

Dear

Thank you for expressing an interest in our school. As we are currently unable to welcome visitors, I have put together some information you would usually get on a tour.

Our Classes

Our Reception class (Squirrel Class) has a maximum intake of 13 children. There is a full-time teacher who is always supported in class by a teaching assistant. This small child to adult ratio allows the children to have an excellent start to their schooling.

We have two other classes in school, both of which contain two year groups. Years 1 and 2 are in Acorn Class, and years 3 and 4 are in Oak Class. Each class has a teaching assistant to support the children's learning.

Our Spaces

Squirrel class have their own dedicated outdoor area, including a mud kitchen, water play, woodwork bench and large construction. Their gate leads onto the school playground, where they can use bikes and scooters as well as the climbing and sports equipment.

The playground is used by the whole school at play times and lunch times, as well as for P.E. lessons and outdoor learning activities. We also use the school field, which includes a wild area, where the children love to explore.

We are lucky to have our own school garden, where the children grow a range of fruit and vegetables. This supports their learning across the curriculum, particularly in science and nature.

We aim to make as much use as possible of our rural village environment, often going for walks in and around the village. This includes our annual welly walk and torch walk.

Our Curriculum

In Reception, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We believe that children learn best when they are motivated, curious and engaged. This happens when they are able to lead their own learning through their play. The children in our Reception class have continuous access to our indoor and outdoor environment, where they can independently choose from a range of resources. These include baking, roleplay, mark making and art and craft. Staff observe and interact with the children "in the moment" to extend their learning and encourage the development of key skills. The Reception class also have daily phonics, maths and story sessions together.

Acorn and Oak classes follow the National Curriculum. English and Maths are taught as discrete subjects and other subjects are taught through topics across a two year programme. RE is taught following the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus and to support this we visit St Albans Cathedral and take part in the Bedford Faith Tour. School trips and visitors that are linked to their current topic, help to deepen the children's understanding. We have an annual whole school trip, which is the highlight of the year. The children also enjoy taking part in sports competitions with local schools.

On Friday afternoons, the whole school take part in enrichment activities, which particularly support the children's personal, social and emotional development. The children work together in mixed age groups. The older children are fantastic role models to the younger ones, and support them in their learning. This is something that we are extremely proud of and is a wonderful example of the family

atmosphere throughout the school. The activities that the children currently take part in are gardening/nature, sport, wellbeing and collaborative games.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Children can take part in a range of extra-curricular activities. Outside providers teach weekly piano lessons, sports clubs and Rock Steady music lessons. In addition to these paid for sessions, members of school staff will run other clubs throughout the year.

Our Church and Community Links

As a Church school we have strong links with our Church and hold services there at key times of the year, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We welcome visitors from the Church community, including the volunteers from "Open the Book", who act out Bible stories for the children. We have daily Collective Worship, which focuses on our Christian based values, including respect, empathy and perseverance.

Before and After School Provision

Our before and after school provision is provided by Boomerang. It is available from 7:30am to 6:00pm and uses our school hall and playground.

Becoming a Primary School

We are currently working with our cluster colleagues and the local authority towards becoming a primary school in the future. This is in response to housing plans in development for the wider local area.

I hope that this has given you a flavour of life in our vibrant, friendly school. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Nancy Sheehan
Headteacher