

OWLSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Prospectus



Cambridge Road, Owlsmoor,
Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 0TA

Tel: 01344 776642

Owlsmoor: Where Everyone Matters

Respect – Kind – Determined – Safe – Inclusive

Dear Parents / Carers,

On behalf of all the staff and governors, welcome to Owlsmoor Primary School.

We had our last Ofsted in November 2017 and were found to be “good” with an “outstanding” judgement for behaviour and safety. A copy of the report can be found within this prospectus.

At Owlsmoor Primary School there is a strong commitment from our team to provide the best education for the children in our care. We provide a warm and inviting inclusive learning community where everyone is valued and our children are determined to be the very best they can be. The staff and children at Owlsmoor work together to create an environment which fosters mutual respect and where being kind to each other is at the forefront of everyone’s thinking. This in turn creates a space where everyone here at Owlsmoor Primary feels safe and happy. Behaviour is exemplary and this is demonstrated throughout the school by staff and children alike. We have excellent facilities and offer a broad curriculum that is enriched by educational visits and a wide variety of clubs. We are very fortunate to have extensive grounds with high quality resources and we pride ourselves on our purposeful atmosphere which encourages effective learning to take place.

We have a website which is frequently updated and can be found at www.owlsmoorprimary.com - please visit it and find out more about us.

I hope that you find this prospectus informative and helpful and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Mr Simon Cope

Headteacher: Mr S Cope

E-mail: secretary@owlsmoorprimary.com

Website: www.owlsmoorprimary.com



OUR SCHOOL

Owlsmoor is a large, three-form entry primary school with a nursery. In December 2015, 18 months of building work was completed, leaving us with a fantastic learning environment. Our classrooms are bright and spacious and we are fortunate to have a number of additional facilities, including a music studio, dance studio, library, computer suite and cooking room. Our school grounds are made up of several different playgrounds, a large field, a pond area, an outdoor classroom, an outdoor gym, an adventure playground, a sensory garden and a friendship garden.

‘It’s the best school
because it’s got
wonderful teachers.’
Y6 Pupil

At present we have approximately 600 children on roll. Even though we are a larger than average primary school, we are a close-knit school, where the staff and children know each other well.

All classes are named after birds and each year groups has a ‘theme’ – all chosen by our School Council.

Nursery – Puffins

Reception (garden birds) – Blackbirds, Robins and Wagtails

Year 1 (woodland birds) – Chaffinches, Nuthatches and Woodpeckers

Year 2 (southern hemisphere birds) – Parakeets, Penguins and Kookaburras

Year 3 (water birds) – Swans and Pelicans

Year 4 (tropical birds) – Flamingos, Hummingbirds and Toucans

Year 5 (flightless birds) – Kiwis, Ostriches and Emus

Year 6 (birds of prey) – Kites, Falcons and Eagles

Our Special Resource Provision (SEND unit) - Kingfishers

The school employs a large number of Teaching Assistants, meaning that all classes have a good level of adult support. Intervention groups are run by teachers, support staff including HLTAs (Higher Level Teaching Assistants) and outside agencies to ensure that all children – whether they have special educational needs or not – make good progress.



A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

As a rights-respecting school, we teach our pupils about children's rights and work hard to model and discuss 'rights' and 'respect' in all aspects of school life. This is achieved through curriculum areas, focused key stage assemblies, the school council, school policies, daily practices and the relationships between teachers/adults and children. When discussing children's rights, we refer to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This sets out the rights of every person under the age of eighteen and how these rights should be met. The UNCRC consists of 54 articles, each one detailing an individual right and, while many of them will be incorporated within our teaching and learning, we also felt it important to choose five key rights as a focus for the whole school. In consultation with our pupils, it was agreed that these would be:

- I have the right to learn
- I have the right to be safe
- I have the right to be healthy
- I have the right to be heard
- I have the right to play



'Everyone is nice and friendly in our school and we all respect each other.'

Y5 Pupil

We are now thrilled to have achieved Level 1 of the Rights Respecting Schools Award which recognises achievement in putting the UNCRC at the heart of a school's ethos. The Rights Respecting Schools Award standards cover four key areas:

- Leading and managing a rights-respecting school
- Teaching and Learning about the Convention
- Creating and maintaining a rights-respecting ethos
- Empowering children and young people to become active citizens and learners



LEARNING AT OWLSMOOR

BECOMING EFFECTIVE LEARNERS

We recognise the importance of creating the right climate within our school for learning to thrive. We teach the children about how to be effective learners, promoting the importance of having a 'Growth Mindset', whereby learners: demonstrate perseverance and resilience; take on board feedback willingly; aren't afraid to make mistakes; are inspired by the success of others; and embrace challenge. This helps children to understand that learning is a process, and that effort and hard work lead to success. We also teach the children about the 'Habits of Mind' of successful people, such as 'Striving for accuracy' and 'Applying past knowledge to new situations'. Our focus on positive learning attitudes means that our pupils are confident and happy learners who make good progress.

"I've learned that if you try, try, try then you can, can, can!"

Y2 Pupil

OUR CURRICULUM

We are proud of the curriculum that we offer at Owlsmoor. Our curriculum comprises all the learning and other experiences that we plan to meet the needs and interests of our pupils. It constantly evolves in order to ensure that we are developing the skills needed for our children to become successful citizens of modern Britain and empower them to achieve success in the future. Our curriculum intentions are:

- To deliver an ambitious and knowledge-rich curriculum that is broad and balanced
- To ensure pupils develop the behaviours, attitudes and habits to become effective learners
- To develop pupils' character and cultural capital
- To develop pupils' understanding of how to keep physically and mentally healthy, and how to keep themselves safe
- To provide for pupils' broader development and equip them for future success

Our curriculum is planned thematically - topics are chosen to ensure that the requirements of the National Curriculum are taught in as an effective, exciting and relevant way as possible. Themes from the past year have included 'Fire and Light', 'Extreme Earth', 'The Rainforest', and 'Go West' – an in-depth study on the age of the American Pioneers.

'Our teachers make learning fun!'

Y6 Pupil



CURRICULUM PROMISES

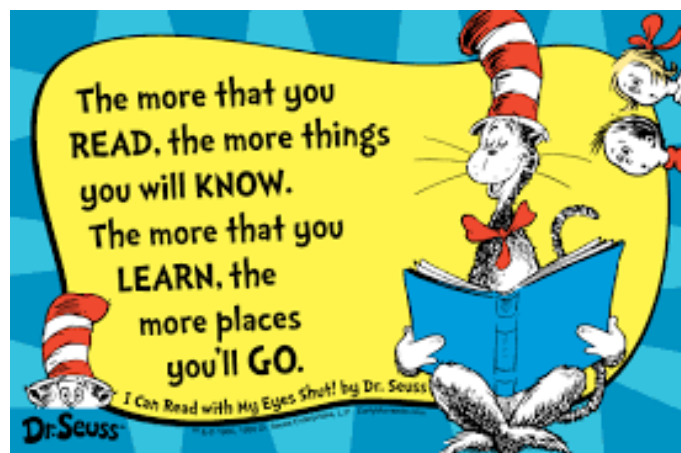


To supplement the taught curriculum, each year group has a set of 'curriculum promises' which incorporate additional experiences we feel are of value to children's development. These include: life skills such as cooking, gardening and sewing; social skills such as learning playground games; cultural experiences such as visiting a theatre or a gallery; outdoor activities such as den building and orienteering; wellbeing activities such as yoga and mindfulness; and learning new skills such as swimming and learning a musical instrument. These experiences enrich our curriculum further and help our children to become well-rounded individuals.

'I had never been to a theatre before! The show was brilliant, I loved going' Y5 Pupil

READING

Supporting our pupils to become fluent and accomplished readers with a love and passion for reading is one of our key aims. Reading is promoted and celebrated through events such as 'Book Week', 'World Poetry Day', 'Roald Dahl Day', 'The Summer Reading Challenge' and 'The Extreme Reading Challenge'. We hold an annual 'Book Fair', where children can purchase books, and we invite our local librarians in to encourage the children to use their local library. We have also arranged occasional visits from published authors, who talk to the children about how they write their books – leaving them feeling very inspired to read more, and often to write more too! We read aloud to the children regularly, with the class novel often being the most eagerly anticipated part of the school day - even at the top end of the school. We have a well-stocked school library with a wide variety of texts; the library is also open during lunchtimes for those bookworms who are happiest with their head buried in a book – here the children can spend time reading independently for their own enjoyment, or listening to stories being read aloud by an adult. The children are guided to read high-quality texts – engaging with fiction and non-fiction books as well as poetry, pictures and film – and they are encouraged to share their recommendations with peers. Pupils are taught to read and interpret texts on a one to one basis, in focused Guided Reading lessons and as part of their English units of work. Children are taught a range of decoding strategies, with a strong emphasis on phonics in Early Years and KS1, and a focus on developing increasingly sophisticated comprehension skills as they progress through the school. They are given frequent opportunities to read across other areas of the curriculum – such as examining historical sources, or conducting research on a topic. We recognise that regular reading at home is essential in supporting pupils to become proficient readers, and children are rewarded with additional playtime for reading four or more times at home per week – we also run parent workshops on supporting children with reading, and we have recommended lists of high quality texts for each year group published on our website.



THEMED WEEKS

At Owlsmoor, education is not just about maths and English – as important as these are! Throughout the year we plan exciting themed days and weeks – or even fortnights – where the children have the time and opportunity to explore an area of learning in depth. Over the years we have had themes devoted to science, maths, PSHE, healthy eating, healthy minds, global citizenship, friendship, internet safety, DT and of course Book Week. Our Arts Fortnights focus on drama, music and dance as well as art, and they are based around a stimulus, such as a picture, a piece of music, an event, a book or a particular artist – previous themes have included 'The Four Seasons', 'The Chronicles of Narnia' and the artwork of David Hockney. The work produced during Arts Fortnight is celebrated through exhibitions and performances, to which parents and the local community are invited. The work that the children produce in these weeks is often astounding in its ambition and quality, often created collaboratively across year groups. Through these weeks, the children learn vital skills and attitudes – of perseverance, creativity and that the sky is the limit in terms of what can be achieved. Book Week is used to celebrate different books and authors, encouraging children to develop a love of reading. On Geography Day, each classroom becomes a different country for the day and children are able to visit several countries to learn about them – they even take a 'passport' with them to have stamped in each place they visit. On French Day, children learn about the landmarks and culture of France and enjoy visiting a 'French Café' where they can sample some French food. Themed days and weeks are rotated each year so that the children have the opportunity to experience lots of different things during their time here.



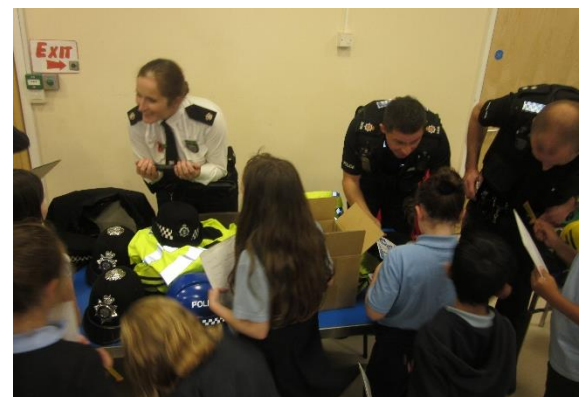
TRIPS

Hands-on, real-life experiences are essential in all subject areas. At Owlsmoor the children learn about four main religions: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. The children in Reception walk to St George's Church – with whom we have excellent links – to support their learning about Christianity, and children in Years 2, 4 and 6 visit a Synagogue, Mandir and Mosque respectively; these trips are all funded by the school. Each year group also goes on at least one trip that is linked to an area of their learning. In the past year trips have included Birdworld, Winchester Science Centre, Butser Ancient Farm, The Living Rainforest and Windsor Castle. Year 6 go on a 5-day residential trip to an activity centre where they have the opportunity to relax and have fun towards the end of the year and also to challenge themselves and develop their social skills in preparation for their transition to secondary school.



VISITORS

The children have regular opportunities to meet visitors, and work with experts and specialist teachers. Visitors in the past have included authors, pilots, scientists and Olympic athletes, who have helped to inspire the children with their learning or to pursue new hobbies. During a 'Careers Week', the children heard from a number of different speakers who were invited in to talk about their jobs. The children also have the opportunity to meet members of the local community, such as police officers and fire officers. Visitors are also invited into school to deliver activities, which have included the 'DT challenge', drama workshops and yoga classes. During Science Week, the children loved meeting 'the Mad Scientist' who performed scientific experiments and demonstrations that really wow them! However, our most eagerly awaited visitors has to be our chicks – each year we have the experience of seeing eggs hatch and having the chance to hold the new-born chicks, which the children absolutely love.



PERFORMANCES AND CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Individual class assemblies, year group performances as well as our Harvest and Christmas celebrations are an integral part of what makes Owlsmoor so special. We firmly believe that by encouraging all children to take part in performances – from Nursery all the way up to Year 6 – they develop not only their acting and dramatic skills, but perhaps more importantly, the confidence to speak in front of others and the ability to work in a team. Every class has a class assembly, in which they show, through a variety of means, be they musical, theatrical or explanatory, what they have been learning about. Each year group also collaborates on a production: in the past year we have enjoyed wonderful theatrical experiences including 'Pirates and Mermaids' by Year 3, 'Fleeced' by Year 5 (based on their topic of Ancient Greece), and of course the always brilliant Year 6 performance which is held at Sandhurst School. At Harvest, all year groups celebrate collaboratively – either at school or at St George's Church. We also celebrate 'World Poetry Day' each year, with each class learning a poem off by heart which is then performed in front of parents and the rest of the school. The Christmas period involves many different performances: we hold a traditional nativity by Year 2 at St George's, and we enjoy the absolute wonder and mild (but always hilarious) chaos of the nativity as performed by children in Nursery and Reception. And then of course, there is the 'Rudolph Rave'. This has become one of the most anticipated events of the whole year: the sight of 600 children and adults wearing reindeer antlers and dancing to classic Christmas tunes is enough to warm even the most Scrooge-like of hearts.



CLUBS

Extra-curricular clubs and opportunities are many and varied, running before, during and after school. The majority of clubs are free and only clubs run by peripatetic specialist teachers are charged for. Those currently on offer include choir, HIIT club (High Intensity Interval Training), football, netball, science club, friendship bracelet club, gardening club, salsa club, hand bell club and construction club amongst many others. We also have a school newspaper which is produced by a group of children. Our choir and salsa groups have the opportunity to perform at local community events, and our netball team have previously been successful in winning the Bracknell Forest league!

PLAYTIMES

We have a number of different areas around the school for the children to play in at break and lunch times. There is a ball playground, where the children can play football or netball, and we have an outdoor gym. Our middle playground includes a sandpit area, and equipment such as skipping ropes and playground chalks are often available. We have a large field and a number of garden areas, where the children are able to go in the warmer months. The children have the option of participating in adult-led games at break time, and at lunchtimes the upper key stage two children lead games for younger children who want to play. There are also a number of indoor clubs, such as drawing club and construction club, that children can choose to attend during lunchtimes.

'I love that we have lots of different places to play and lots of fun equipment to play with'.

Y6 Pupil



PUPIL VOICE

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At Owlsmoor, we provide a number of opportunities for pupils to put themselves forward for particular roles. These include Play Leaders, Playground Pals, Green Team Members, RRS Champions, School Councillors, House Point Champions, Library Monitors, Office Helpers and Nursery Helpers. These roles provide children with the opportunity to have some responsibility, put forward their views, represent their class, contribute to the school community and support younger children.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The opinion of the children at Owlsmoor is important and taken seriously. Each class from Year 2 upwards vote for their School Council representative.

We take the election of the School Council very seriously and ensure that it is a democratic and fair system. We borrow the ballot box and booth from Bracknell-Forest Council and prior to the election ask children to create posters and write a speech which will encourage their peers to vote for them. On the day of the election (usually a Thursday), we have ballot papers for the children to complete and they come in their own time, normally at either morning play or lunchtime play and vote before folding their paper and putting it in the ballot box. The previous year's school councillors assist with ticking them off the register of voters, and explaining the system to the younger children. Each year we try and beat last year's turnout of voters.

The School Council are an integral part of the decision-making process and have, in the past year alone, voted on what charities the school supports and what events take place in school to raise money. They also ran a successful cake decorating stall at the annual summer fair, raising money for our school and debating how this money could best be spent. Previous school council projects have included instigating the Playground Pal initiative, including designing their jackets, and even choosing the colour and decoration for the Key Stage Two toilets!

'I like being on the school council because you can help change the school.'

School Council Member



Kingfishers – Special Educational Needs Resource Provision

We have a special resource unit within the school, which is for children with complex cognitive needs who would struggle to manage in a mainstream classroom. The unit has capacity for eight pupils, and is staffed with a qualified teacher and usually two teaching assistants. The learning environment is made up of both indoor and outdoor space, including a sensory area, role play areas, desk spaces and lots of practical activities for pupils to access. The children also make good use of the school's facilities, such as the music studio, the outdoor gym, the garden areas and the kitchen.

Within the unit, provision is focussed on developing children's social skills and life skills, as well as increasing independence and securing key academic skills as relevant to the child. The teacher plans tailored learning activities for each child, following their own personalised curriculum based on their own individual needs and targets. Many of the activities are completed on a 1-1 or a 1-2 basis. The children spend the majority of their time within the unit, but also join their age related year group for particular activities where this is beneficial, such as swimming, school trips and productions.

"I really love all the different activities we do!"

Kingfisher Pupil



OUR NURSERY

In January 2016, Owlsmoor Primary School opened a newly designed Early Years provision to include our already successful Nursery class. This new facility provides excellent opportunities for children to start their education in close association with a highly successful school from the age of 3.



We understand that deciding on Nursery provision for your child is a challenging task for many parents, and many factors need to be taken into consideration. We aim to provide the best possible start to each and every child's educational career: encouraging independence and confidence; nurturing and developing key personal and academic skills; celebrating and modelling core values and instilling a love of learning. The skills and values that we will promote will prepare every child for transition into Owlsmoor Primary School.

The nursery is led by a fully qualified teacher and is supported by teaching and learning assistants. We also offer flexible provision, comprising sessions in either the morning or the afternoon which can include lunchtime. Every three year old is entitled to a maximum of 15 hours of fee-funded provision, though parents may request additional sessions and pay a fee for the time over and above the funded hours. Session times are as follows:

Morning:	9:00	12:00
Afternoon:	12:00	3:00
Lunch:	12:00	1:00

If you would like more information about Owlsmoor Primary Nursery, please contact the nursery using the 'Nursery Enquiry' tab on the website, or find the application form on the 'Admission Arrangements' tab.

Please note, obtaining a place at Owlsmoor Primary Nursery will not give children priority for a place at the main school. All parents will have to complete the Bracknell Forest Admissions forms for a Primary School place at the appropriate time.



OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

At Owlsmoor we have a fantastic and hugely successful Breakfast and After School Club. The clubs are both run by members of Owlsmoor staff, ensuring continuity of care. There are always a variety of activities on offer within our well-resourced unit.

The breakfast club is open from 8am until school starts and the after school club is open from the end of the school day until 6pm daily during term time.

The aim of the club is to ensure that the children have a happy and safe environment to play and socialise with their peers.

At breakfast club we offer the children a selection of cereal, toast, fruit, yogurts and fruit juices and they can use the club activities before school.

At the after school club the children will be offered a variety of healthy snacks and drinks. The children have the use of two rooms, one is a quieter area for relaxing and watching films, reading or participating in craft activities. The second room the children have named "the play room" where there is a variety of activities they can choose from independently.

We are able to use the school playground and climbing frame as well as a range of outside equipment provided by the club.

'The breakfast and after school club team are wonderful – a real asset to the school.'

Parent Survey
Feedback



GOVERNORS & PTA

Owlsmoor has a strong and active Governing Body which supports and challenges the school leadership, ensuring that we offer a first-class educational experience for all our pupils. Governors seek the views of parents/carers and prepare an informative annual update on the school's achievements and goals. They are regularly seen in school, spending time with parents, children and staff.

Our wonderful PTA meet regularly to plan and organise a range of fun fundraising events. The Association exists to further the aims of the school by providing a link between home and school and by raising funds to buy much needed resources for the benefit of the children. The equipping of the library, music studio and the purchase of many of our books, computers, the hall staging and lighting, as well as the pond, were funded by the PTA. The PTA also organise a number events for the children, such as discos, the summer fete, and an annual fireworks display.

Angela Allard – Chair of Governors



Kelly Potter – Vice Chair of Governors



PARENT VIEWS

'Great school,
great teachers.'

'This is a fantastic
school where
children thrive.'

'Brilliant school
with amazing
staff.'

'I love the school ethos and
my child has been very happy
here having joined later than
her peers.'

'Thank you for all
you do.'

'We are very happy we
chose Owlsmoor for our
children's education.'

'Love the school – keep
doing what you're
doing!'

'My children love
coming to Owlsmoor.'

'I am proud of the
progress both my boys
have made at
Owlsmoor.'

'My boys are so happy
and well looked after –
I couldn't be happier!'

'I really
appreciate how
passionate the
teachers are.'

'I am very pleased with
the school and all it does
for my son and his
development.'

'We really like the school
and do recommend it to
other parents.'

'A great school which has
always helped my
children.'