

### **Why is it important to teach Art and Design?**

At North Road, we believe that this visual language allows children to communicate their inner thoughts and feelings with no limitations.

Through Art, children of all abilities can explore their creativity and imagination using a range of media. Research has found that art is a therapeutic experience for many; enabling children to express themselves as well as promoting physical co-ordination and wellbeing.

### **Events and learning opportunities**

North Road have benefited from the support of 'The Arts Society', including a visit from a local artist, whom has painted murals on our playground with the pupils.

We form links with our local community in order to provide creative experiences for our pupils, for example a community art day supported by Marks and Spencer to create large scale artwork for the school playground.

At North Road, we plan creative experiences to launch the termly learning focus. Every term, all pupils have the opportunity to take part in a whole school art project. Themes for each project are chosen to incorporate our school values. To celebrate and share pupils creativity, their work is displayed within the local community, such as the local library, leisure centre and post office. Pupils also receive a certificate and small prize to acknowledge their hard work.

During the year, we offer an art club for pupils of all ages. To support our work on wellbeing, pupils are currently enjoying a weekly mindfulness colouring club.

North Road has a dedicated team the 'Friends of North Road'. These volunteers lead craft activities throughout the year, for example creating crafts to sell at our Christmas Craft Shop.

### **What does Art and Design look like at North Road?**

The Art curriculum at North Road is planned and resourced to coincide and enrich the termly learning focus. The skills and knowledge that children develop throughout each art topic are mapped across each year group and throughout the school to ensure progression.

The emphasis on knowledge ensures that children understand the context of the artwork, as well as the artists that they are learning about and being inspired by. A similar focus on skills means that children are given opportunities to express their creative imagination, as well as practise and develop the key techniques of art.

Classroom displays reflect the children's sense of pride in their artwork and this is also demonstrated by creative work across the wider curriculum. The school environment also celebrates children's achievements in art and demonstrates the subject's importance at North Road, both in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

### **What our children say.....**

"Art helps you to think practically, you learn useful skills for future jobs like being an illustrator, artist or architect."

"I like taking part in the art projects. You have lots of time at home to complete the challenge and when you have finished, it is displayed and you get a certificate, then you can feel proud."

"Our paintings make the classroom look even better, they make it colourful and bright."

"Art is good for the brain, it is relaxing, so I look forward to art lessons."