



# Ethelbert Road Primary School School Brochure



Making Learning Magical

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ethelbert Road Primary school's vision, values and ethos are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an enriched environment which prepares our pupils as confident, creative and curious citizens. We believe that everyone in our community can be the best they can be if we all work together. We aim to enable every individual regardless of ability to achieve their full potential, develop a love of learning, become good citizens and to prepare for future life. We aim to foster an enthusiastic, curious, creative community of learners (children, staff, parents and governors) who embrace challenge and have high expectations for themselves others. We will provide a safe and nurturing environment where everyone is celebrated, valued and treated with kindness and compassion.

As a school we know our commitment to the Arts and Sports helps foster creative, curious and confident learners who have a voice in their own learning and school life. We believe our children deserve a broad and balanced curriculum, where the Arts and Sport play an exciting and leading role in providing rich educational experiences for all our children. Our enriched, bespoke curriculum inspires, informs, stimulates, challenges and motivates our children to be the best they can be. Thus, raising academic achievement and allowing all our children to flourish.

At Ethelbert Road we celebrate our achievements, gifts and cultural diversity, irrespective of individual differences within the protected categories of the Equality Act of 2010. Together we take pride in making a positive contribution to our school and the wider community. We Aim to provide every child with access to a broad and balanced education. This includes the National Curriculum in line with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. We are committed to equality. We aim for every pupil to fulfil their potential no matter what their needs. Our School is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children and families.

Our schools 'Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Ready' ethos underpins everything that we do at Ethelbert Road Primary School. Our three rules run as a thread through our school's curriculum, can be seen in the characteristics of our staff and pupils and is evident in the way in which we interact with our local community. We believe that by being **safe, kind and ready** children who attend our school will:

- Develop a clear understanding of how to look after themselves physically, mentally and educationally.
- Learn how to display a positive attitude towards others in terms of their inclusive, respectful behaviours.

- Nurture a responsibility for caring for our environment locally, nationally and across the whole planet.
- Be ready to take part in all areas of school life, developing skills and knowledge in order to be successful
- at school and beyond.
- Develop the skills and knowledge they require in order to keep themselves and others safe in school,
- our community and online.

We hope you enjoy looking at our school brochure and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Michele Kirkbride

Headteacher



# Starting School

Starting school is an exciting time. At Ethelbert Road Primary School, we try to make the transition easy and enjoyable, for both parents and children. We understand the need for preparation and in addition to the pre-school afternoons we have planned a programme of integration in September to help your child cope with their new surroundings.

In order for the teachers to get to know all about your child we offer a staggered start in the first week.

Although we offer full time places to all children, some children, particularly the younger ones, really benefit from a gradual start for the first few weeks. If you feel your child would benefit from a gradual start, then please speak to the class teachers. Most children are usually full time by half term, but this is flexible and is arranged to suit the individual child.

## The School Day

School gates open at 08:35 and parents can wait in the playground with their child. The school bell will ring at 08:40 and the children enter the classrooms via the classroom doors.

The school day starts at: 08.45

Lunch: 11:45 – 13:00 for Year R and 12 noon – 13:00 for the rest of the school

Day Ends: 15.10 for Year R and 15:15 for the rest of the school

In Reception the children start their day with child initiated activities and gross motor skills on the playground. This helps the children settle and be ready for the days learning. In Key Stage 1 and 2 the children undertake Early Morning Work with the teacher. This gives him/her time to settle into the class before the register is taken and to catch up with any learning that they have not quite understood from the previous day. The register closes at 08.45. We would ask you to make every effort to see that your child attends school regularly and on time. Coming to school late can be very unsettling for a child.

Throughout the morning the children have the opportunity to have a drink, use the toilet and in Key Stage 1 the children will be offered fruit or vegetables as a snack. Key Stage 2 children may bring a healthy snack (no chocolate or sweets please). If your child requires something different due to medical needs or additional needs, then please do not hesitate to discuss this with our SENCo.

At lunchtime the children will enjoy either a balanced hot meal, provide by our caterers, or a packed lunch provided by home. The school menus can be found on our school website and are currently free of charge for children in the Infants (Year R, Year 1 and Year 2). After lunch the children enjoy activities in the playground and spending time playing with our older children, or their school Buddy. At 15:10 the Reception children will be handed over to parents/carers and the rest of the school leave at 15:15. Parents of children in Year R wait in the playground, by the gate, for the class teacher to dismiss their child. Children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are dismissed from their classroom doors (Year 4 from the playground). If

someone else is collecting your child, please let the office know. We will not hand a child over unless you have notified us of the change.

There may be things you would like to share with the teacher in the morning, so there will be teaching assistants and the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher/SENCo available in the playground who will be happy to pass over your message. If it is essential you speak to the teacher and a message can not be passed over, you can go around to the main school office and the staff will happily see if it is convenient for the teacher to leave the class for a few minutes.

## Top Tips to Help Your Child

- Arrive just before 8.45am so that if your child is anxious they do not have too much time to worry about going in and can walk in with their new friends.
- Help your child to become independent. Velcro shoes are great! They could practice getting dressed and putting on a coat.
- Name everything! We have lots of purple jumpers and many lunchboxes that are identical.
- Please let us know if you will not be collecting your child from school. It is our policy not to release a child to anyone if we do not know about it.
- Try to ensure that your child can cope with visits to the toilet. Please let us know if they are likely to encounter any problems and reassure your child that nobody will be cross if accidents do happen.
- Try to teach your child to use a knife and fork, even if they do have a packed lunch, it is a useful skill and helps them with their fine motor skills and handwriting.
- It also helps if your child can recognise his/her own name.
- We also encourage good manners and praise courtesy so it may be worthwhile to remind them at home of this.
- It is also a good idea to encourage your child to share and be prepared to take turns.
- Finally, and most important of all talk to your child about starting school so that they look forward to coming! You could show your child our school website, and our starting school video.

# The Early Years Foundation Stage

The current Foundation Stage Curriculum consists of the following areas of learning.

## PRIME AREAS

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development

These are crucial for developing children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

## SPECIFIC AREAS

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive arts and design

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ▶ Become self-confident and self-aware
- ▶ Make and build relationships
- ▶ Know what their own needs are
- ▶ Dress and undress independently
- ▶ Become independent
- ▶ Manage feelings and behavior - tell the difference between right and wrong.

### Working together



## Communication and Language

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ▶ Develop conversational skills in a rich language environment and in a range of situations
- ▶ Develop listening and concentration skills.
- ▶ Express themselves and understand and act on instructions given to them.

### Talking about stories



## Physical Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ▶ Understand about healthy development.
- ▶ Provides opportunities for using a range of large and small equipment.
- ▶ Develop a sense of space around themselves and others.
- ▶ Encourages balance.
- ▶ Develop practical skills such as dressing, undressing etc.
- ▶ Handle equipment and tools effectively including pencils for writing.
- ▶ Develop fine motor skills

### Coordination, balance and core strength



## Literacy

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

### Comprehension

- ▶ Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
- ▶ Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.
- ▶ Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, nonfiction, rhymes and poems and during role play

### Word Reading

- ▶ Link sounds and letters.
- ▶ Continue a rhyming string.
- ▶ Segment sounds in words and blend them.
- ▶ Read words and simple sentences.



### Writing-

- ▶ Encourages children to develop pencil control and to begin to draw and make patterns on paper.
- ▶ Communicate meaning through clearly identifiable letters.
- ▶ Write for a wide range of purpose- name, labels.



- ▶ Develop a love of books and language!

## Mathematical Development

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

### Number

- ▶ Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number.
- ▶ Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5.
- ▶ Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts



## Numerical Patterns

- ▶ Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system.
- ▶ Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.
- ▶ Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally



## Understanding of the World

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ▶ Gain an understanding of their world and the people in it.
- ▶ To look at changes over time. (History)
- ▶ To explore, observe and investigate their environment. (Science)
- ▶ To develop designing and making skills.



## Expressive Arts and Design

Developing learning in this area enables your child to:

- ▶ Inspires children to explore colour and colour changes.
- ▶ Helps them to explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques
- ▶ Experiment with colour, design, and textures
- ▶ Develop an interest in music, singing, music-making and dancing.
- ▶ Develop confidence and imagination.



# The Early Years Environment

The classrooms are carefully organised into areas which support the Foundation Stage Curriculum and so that the children can organise their work and play. Materials and resources are arranged so that they are accessible to the children and encourage them to become independent in following everyday classroom routines. Teachers also work upon a “theme” and role-play areas are adapted to suit the topics. These help to encourage the children to consolidate their learning and explore their own ideas through play i.e. café, cave, hairdressers, launderette, a shop etc.

We have a designated ‘Early Years Area’ outside the classroom so that there are opportunities for learning both inside and outside. PE lessons are a combination of playground games, ball skills, dance sessions and body awareness lessons through gymnastics.



## The Foundation Stage Profile

Throughout your child’s reception year staff will be using observation, small group and 1-1 assessments to monitor your child’s development. Your child’s progress will be shared with you at regular intervals throughout the year.

### Handwriting

We teach letter formation alongside our phonics scheme Rocket Phonics. We also do “Write Dance”, a Scandinavian method which uses music and large movements in the hall and then in the classroom, using crayons on tables covered with large sheets of paper, or finger trails in paint; flour and sand.

### Reading

The children will have a variety of opportunities to develop their love of reading throughout the day. Reading skills are taught every day.

We begin reading by developing the children's 'phonic' skills – understanding of the sounds/phonemes that letters and groups of letters represent. We also develop the children's 'sight' vocabulary of key words that they will encounter a lot in their reading but are tricky to decode using phonic skills e.g. the, was. The school uses Rocket Phonic Scheme.

We provide you with a variety of reading material to share at home, this will help you to reinforce and develop the skills they are learning at school. When you read with your child we ask that you record this in their reading record book. We hold a reading meeting during the Autumn term to explain how we approach the teaching of reading.

## Mathematics

Children in Reception year will begin to learn about numbers and how to work with them in basic calculations. They will use a range of manipulatives to help they solve problems, such as numicon, tens frames, number lines and cubes. Your child will also be taught to describe and recognise 2d and 3d shapes, the location of objects and how to form patterns. They will use and understand mathematical words such as greater, smaller, heavier, lighter, more, less etc and develop skills in comparing and sorting objects.

## Further Information



### Chair of Governors

Mr Jonathan Richardson

### Staff Structure

Headteacher – Mrs Michele Kirkbride  
Deputy Headteacher/SENCo – Mrs Lisa Vitiello  
Key Stage 2 Leader – Mr Matt Atkins  
Key Stage 1 Leader – Mrs Alex Kelleher  
EYFS Leader – Sally Rix  
Mental Health and Wellbeing Manager – Mrs Claire Cornall  
Cover teacher – Mrs Nell Appleton  
Spanish Teacher – Mrs Katie Salt  
PPA Cover – Mrs Julie Willis  
Sports Coach – Miss Brown

All staff are named on our school website under 'Our School'.

### Keeping You Informed

We keep you informed via emails, newsletters, texts, the school website and Facebook. Class pages on the website will allow you to see pictures of the children enjoying their learning,

read announcements about forthcoming activities, access links to curriculum websites and curriculum newsletters.

Regular school newsletters are emailed to you and will be placed on the school website. If you prefer newsletter can be sent home as a paper copy. Please ask the office if this is something you would like. Year R to Year 3 also have a whiteboard in the playground where we write what the children have been doing during the day. [If you do not collect from school you could ask the person that does to photograph it for you.]

## Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast Club opens at 07:55

After School Club is available from 15:15 to 17.30

Please contact the school office for details of charges.

## School Meals

All children in the Infants (Year R, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to a free school meal.

However, you can choose to provide your child with a packed lunch if you would prefer.

**Please note we are a nut free school.**

## School Attendance

As a school we aim for every child to have above 95% attendance. If your child's absence drops below 90% they are considered to be persistent absentees and this will be reported to the Local Authority Attendance Officer. If you feel that your child is genuinely unwell, please keep them at home until they are fully fit and let us know by telephone. Should a child become ill during the school day, we will of course endeavour to contact you. Please do let us know if your child has any allergies or special difficulties, so that we can cater for their needs immediately.

If your child has been sick, had diarrhoea, or both please keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to school so that illness does not spread through the class. If your child need medication given but is well enough to be in school, please see the school office staff and sign a permission slip for the medication to be given. The medication must be named and given to the secretary with times and dosage to be given. If your child has a minor injury that requires first aid, a member of staff will inform you at the end of the day and your child will be given a first aid sticker to wear. You will receive a curtesy text or phone call if your child bangs their head.

Should you have any further questions please do contact us at school.

We all look forward to working with you and your child and hope you will be extremely happy at Ethelbert Road Primary School

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Website: <https://www.ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk>

