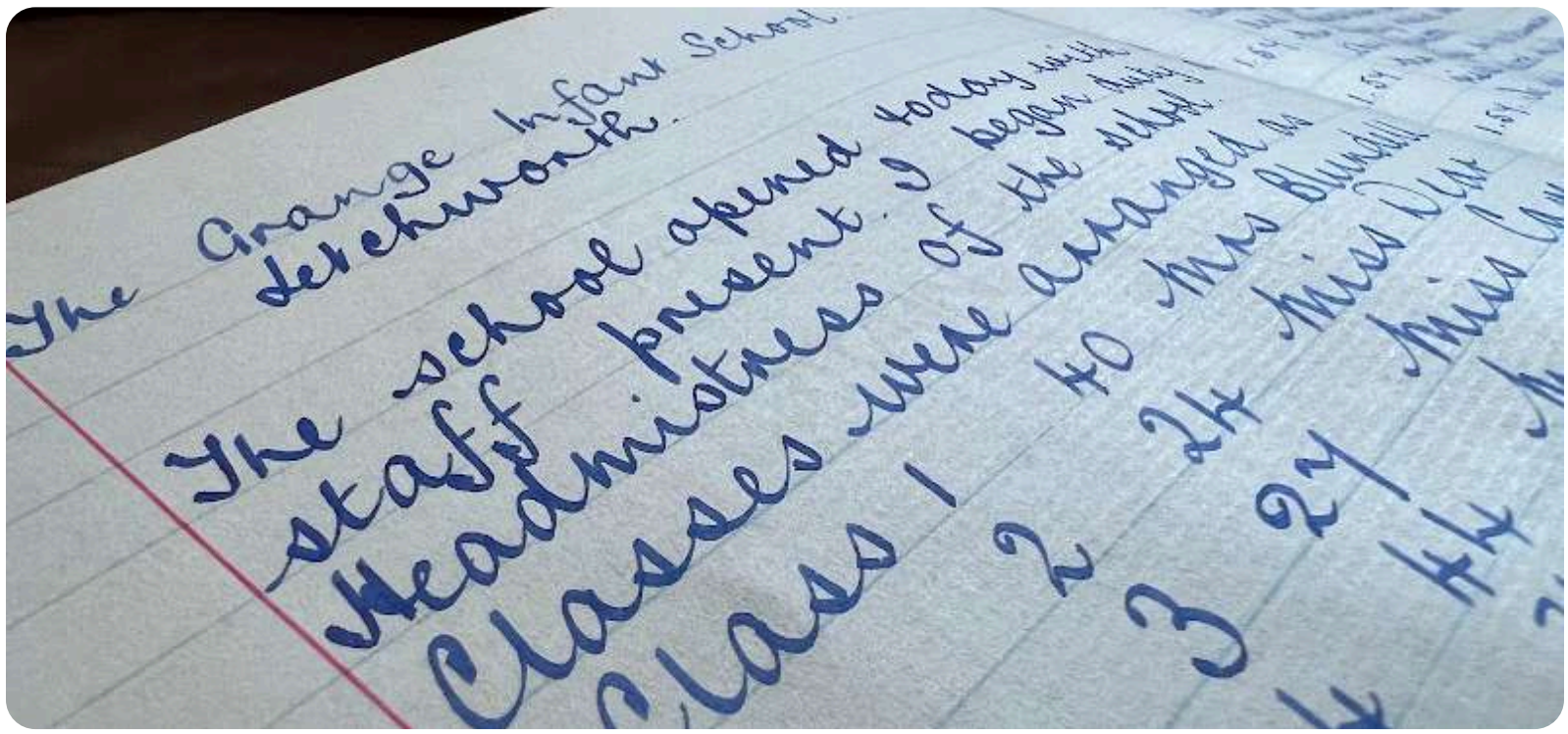
Expression – We celebrate feelings, thoughts and creativity. Children are free to be themselves.

Achievement – We value effort and perseverance. Every pupil is encouraged to shine in their own way.

Creativity – We nurture curiosity and imagination. Questions are welcome and wonder is part of learning.

Hearts Full of Fun – Laughter belongs in learning. We make space for joy, silliness and togetherness every day.

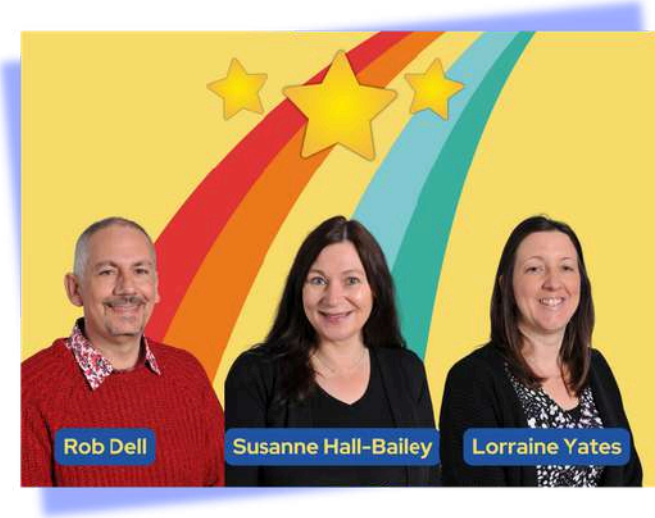
A Bit About Us



Northfields has served the Letchworth community since 1957. Originally opened as The Grange Infant School, our building is single-storey and surrounded by green space – ideal for outdoor learning and play. We share strong links with The Grange Academy, where many of our pupils continue into Key Stage 2.

We are proud of our welcoming atmosphere, long-standing staff, and commitment to being a school where pupils are seen, safe and supported.

Meet the Team



We're lucky to have a dedicated team of teachers, support staff, leaders and governors who bring experience, warmth and passion to our school.

Senior Leadership (*pictured above*)

- Mr Rob Dell – Headteacher
- Mrs Susanne Hall-Bailey – Deputy Head, English Lead, Assessment & PPG
- Mrs Lorraine Yates – SENCo, Science Lead, Family Support Worker

Teaching Team

- Our teaching staff lead the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes, as well as PPA cover, and are responsible for each subject. Many are also trained in therapeutic approaches and SEND strategies. For a full list of our current staff, visit our website.

Support Team

- A strong group of Teaching Assistants, HLTA, and MSAs support pupils every day – both in learning and in care.

Admin & Site Team

- Mrs Tolliday (Office), Mrs Crombie (Finance), and Mr Canty (Caretaker) keep the school running smoothly behind the scenes.

Governors

- Led by our Chair, Mrs Sarah Robertson, the Governing Body supports and challenges our leadership, ensuring strategic oversight, safeguarding compliance and fiscal responsibility.

What a Day at Northfields Looks Like

Nursery

- Children attend either 15 or 30 hours, with several flexible patterns across the week.
- Drop-off and pick-up take place at the Nursery gate, where your child is greeted by a familiar adult.
- Children learn through play – indoors and outdoors – with key adults supporting social, language and learning development throughout the day.

Reception to Year 2

- School runs from 8:50am to 3:10pm (doors open at 8:35am).
- Pupils line up in the playground when the bell rings and are led in by staff.
- Lessons are broken up by playtimes, stories, singing, and lots of movement.
- On PE days, children wear their kit to school – no need to change.

The Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to give every child a well-rounded, inspiring education that prepares them for the next stage.

EYFS (Nursery and Reception)
Based on the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, we focus on communication, play, exploration and early learning in maths, literacy, the arts and the world around us.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
Children build on strong EYFS foundations with exciting, carefully-sequenced learning in reading, writing, maths, science, geography, history, RE, PE, music, computing and PSHE.

We use:

- Twinkl Phonics – for daily reading and spelling skills
- White Rose Maths – for mastery-based maths teaching
- The Write Stuff – for high-quality sentence construction and writing development

We also offer Forest School, Gardening Club and opportunities for trips, theme days and performances.

Inclusion and SEND

We are an inclusive school. Our SENCo, Mrs Yates, works closely with families to ensure early identification, support and individualised planning. Pupils with EHCPs, additional needs or emerging concerns are monitored closely and supported by trusted staff using adapted approaches and therapeutic strategies.

We also use communication tools like Widget symbols to help every pupil succeed.

Behaviour and Relationships

Our behaviour policy is based on mutual respect, emotional regulation and restorative conversations. We use the Zones of Regulation to help children name and manage their feelings, and we teach expectations clearly so that every pupil can learn and play safely.

Parents are always kept in the loop when issues arise — early, honest communication is key.

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. All staff and visitors follow our safeguarding procedures. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Rob Dell. Deputy DSLs and Family Support are also available, and all concerns are taken seriously and acted on promptly.

Communication

You'll receive fortnightly newsletters, regular Arbor updates from your child's class, and friendly communication from our office team. You can also follow school life via Instagram and Facebook (opt-in only).

Need to speak with us? Teachers are usually available for quick chats at drop-off or pick-up, or you can arrange a longer meeting.

Attendance and Illness

Good attendance sets the tone for positive habits and strong learning. We ask that:

- Holidays are not taken in term time
- Absences are reported by 9am
- Children with minor coughs or colds are still brought in, where safe to do so
- Diarrhoea/vomiting requires a 48-hour clear period before returning

Speak to us if attendance becomes tricky – we're here to help.

Uniform

We keep it simple, comfortable and affordable.

- Nursery: Blue jumper (optional), white polo, leggings or joggers, Velcro shoes
- Reception–Y2: Blue logo jumper/cardigan, white logo polo, grey bottoms, black shoes
- PE Kit: Plain white t-shirt, navy/black bottoms, trainers – worn on PE days
- Extras: Wellies, waterproofs, sunhat – all labelled please!

Food, Birthdays and Allergies

- All pupils under 7 receive free school lunches.
- We celebrate birthdays with a card and singing. You're welcome to send in nut-free treats (check numbers with the teacher).
- Please inform the office of any allergies or dietary requirements.

Breakfast Club

Open from 8:00am, our Breakfast Club offers a calm, healthy start to the day with early access to school life. Pupil Premium families may be entitled to discounted places. Apply via our website.

Parental Involvement

We love working with families. From reading at home to attending performances, joining NIPA (our brilliant parents association) or just having a natter at drop-off – your presence matters.

We ask families for a voluntary £15 annual contribution, known as 'Tech Money'. This helps us buy the everyday essentials our pupils get through quickly – from playdough to glue sticks, and ingredients for cookery and crafts.

We also ask families to donate simple classroom items (tissues, soap, etc.) and contribute towards craft or cookery resources each term, if able.

Transition: Nursery to Year 3

- Nursery to Reception: Handover meetings and visits to new classrooms
- Reception to Year 1: Gentle shift with consistent staff and familiar routines
- Year 2 to Year 3: We meet with the new schools, prepare handover, and offer transition days. Your child won't just move on – they'll move up confidently.

FAQs and What to Expect

You'll find more details on medical needs, settling in, support for toilet training, phonics screening, online safety, and what "age-related expectations" look like – all on our website or by asking your class teacher. We're always happy to help.

Glossary of Terms

DSL – Designated Safeguarding Lead
The member of staff responsible for overseeing safeguarding in school. At Northfields, this is Mr Dell.

DDSL – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Staff trained to support the DSL with safeguarding concerns.

SENCo – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
A teacher who leads and oversees support for pupils with additional needs. At Northfields, this is Mrs Yates.

SEND – Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities
A term covering any child who needs extra help with learning, communication, behaviour, or physical needs.

EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan
A legal document for pupils with significant long-term needs that affect their learning. It outlines the support they are entitled to.

PPG – Pupil Premium Grant
Additional funding schools receive to support pupils who may be disadvantaged (e.g. those eligible for free school meals).

EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage
The statutory framework for the education of children from birth to age 5. This includes Nursery and Reception.

KS1 – Key Stage 1
The first stage of primary school learning, covering Year 1 and Year 2 (ages 5–7).

Phonics Screening Check
A short, statutory test taken by Year 1 pupils to check how well they can use phonics to read words.

White Rose Maths
A structured maths scheme used across the school to build fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving.

The Write Stuff
A writing approach that helps children construct strong sentences and build up independent writing skills.

Twinkl Phonics
A systematic phonics programme used daily to support early reading and spelling.

Forest School
Outdoor learning that encourages exploration, independence, and connection to nature — rain or shine!

Zones of Regulation
A simple colour-coded tool to help children recognise and manage their emotions.

MSA – Midday Supervisory Assistant
Staff who support pupils during lunch and playtimes.

Tech Money
A £15 annual voluntary contribution from families to help cover classroom essentials like art materials, cookery ingredients, and more.

Evidence Me
An app used to record and share learning observations in EYFS with parents/carers.

NIPA – Northfields Infants Parents Association
Our brilliant volunteer-led parent group who help run events, fundraise, and support school life.

Arbor
The app and communication tool used by school to share updates, messages, reports, and pupil information.