



Star Learners

Parent and Carer Information

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Introduction

Welcome to Star Learners. Thank you for choosing Star Learners to support your child's learning journey. Whether your child is beginning their journey or well established in school, Star Learners are here to support. We offer various classes to support your child:

What Star Learners offer

Little Stars

This class is for 3- and 4-year olds in the year before they start school to give them an introduction to phonics and numbers. Sessions are 90 minutes long and will cover a combination of phonics and number skills. They are fun and practical sessions building up basic skills to give your child a head-start before they begin primary school.

Reception Stars

This hour-long class is designed for 4-5-year olds to give them a boost during their Reception year. This will cover all aspects of Phonics and ensure your little one thrives during their first year in school.

Year 1 Phonics:

This hour-long session revisits and builds upon the phonics learned in Reception to support your child in mastering reading and writing phonetic and more complex words. They will receive a confidence boost back in class knowing they have mastered these sounds and will be able to use them confidently in areas of reading and writing.

Year 2 – specific and combined:

Separate hour-long sessions are available in English and Maths to support your child in whichever area they need a boost. All areas of Year 2 study will be covered to allow your child to be more confident in school and fully partake in Year 2 curriculum. We also offer a combined class on a Saturday which is 90 minutes and covers both English and maths.

Year 3 – Year 6:

Highly experienced Key Stage 2 practitioners will lead separate year group sessions in Maths and English covering all key areas of these essential subjects and supporting preparation for essential tests such as the Year 4 Tables Test and Year 6 SATS.

Year 7-Year 11

Experienced Maths and English practitioners support your child's development into high school and up to GCSE. We will be offering year group specific sessions, booster classes, GCSE prep classes, mock exam run throughs and lots of other sessions to help your Star Learner fulfil their potential into KS3 and beyond.

123 Magic Courses

Led by a fully trained practitioner, these courses help to instil straightforward methods for effectively managing the behaviour of children aged from two to twelve. This course has proved particularly supportive for parents whose children may be showing signs or symptoms of ADHD and participation on a 123 Magic course supports the pathway to diagnosis and referral. It is a 5-week course which will lead to effective, calm and happy parenting.

Working in Partnership

All children develop at different rates. Some children just need a little support and a confidence boost, others may have a Specific Learning Difficulty. Star Learners works in partnership with a special needs consultant to provide specialist advice and assessment if you have concerns about your child's educational development.

Safeguarding at Star Learners

At Star Learners, your child's safety is our highest priority. Our aim is to provide a safe, secure learning environment for your child. All Star Learners staff are trained in safeguarding children and our Founder trained in Safer Recruitment. All staff are DBS checked prior to starting at Star Learners.

We take best practice gained from years spent in schools and from guidance provided from the Government in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document.

If we have concerns around a child, where possible, we will always talk to parents and carers first. If there are concerns that a child is being abused, we are duty bound to contact Cheshire East Consultation Service. This is a very sensitive topic and wherever possible, we would always attempt to talk to parents and carers about our concerns first.

It is essential that all children have a voice and feel they can discuss worries and concerns openly. Star Learners is no different and we want your Little Star to be able trust the Star Learners staff when in their care.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding or wish to discuss safeguarding further, please do contact any of the Star Learners staff in person or by email, where we will be happy to answer any questions.

Nut Free Learning Room

At Star Learners we are a nut free environment. This is to support children who may already have allergies and are unable to work in an environment where nuts have been present. We do ask that parents inform us of any allergies prior to their child starting at Star Learners then we can ensure we are fully able to support your child.

Group sessions

All of our Star Learner sessions are designed to take place in a group setting. To start with, groups may mean only 2 or 3 children but may increase up to a maximum of 6 children per group. On isolated occasions there may only be 1 child in a group where it is a new session or due to illness. Parents will always be informed if this is the case.

Group sessions allow the children to bounce ideas off each other and interact in a purposeful way. If you do not feel that a group environment would benefit your child, please do contact a member of the Star Learners team.

Bathroom visits and Intimate Care

At Star Learners we understand that our youngest stars will be just 3 years of age. Whilst they will be toilet trained; accidents are to be expected. They are also accepted. We would never show negative behaviour towards a child for having a toilet accident as it is to be fully expected at their stage of development. We have spare sets of underwear and clothing for your child, and they will be supported by our staff to put on clean, dry clothes. We are not able to clean your child ourselves following their visit to the toilet, but they will be encouraged by our staff to do their very best. All pre-school and Reception children will be accompanied to the bathroom.

Children in years 1-6 are expected to go to the bathroom by themselves, but please remember the bathrooms are just adjacent to the Star Learners room. If you have any questions or concerns about intimate care, please do speak to a member of Star Learners staff and we will be happy to put your mind at rest.

Absence and illness

If your child has had any sickness or diarrhoea, please ensure they do not attend a Star Learners session until 48 hours after their last episode. This is to ensure your child is fully recovered and is no longer contagious. We know that germs spread quickly amongst children and we want to support your child and minimise any spread of illness. If your child has had any other illnesses or conditions such as chickenpox, headlice or impetigo etc, please do give us a call for advice as every scenario is different. These are all very common and we would have come across all of them before in our many years spent in schools and Early Years settings. We follow advice from Public Health England regarding various illnesses and conditions.

We are unfortunately unable to refund any sessions that your child may need to miss due to illness. Parents are asked to contact Star Learners as soon as possible if their child is unable to attend a class for any reason.

Bookings and Payment

Dates for available sessions will be sent out at least 1 week before the end of each month. Parents wishing to book sessions need to complete the Booking Form and pay upfront for the months' sessions by the first Monday of each month. This gives flexibility for parents to work around commitments and also minimises any session cancellations due to the availability of staff.

Payment will ideally be made by bank transfer to the Star Learners account number provided on the booking forms. Cheques made payable to 'Star Learners Limited' are also acceptable and there is a card reader in the Star Learners office for parent convenience.

There will be a charge for non-attendance if less than 24 hours' notice is given that a student will not be attending their session. The tutors will already have spent time planning the lesson and resources based on the students they were expecting to ensure the lessons are bespoke.

If a child is unable to attend for a number of sessions but parents wish to reserve their place, we do ask that parents pay a reservation fee of 50% of the session costs. This guarantees that the place can be held for up to 4 weeks. For reservation any longer than 4 weeks, please speak to a member of the Star Learners Team.

Behaviour

Our Star Learners family is built upon mutual respect, positivity and a shared love of learning. It is expected that all children and adults support the nurturing environment by being mindful of each other, listening to each other and respecting our similarities and differences. If any Star Learner is unable to behave in a kind and courteous way towards

their peers, adults or their environment then Star Learners staff have the right to cancel any future sessions for that child. We appreciate that all children are different and will be treated as individuals on their own learning path, but all children have a right to learn in a safe and secure environment.

Social media

At Star Learners we have access to various social media platforms including our website, Facebook and Instagram to name but a few. We would love to share celebrations and achievements of our Star Learners, but we require your permission to do so. Our Photo Permissions Form outlines how you would like us to use your child's name, image etc (or not) on our various platforms. Please ensure you have completed this to allow us to use information about your child in a safe way.

Data Protection

We ask for certain information regarding your child when you complete your admissions information. This data is kept securely and only used for Star Learners purposes. Only Star Learners staff will have access to information about your child and your family. All sensitive paperwork is kept in a locked cabinet and computer systems are password protected. We will not share any information with a third party without first asking your permission.

For further information, please ask for a copy of our Data Protection Policy Statement.

What does my child need to bring?

It is essential that your child brings a full water bottle to enable them to stay hydrated. They can bring a nut free snack if staying for more than one session.

Please bring along folders, reading books, homework given out in a previous session. There will be a set place for your child to put this in the learning room.

Cloakroom pegs are available for coats and bags.

We hope this has provided you with some helpful information. This will be updated regularly, but if you have any questions or feel that it can be improved, or added to in any way, please do not hesitate to contact a member of Star Learners staff.

Many thanks,

Clare Grehan