

Little Heath Primary School



Prospectus

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Welcome

This brochure is intended to help you know more about our school, its organisation and the way we will care for and educate your children. Our generous sized classrooms and outdoor facilities give us the opportunity to provide an exciting, stimulating and secure environment in which all children can grow in knowledge, skills and understanding. The transition from home to school is one of the most important events in a child's life. We believe that partnership and regular communication between home and school is essential for the all round development of the children and we will constantly be working to strengthen this partnership. We are very proud of our school and hope that both you and your children will take pride in being part of it.

The School

Little Heath School is a co-educational Primary School in Hertfordshire with one form entry. The school was originally established as a parochial school, by the Vicar of North Mymms, in November 1884. In 1908 the School came under the control of Hertfordshire Local Education Authority and moved into what we now think of as our 'old' building. New buildings were added in 1971 and 1997 and a foundation unit was opened in 1998. The School assumed Foundation Status on 1st September 1999. Accommodation now comprises a foundation unit, seven classrooms, an assembly hall/gym, dining hall, music room and purpose built ICT suite. The school has attractive grounds, with three playgrounds, and a large field backing on to greenbelt.

Organisation

The school is organised into eight classes – from nursery through to year six. This covers the Foundation Stage and Key Stages One and Two. Children of all abilities are catered for in classes of a maximum of thirty. There are arrangements for children with special educational needs to be given additional learning support. Each class has a designated full time class teacher. The teachers and teaching assistants support each other in Key Stage teams to plan, monitor and evaluate the curriculum. They maintain good order and a stimulating environment within which the children will learn.

Our Aims

In Autumn 2015 the staff and governors revised our school aims. These are shown below in 'adult speak'. The children also met in friendship groups and devised their own aims. These are shown in italics and are in 'child speak'.

In everything we do we aim to to do our best.

The school aims to:-

Help us get better at doing lots of things and learn with passion

create a learning community where all members have high standards and expectations and have equality of opportunity to gain maximum personal achievement, through the provision of a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum

Give us the chance to try out and learn about new things and help us become independent

create a stimulating and challenging environment, where children with enquiring, imaginative and creative minds become independent learners

Make us feel confident and good about ourselves and to be happy in all our subjects so that when we are older we can get a job we enjoy

create a community which enables children to develop self-awareness and self-esteem, so that they grow as confident, articulate and responsible individuals, who are able to achieve fulfilment and economic well being

Provide somewhere where we feel happy and safe to learn

provide a secure, safe and welcoming environment for all in the school community, where the motivation to learn is enhanced by the partnership between home and school

Help us understand and respect people who have different beliefs and ways of life to us

foster in each child respect and care for one another and the world around them and an understanding of other races, religions and ways of life.

'Never give up on your dream'

Admissions

The Governing Body is responsible for the allocation of places at the Nursery and the School. They will admit up to thirty pupils in each class. Applications for Nursery and Reception places should be received by the Governing Body, in accordance with the HCC timetable set out in the County forms. Late applications will only be considered after all other applicants have been dealt with. Children wishing to enter the school in other year groups will be admitted if there is an available place. Please refer to our separate sheet for current admissions rules.

Inclusion

Children develop at different rates and some have more difficulty than others in coping with certain skills and curriculum areas. We usually provide support within class situations but there will be times when children are withdrawn for specialist support. We also receive support from learning support services such as our attached Educational Psychologist. The school policy for Special Educational Needs is available on request and a summary is included in this pack.

Transfer to Secondary Schools

Children from Little Heath transfer to secondary education at the end of Year 6. They move on to a variety of different schools.

Equality of Opportunity

We are committed to equality of opportunity. By this we mean that all children should have equal access to the whole curriculum and the general life of the school, with due regard given to issues of race, gender, culture, age, class, language, ability or disability. We value the uniqueness of individuals, the discussion of others' perspectives, the development of understanding and respect for others and the underlying humanity that we all share. We are opposed to all forms of discriminatory, racist or sexist language or behaviour. Any incident of discrimination is openly and quickly investigated. We have clearly identified procedures for dealing with such matters.

Teaching Time

The nursery provides flexible provision from 8.45 -3.00 daily. If parents require extra hours over the 15 hours provided free by the government they are charged at £5.50 per hour. We are also able to offer the 30 free hours to parents who are eligible for them. In line with guidelines from the DfES, 21.5 hours of teaching time in KS1 and 23.75 hours in KS2 are provided each week. These hours do not include morning playtime, lunchtime, assembly or registration time. Key Stage One has an additional 10 minute playtime in the afternoon.

Learning Styles

Everybody has their own preferred learning styles and at Little Heath we aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn in a way which they find most productive. We recognise that some children will learn better when the content is visual, whilst others like to be active or to engage in listening and dialogue. Our teaching is carefully planned to ensure a variety of approaches to suit all children. Lessons take the form of whole class teaching, group work, paired and individual work. Children are encouraged to present their work in a variety of ways, such as written, pictorial, spoken, and acted out. Problem solving and creative thinking is particularly encouraged.

The School Day

Nursery: 8.45a.m. - 3.00pm. (Flexible provision is on offer in the nursery).

School: Morning session 8.50am to 12.00pm (12.05 for KS2)

Afternoon session 1.15pm- 3.10pm (3.20 for KS2)

Children arrive at school from 8.40a.m. They remain in the fenced playground area outside the school office until the inner gates are opened. They then make their way round to their classroom. Parents of KS2 pupils collect their children from the same area at the end of day and KS1 parents collect their children from the KS1 playground.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Teachers are continually assessing children's individual educational needs and achievement across the curriculum. They meet regularly to compare and moderate samples of work from different classes. This enables them to make consistent judgements of children's attainment levels in relation to the National Curriculum and to plan appropriate work for each child. Pupil progress is carefully tracked and monitored. Children are constantly encouraged to do their best, to review their own progress and their efforts are given recognition. Annual reports are written for parents in the middle of the spring term, which give an assessment of the overall development of their child. Children in Year 2 are teacher assessed but do take KS1 tests to support these assessments and Year 6 take end of Key Stage tests in English and maths. End of Key Stage 2 tests are reported to parents and published in National League Tables.

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages; Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception), Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6). National Curriculum guidelines are the basis of our curriculum. Religious education is also taught at KS1&2 as well as Spanish in KS2. The planned curriculum is intended to develop the children's knowledge, skills, experience, imagination and self-confidence. They are encouraged to be independent in their learning, but also to be part of the school community to which they can make their own contribution. Teaching methods vary according to the child's needs, available resources and the learning objectives. We aim to match work as closely as possible to the child's attainment level while providing realistic challenges.

Foundation Stage

The curriculum for the Foundation Stage underpins all future learning by supporting, fostering and promoting children's development in six areas:- personal, social and emotional, communication, language and literacy, mathematical, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical, and creative. Young children will have a wide range of different experiences, skills and interests when they join our nursery or reception class. They are given a well planned and resourced curriculum to take their learning forward and many opportunities to succeed, in an atmosphere of care and feeling valued. Parents are children's first educators and we work closely with them in the foundation years in order to have a positive impact on the child's development and learning.

The following curriculum information applies to Key Stages 1 and 2

Mathematics

Mathematics is taught in all classes daily and follows the guidance set out in the National Curriculum. Mental arithmetic, computational skills and problem solving are covered.

English

We seek, to ensure that all children are offered the opportunity to become:

Competent speakers

Active and sensitive listeners

Writers, who are able to respond to differing demands of purpose and audience

Readers, who can use books for pleasure, information and instruction

Structured schemes of work ensure continuity and progression, thereby offering our pupils the ability to acquire the very necessary skills and knowledge in this curriculum area. Language, Literacy and Communication is introduced to children at Foundation Stage and taught in all Key Stage 1 and 2 classes for at least an hour a day.

Science

Science assists children to develop a more informed understanding of the world around them. We emphasize the practical application of knowledge and aim to build on their natural curiosity, encouraging them to observe, make predictions, form a hypothesis, plan and carry out investigations and experiments. Our schemes of work for Science primarily follows the programmes of study specified in the National Curriculum.

Design Technology

This subject stimulates original thinking and encourages the children to be inventive in designing practical solutions to problems. The children learn to work with a variety of materials including wood, clay, textiles and food.

Computing

The school has a purpose built computer suite which all children have access to on a regular basis and computer skills are taught throughout the school. The use of ICT is integral to subjects across the curriculum. Laptop computers, interactive whiteboards, roamers, digital cameras, iPads and projectors are also used to enhance the children's learning. The school has received the ICT Mark, an award for excellence in ICT.

Spanish

Children learn to speak Spanish in KS2. The aim is to encourage the children to enjoy learning another language through a variety of oral activities, games and songs. The teacher familiarises the children with some basic practical vocabulary, as well as helping them study aspects of life in France.

Geography

The geography curriculum explores the relationship between the Earth and its peoples, through the study of place, landscapes and the environment. We aim to widen the children's understanding of their own cultural roots and inheritance.

History

Our aim in teaching history is to give children a deeper understanding of the present in the context of the past, as well as increasing the knowledge and understanding of their own cultural roots and inheritance.

Art and Design

Our Art and Design provision gives children the opportunity to develop self-expression, imagination and creativity through practical exploration of methods, skills, techniques and media. Pupils are also encouraged to develop an understanding of different kinds of work by a variety of artists.

Music

We wish to foster a love for music through listening, composing and performing, as well as appreciating different types and styles of music. Through the expertise of our specialist music teacher, all children have the opportunity to sing and play a range of instruments. Individual music tuition is offered through a company called Musicale. We have a choir and put on musical performances each year.

Physical Education

Children are taught a variety of games and associated skills as well as aspects of dance, gymnastics, and swimming in KS2. Our full time sports coach ensures that the children receive more than the average amount of time for physical education and high quality learning experiences. The development of individual skills and refining of ability form much of the content of P.E. lessons. The importance of teamwork and co-operation are stressed as positive goals set within the context of competition. There are many opportunities for extra-curricular activities and each year a sports day is held, which has a mixture of individual and team competitions.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship

This area of the curriculum is concerned with giving pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. The school has the National Healthy Schools standards award.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

The school follows the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E. which invites children to think about life, its purpose and the values that should guide us. The historical and cultural backgrounds of the major world faiths are studied. Collective worship takes place daily. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons, and collective worship, but we hope that all children will be able to take part. Where parents choose to withdraw their child we will ensure appropriate alternative activities are set.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is taught as part of PSHE or science in a structured and sensitive way. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from non-statutory lessons if they wish.

Home Learning

Home learning makes a positive contribution to a child's learning and is an integral part of the work of the school. We ask parents to work in partnership with us to ensure that homework is carried out conscientiously and under the best possible conditions. Specific homework details are provided on a separate sheet.

Extra Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are very important to the ethos of the school. The activities are offered by teachers, parents and our full time sports coach and part time music specialist. We run a variety of clubs and teams, such as badminton, art, netball, cricket, football, rounders, chess and choir. Children take part in residential and non-residential educational visits, school productions, concerts and class assemblies during the year.

Policies and Procedures

Home School Agreements

The school asks all parents to sign our Home School Agreement which defines the respective responsibilities. Parents are given the opportunity to take a full part in the school.

Smoking

Little Heath School has a no smoking policy. We respectfully ask parents and visitors not to smoke on the school site. (this includes e-cigarettes as well.)

Children's Behaviour

The school places high priority on good manners and sensible behaviour. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. There are clear rules that are brought to the attention of parents and pupils. Inappropriate behaviour is dealt with firmly and consistently in line with our Behaviour and Discipline policy.

Bicycles

Children may bring bicycles to school but must wear a helmet. Children leave bikes in the bicycle shed.

School Uniform

All children are required to wear school uniform that is both simple and practical. Children are encouraged to look neat and take pride in their appearance. Details of school uniform requirements are provided on a separate sheet.

School Meals

Children from Nursery class onwards may have school dinners in the dining hall. There is a varied menu that is carefully designed for healthy eating. As an alternative, children may bring a packed lunch. Many children in the Foundation Stage and KS1 have milk in the morning and free fruit is provided for them daily. Parents are informed of the cost of meals and milk towards the end of the previous term.

Parent Teacher Association

The school's PTA is very strong, raising thousands of pounds annually for the school. Members work hard but have a lot of fun too.

Lost Property

Parents are asked to mark personal items with their child's name. Articles found with no name on will be put in the lost property bin. Parents should ask their children to check over several days to see if a lost item has turned up, as items may not be handed in immediately. Unclaimed items are displayed, before being disposed of termly.

Policy on Charging for School Activities

We follow Government regulations which set out the circumstances where schools may charge parents for trips and other school activities. The detailed provisions are specified in the school's Charging and Remissions policy. We may ask parents to pay for the following:-

Materials used in Design and Technology and ingredients used in food technology, where the finished product will be taken home by the pupils. This is provided parents have indicated their wish in advance to have the finished product

The cost of residential trips taking place during school hours

All costs for non-residential trips taking place during school hours

Optional music tuition and the hire of school instruments.

We offer many opportunities to enrich children's learning such as visits, travelling theatre companies, swimming and arts workshops. Parents are usually asked to make a voluntary contribution towards such activities.

Dogs

With the exception of guide dogs for the visually impaired, dogs may not be brought on to the site .

Complaints Procedure

In case of a complaint, parents are urged initially to talk to their child's class teacher. If the matter cannot be resolved they may refer the issue to the head teacher or deputy head. If it cannot be dealt with at this level, parents have the opportunity to follow the Complaints Procedure which is available from the school website.

Health and Safety

The school can administer prescription medication to pupils but parents must fill in a consent form or staff will not be allowed to administer it to the pupil. Any child who is unwell before the start of school should be kept at home for at least 24 hours.

Availability of Documentation

All and school policies are available for parents to view on the school website. National curriculum documentation is available from the school.

Enclosures.

This publication is part of a pack. The pack should include the following information:-

Current term and holiday dates

The school day

School rules

Home learning policy

Uniform list

Admissions criteria