

## Our school and Thrive

We are excited to tell you about a new programme that we are introducing into school to support the emotional and social development of all of our children. Thrive is becoming widely used in Devon as well as many other parts of the UK because it has been so successful in helping children who have difficulty learning to get back on track. Some of our staff are undertaking Thrive training over the next few months. The reason we like using the Thrive approach is that it is the first training that has really helped us to understand why children behave in the ways they do.

The approach is based on the most up-to-date knowledge about the way our brains develop, about child development and attachment issues and it strongly promotes the use of creativity and the arts.

Central to the programme is a computer programme that helps us, alongside families, to identify any 'interruption' in a child's emotional and social development. It gives us clear, simple strategies to use with the child to support them to do the emotional learning that may have been missed. If these strategies are used repeatedly at home and at school, they will accelerate brain development and help the child with relationships and their learning.

We have lots of programmes or so-called 'interventions' at school that we use to help those children who are struggling with curriculum areas such as reading, writing or maths. Thrive is the programme we use to help us improve children's emotional and social development. You may see improvements in their confidence, their friendships and their behaviour as well as their interest in learning at school.

There are all sorts of unavoidable things that happen in family life that can affect and sometimes slow down a child's readiness to learn. These might include bereavement, moving to live in a new place, family illness, separation, a frightening accident...or sometimes a child might have an anxiety about something that to us seems small but to the child seems very big. Thrive gives us lots of strategies for helping a child through these difficulties and traumas.

Parents will be invited to help plan the best possible programme for their child. Sometimes this will include individual and / or small group work.

Do come to talk to us about Thrive- we think you will find it interesting.

