



**Rossmere
Academy**
ENRICHING EDUCATION

Lion Cubs

Lion Cubs is a class within Rossmere Academy that supports young children with additional needs to access a bespoke curriculum within a mainstream setting.



Meeting Needs

Children who already attend Rossmere Academy may be offered a chance to join Lion Cubs if they:

- Are struggling to communicate (they don't use words yet or follow verbal instructions)
- Are taking longer than usual to be 'ready for school' (they find sitting, listening and participating tricky)
- Have sensory needs that could put them at risk in a busy classroom (they explore by putting things in their mouth or enjoy climbing with no awareness of safety)
- Are struggling to engage with adults or children (they don't respond to their name or to what is happening around them)
- Already have a diagnosis of Autism or Developmental Delay or are undergoing assessment.
- Are on the SEND register and either already have an EHCP (or are in the process of being assessed for an EHCP)

This list is not definitive - there may be other reasons why staff at Rossmere Academy feel your child may benefit from being part of this class.



Class Organisation

Staffing

Lion Cubs are taught by a full time teacher and two learning coaches who are experienced at working with young children with a range of additional needs. Children will also access outdoor child initiated play alongside staff and children from Reception, so will get to know other staff too.

Pathway

Each child follows a bespoke pathway that will be decided at regular reviews. Parents will be part of the decision making:

- Remaining full time in Lion Cubs
- Joining a mainstream class part time
- Returning full time to a mainstream class
- Transferring to Specialist Provision

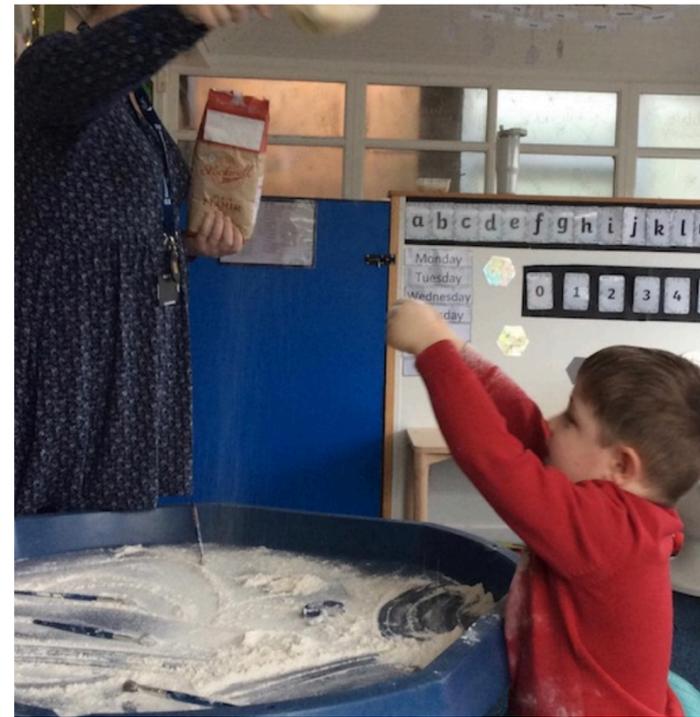


Curriculum

Every day will follow the same timetable so that the children learn the routine:

- Sensory Play
- Phonics / Communication
- Playing and learning with Reception
- Snack time
- Maths
- Lunchtime with Key Stage 1
- Sensory Play
- Playing and learning with Reception
- Storytime / music
- Hometime

This is a similar timetable to Reception, covering core curriculum areas. This will make it easier for a child to reintegrate into a mainstream class.



Learning objectives will follow recommendations from specialists (SALT, Small Steps) and the EYFS curriculum.

Every child will be assessed regularly and will work towards personalised targets.

Assessment and progress towards targets will be shared with parents regularly and also at EHCP reviews.

Working With Parents

We recognise that when a child has additional needs, this can place parents under a lot of stress as they try to navigate the different specialists, available support and create a routine so that their child can make progress.

We work in partnership with parents by inviting them to join their child in the classroom on a regular basis, inviting them to regular update meetings (in addition to EHCP reviews) and offer a support network of other parents and school staff.

Parents will be able to talk to key staff at drop off and pick up times and by messaging on Class Dojo.

Parents will be invited to accompany their children to certain events and trips throughout the year.



Classroom and Resources

Classroom

Lion Cubs classroom is on the ground floor with a door out into the Early Years garden area. Children are dropped off and collected from the classroom. There is a toilet and changing area.

This is a large, airy and bright room that will have all the equipment, resources and furniture that is recommended for the children.



Resources

The classroom is designed to replicate a reception classroom with table top activities, sand and water play, a group table for lessons and areas for children to choose their activity. We use 'cause and effect' toys to engage children in learning, alongside their own personal interests.

To support children in self-regulation there are cushions to bounce on, tents to hide in and sensory toys to soothe.

Resources will all be safe for the children in the class so that they can move and explore independently.

Outdoor play is encouraged, and children will access play opportunities suitable for reception and nursery children.

Key Staff

Classroom Staff

Rachael Hodgson -
Teacher



Becky Emmerson -
Learning Coach



Jo Anderson -
Learning Coach



Other Key Staff

Paula Hassan -
SENDCo



Rachel Jukes -
Parent Support

