

Inspiring Children for Five Years



Premier League
**Primary
Stars**





Changing young people's lives through football

Five years of Premier League Primary Stars

Launched in 2017, Premier League Primary Stars uses the appeal of the Premier League and professional football clubs to improve and enhance physical education (PE) and other curriculum areas, developing skills and values that are crucial to success in later life.

The programme, delivered by the Premier League Charitable Fund, provides primary schools in England and Wales with free digital resources and content to help bring learning to life through PE, PSHE, Maths and English. These resources can be complemented by educational sessions delivered by staff from over 100 professional Football Club Community Organisations in local partner schools.

Five years on, this report celebrates the difference that the programme has made, and continues to make, to the lives, learning and futures of thousands of teachers, children and families in England and Wales. It includes data from a survey completed by teachers and interviews with teachers, pupils and parents conducted in Summer 2021.



Inspiring schools across England and Wales

'Premier League Primary Stars has had a huge impact on myself as a teacher as it has provided me with subject knowledge along with engaging ways to teach the children valuable life skills. The pupils in my class can all relate to the wonderful resources and information through sport and are able to make excellent connections in all areas of their learning.'

Year 4 teacher, South West

'It's creative, inspiring, and sets lots of wonderful challenges that children can participate in. It gives them confidence, reassurance that they're still learning, that they've got the capacity to learn and are connected.'

Parent of two primary school children, South East, on home learning resources

Reached more than

84%

of primary schools in England and Wales (over 18,000 schools)

53k

teachers are registered with Premier League Primary Stars

More than

1.3m

visits to the Premier League Primary Stars website

57k+

entries to the Premier League Writing Stars competition (running since 2017)

97%

of teachers are satisfied with Premier League Primary Stars resources

Making a difference

Helping pupils to learn and be active



91%

of teachers believe that Premier League Primary Stars has increased their pupils' enjoyment of sport and physical activity

80%

of teachers involved say that Premier League Primary Stars has helped them to deliver PE or School Sport, or other curriculum activities, in a Covid-friendly way this year

Premier League Primary Stars offers an array of digital resources, complemented by club-led activity, to help teachers to increase children's enjoyment, participation and skills in sports and physical activity.

Max is a PE coordinator at a small rural primary school for pupils with autism. His pupils found PE lessons difficult but a teacher friend recommended Premier League Primary Stars to him.

'Someone I knew said 'just go on Primary Stars, it's wicked' and yes, I use it for everything now really.'

Since he started using Premier League Primary Stars resources, his pupils have found PE lessons more exciting, engaging and better suited to their needs.

'It allows them to do PE lessons and not be worried about it. And they don't come to the lessons really anxious or really panicky, they come with a big smile on their face and ready to do whatever.'

Teaching new skills and knowledge

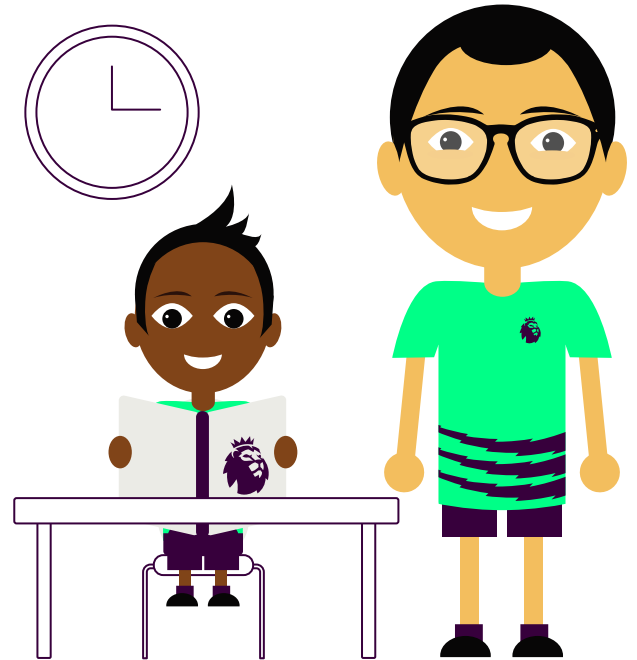
The Premier League Primary Stars website offers lesson plans, activities, planning tools and special initiatives. These help teachers engage children in English, maths and PSHE through the appeal of football and develop teachers' knowledge, understanding and skills in delivering high-quality PE lessons.

Susie, an assistant headteacher at a small primary school in the South East, was attracted to the Premier League Primary Stars programme four years ago because of the quality of the Maths resources.

'I'm the Maths lead at the school, so I was looking for additional resources to grow our enthusiasm for Maths, and they've (Premier League Primary Stars) produced a number of things that support Maths very well.'

She has used Premier League Primary Stars resources to enhance her own knowledge of delivering PE.

'I wouldn't say I was a PE professional...it's actually very helpful to find resources that can support you in the delivery of that in an enthusiastic way.'



'When it's not your specialist area, you're looking for resources that are very accessible, things that are going to deliver very easily, but you know that are covering the curriculum as well.'

79%

of teachers say that Premier League Primary Stars has improved their skills in teaching PE and School Sport

85%

of teachers think that taking part in Premier League Primary Stars has improved their children's physical literacy skills

79%

of teachers say that Premier League Primary Stars resources have a positive impact on children's enjoyment of learning Maths or English



'The Reading Stars Intervention programme, we use that with our Year 6 children. They love it and it really engages the children...they do tend to make good progress as well so it does have a positive impact on their reading results.'

English lead, primary school, West Midlands

Inspiring children to learn



Premier League Primary Stars uses the appeal of the Premier League, its players and professional football clubs to enhance children's interest in and enjoyment of key curriculum areas, including PE, PSHE, Maths and English. We work with subject experts and partners, such as the National Literacy Trust, to develop engaging and appropriate resources.

Steve is a Year 5 teacher in a large primary school in an area of high deprivation in the North West.

'We've got some reluctant learners who are people that we need to chase up more regularly than others, but they'd always make sure that if there was something that included any link to the Primary Stars, that they're involved in it. Because it's Premier League oriented, they have that little bit more engagement with it (the lesson).'

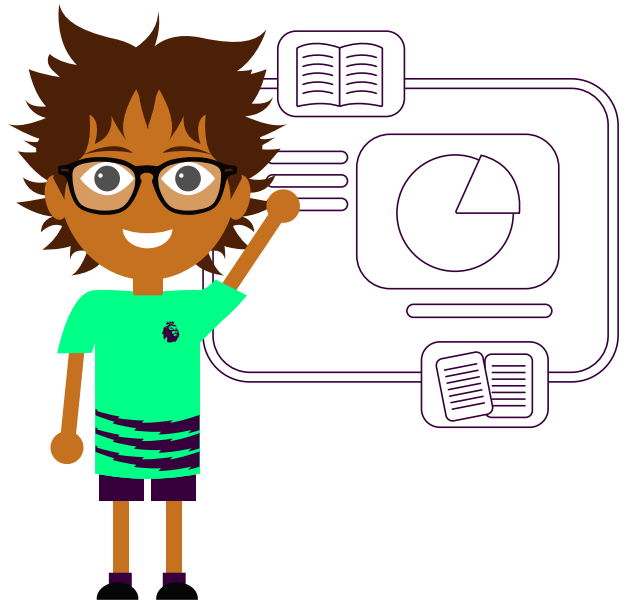
He says Premier League Primary Stars resources have given him 'better ideas and a wider range of activities... that are already ingrained into my teaching now.'

Ali, a PE lead in a primary school in London, uses the Premier League Primary Stars Class Values pack to motivate and reward pupils.

'The Premier League sent us these cards with different words on them, along with stickers. It was things like, are they ambitious? Are they resilient? So it was quite nice for me, being a PE lead, to move around and be like, in the lesson, 'You know what, you deserve that card, and that sticker, because I've seen you do X, Y and Z.'

Ali thinks these help pupils feel valued. 'Especially in the school that I'm in... sometimes they just need to be shown a bit of love and a bit of appreciation. They don't always have the best home lives. And something as simple as a sticker, or a card, or something to just show them, 'Look, I see you. I notice what you're doing.' It really means a lot to them.'

Increasing pupil and teacher confidence



Our content is designed to improve children's confidence in their own abilities in PE, PSHE, Maths and English, and engage them in fun and inspiring ways.

Shelly lives in Wales with her 10-year-old daughter, Grace. Shelly used Premier League Primary Stars 'because they were interested in the child's wellbeing as well as their educational development.'

Grace's favourite activity was the Premier League Primary Stars poetry challenge and she enjoyed writing about 'what the lockdown meant to her and what it meant to her not being able to see her friends.'

Grace's school rewarded her efforts with a book from the Premier League, featuring poems from previous Premier League Writing Stars winners. Grace reads this book 'over and over again' and is 'so impressed and inspired by the quality of the poems.'

'She went, "Well, that's pretty good. They (the school) chose my poem, that's amazing, I can't be that bad at English." So for her confidence it was amazing.'

Grace herself agrees. 'It did make me go, "Okay, maybe I should write a few more poems. Maybe I am good at this, maybe I am special at writing this and I enjoy it."

Now, Grace reads even more.

65%

of teachers agree that taking part in Premier League Primary Stars has improved children's confidence in maths

79%

of teachers agree Premier League Primary Stars has increased children's enjoyment of learning English and maths

'That totally inspired her to go, "Okay, I'm going to read more."' 'She started reading poetry, where she never really read poetry before.'



Improving wellbeing

We are committed to creating content and opportunities that enhance children’s physical and mental wellbeing. Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children’s attendance at school and interaction with their peers, this has been a strong focus during the 2020/21 school year.

Sharon is a teacher in a large primary school in an area of Yorkshire with high levels of deprivation. Sharon participated in the Premier League Wellbeing Stars challenge with her class after lockdown in 2021. She shared resources and videos with her pupils, asking them to use these as inspiration to make someone happier.

‘It really drew out that empathy and the kindness and understanding, and just, rather than thinking about ourselves, thinking about other people, and making the world a nicer place...’

The response and the activities children chose to do included writing letters to local care home residents, building a new pond and leaving rocks with positive messages on them around their community.

‘It’s ingrained empathy and compassion in these kids to want to go and do more, and just do that!’

Aya, age 9, agrees. ‘First it’s fun and secondly you’re helping out other people to make their day a little bit better so it’s like a win-win because you feel happy while doing it and you’re making someone else feel happy.’

79%

of teachers think pupils have a better understanding of how to look after their wellbeing after taking part in Premier League Primary Stars.

'They're seeing that these footballers are having to deal with this and that some children growing up might deal with similar situations. It's like how best to handle it. Also, what would you do if you see a situation like that or if you have friends or family that are participating in that kind of negative behaviour.'

Ali, a teacher in London on 'No Room for Racism' resources



To be a good ally to others I will... HELP others when they are hurt and they can always lean on me.



72%

of teachers think their pupils understand more about how to challenge prejudice and discrimination, as a result of taking part in Premier League Primary Stars



Helping young people to work with and respect others

We are committed to building stronger communities where everyone is treated equally and has the opportunity to achieve their potential. We offer resources which help teachers to address themes such as diversity and inclusion, anti-discrimination, respect and being kind to others.

Ahfaz is a primary school teacher in a city in the Midlands with a large number of nationalities and different languages. He used the 'Rainbow Laces' resources, focused on the detrimental effects of gender stereotyping, and the 'No Room for Racism' pack, which teaches about the impacts of racism and allyship.



'I thought the inclusive thing to coincide with Pride was really useful. I don't think there's much out there to support it but the way that Primary Stars did it with the inclusive rainbow activities, that was a really good introduction for the children.'

Ahfaz feels teaching these topics was valuable for pupils, and for him as a teacher.

'It's enthused me a lot more because it's a change from the usual and it gives purpose to what you're teaching. You can be talking about fronted adverbials and past progressive terms to death with the kids and you yourself are thinking like, 'This is not going to change their lives or impact.' Whilst talking about allyship, I mean, I bet years from now they'll look back upon that, what they did with us on this topic. But, yes, I find it really useful for them, to grow into model citizens of the future.'

Supporting learning during a challenging year

66%

of teachers used Premier League Primary Stars resources to support parents and children with home learning during the Covid-19 pandemic

The 2020/21 school year has been disruptive and challenging for teachers, children and families, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We adapted our offer, providing content that could be used by teachers and parents to support home-learning or to support the delivery of activity, including PE, in line with Covid-19 restrictions.

Alex is a parent of a 9-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl, living on the South coast, who discovered the Premier League Primary Stars website while looking for home learning resources during lockdown. Alex found the maths resources particularly helpful because the children were learning and improving their skills whilst having fun with the interactive games and gaining a sense of achievement.

'It really brought maths to life and it was really engaging for the kids and it really brought an interest...'

Alex felt support from the resources during the challenging time of balancing home-learning and work.

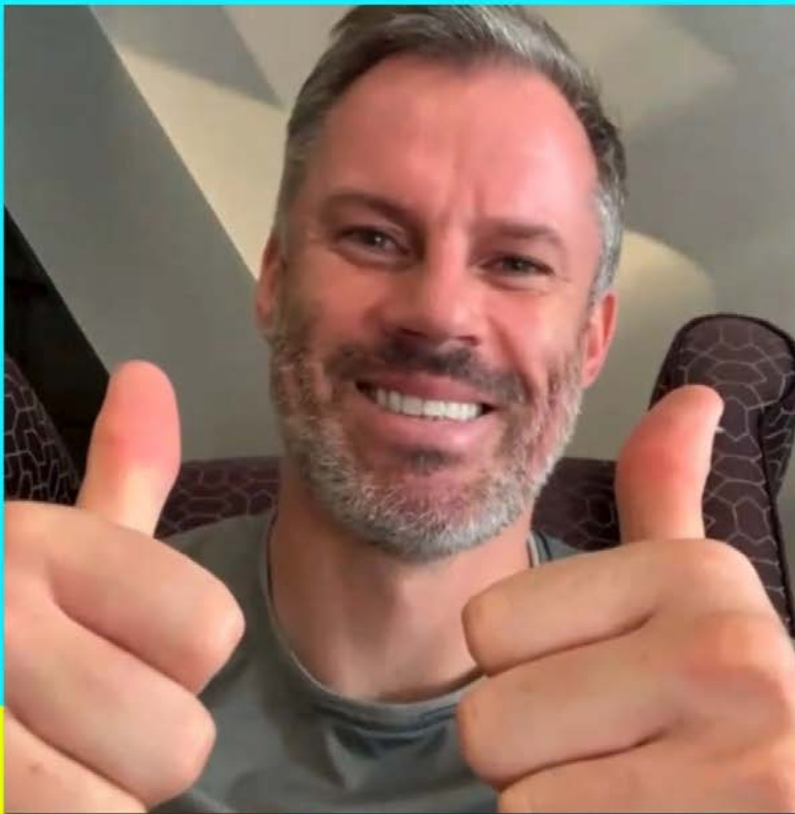
'It certainly helped me, my wellbeing, because it helped with their home learning and it was probably one of the toughest things I've ever done. But it brought on their maths skills... that alone brings confidence and you know, a sense of achievement whilst also having some fun with gaming so yes, it hit the nail on the head for me.'

Sharon, a teacher in Yorkshire, used Premier League Primary Stars resources to encourage a pupil to participate in home learning.

'There was a boy in lockdown...and he wouldn't do any work. He's a massive football fan. It ended up where I thought I need to channel something for this kid and I had to do weekly home visits. I would take him a pack of Premier League Primary Stars materials. I did loads of stuff, just activities and broke it down for him. Two a day. I'd drop them off at his house and then I'd collect the other work and mark it. He actually did the work every single week, because it was sports-related.'

My Wellbeing Week

I want to help...	I will help by...	Task complete?
My Mum because she looks after me, feeds me, clothes me and loves me.	Making her breakfast.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The postman because despite the pandemic he still delivers the mail everyday and is always cheerful.	Sticking a note on the door saying thank you.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The people on my street because we are all stuck in our houses more and more people are lonely.	Painting decorative rocks (pictures or words) and placing them outside the house for others to admire.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

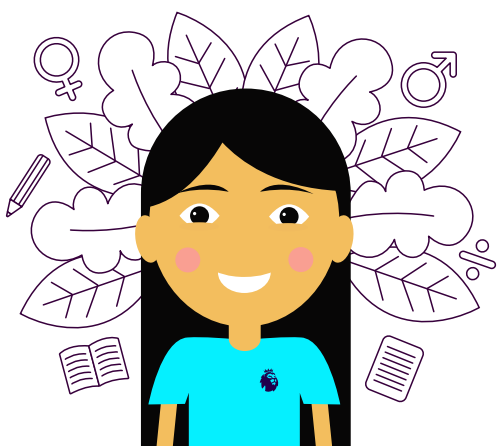


'It really brought maths to life and it was really engaging for the kids and it really brought an interest..'

Alex, parent



Inspiring and educating the next generation



We are excited about the future and how we can continue to support teaching and learning in primary schools across England and Wales, and help children to achieve their potential.

Our survey found that the top three themes that teachers would like Premier League Primary Stars to focus on in the future are mental health and wellbeing, developing children’s resilience, and equality, diversity and inclusion.

We have listened and, over the coming months, we will be adding new content focused on physical and mental wellbeing, anti-discrimination and inclusive PE delivery. We’re committed to working with teachers and subject leads to develop content and resources. We will also be launching our new Maths ‘Season stats dashboard’ and a new writing intervention programme. Keep an eye on [PLPrimaryStars.com](https://www.plprimarystars.com) to find out more.



And finally, thank you...

....to all of the teachers, parents and coaches who use, or have used Premier League Primary Stars, over the last five years and have helped us to make a difference to the lives of young people.

....to all of our Premier League Primary Stars partners including the National Literacy Trust, PSHE Association, BBC, The Football Association, Sky and Stonewall.

....to all of the teachers, young people and parents who participated in interviews and surveys in Summer 2021 to provide feedback on the impact of Premier League Primary Stars.

The Premier League Primary Stars programme is run by the Premier League Charitable Fund, working with the Premier League and professional clubs. EVERFI, their education partner, works with the Premier League Charitable Fund to create and deliver the programme.

Data gathered from 248 teachers surveyed 5-28 July 2021. Quotes from interviews with teachers, parents and students, 28 June - 30 July 2021. The names of people quoted have been changed.



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