



Welcome to Whitchurch C of E Primary School

Choosing the right school for your child is a very important decision and I hope you find this leaflet helpful. You will also find lots of useful information on our website at www.whitchurchprimary.com

If you have further questions, please contact the Head Teacher, David Ware, via the School Office.

What is Special about Whitchurch C of E Primary School?

- There has been a primary school at Whitchurch since 1846, although not in the present building. The school is in the heart of the community and appreciates the strong links with the community. We like to feel that we are part of the history of Whitchurch. Whitchurch CofE Primary School is like a family and although a relatively large primary school, it has maintained its 'village' feel.
- This school caters for children from age 4 years to age 11 years. This means that often siblings are attending school at the same time. The older children like to take care of the younger ones and the younger ones look to the older children as good role models.
- There are two classes in each year group. The classes in the foundation stage and Key Stage 1 (children aged 4 to 7 years) have no more than 30 children each. In Key Stage 2, the maximum is 32. Having two classes per year group means that the teachers can share resources and ideas so enriching the curriculum for the children. There are 405 children on role at present.
- The Whitchurch staff are a strong team, who enjoy working together. They are dedicated to providing the very best learning opportunities for the children and will go the extra mile to ensure children's happiness. Our teaching staff are fantastic and are experienced and skilled at supporting children and ensuring they develop a love of learning. They are often praised for being welcoming and nurturing showing care for all their pupils. We have a strong team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) who support in class and also 1:1 for children with special needs.
- Having a strong team of LSAs means that the children always have someone to talk to. The school prides itself on the strong pastoral care. The school also employs two ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and a Family Link Worker to provide support to children and families.
- The Reception or Foundation Stage have their own dedicated unit, which is self-contained and provides a nurturing start to school. This unit has its own fenced garden and outside play area complete with a small wooded copse for Forest School. The modern classrooms are airy and spacious providing areas for role play, messy play, quiet reading and group work.
- The main building has recently been refurbished and the result is eight modern, fresh and airy classrooms, an extended hall and freshly decorated offices and staff room.
- The beautiful school grounds are extensive and provide ample space to play and learn outside. There are two playgrounds; one for the younger children and one for the older ones. The field is also used for play.
- The school has an excellent library and all children have access to the library at least once a week.
- The school understands the importance of the partnership with parents. Teachers meet with all parents either formally at least twice a year and informally as required. The Head Teacher runs an open-door policy and is there to support the children and their families.

- Partnership with parents is also evident in fundraising. The FOWPS (Friends of Whitchurch Primary School) form the fundraising arm of this partnership. They have raised significant funding for the school, which is used for Forest School, sports and a whole range of other initiatives.
- The school also understands that it is part of a complete educational journey for children and makes good links with local pre-schools and local secondary schools.
- We recognise the importance of offering wrap around care. We partnership with 'Simply Out of School' who offer a breakfast and after school club. Open from 7.30am – 8.45am and again from 3.30pm – 6.00pm every day. We also offer a wide range of other clubs through the week, including various sports and arts clubs for all ages.



Our Philosophy

- Whitchurch CofE Primary School is a caring and happy school where strong relationships mean everyone is valued. This ensures all children feel safe and secure. The school uses three important rules: Be safe. Be respectful. Be ready. The school is built around positive recognition of good behaviour. The children's achievements are celebrated weekly at Friday Assembly.
- Whitchurch CofE Primary School is a Church of England school and was built to serve the whole community and every faith. There are strong links with All Hallows Church, which the children visit once a term. Our Christian values of Love, Courage and Respect are integral to the daily life of the school. Children learn to build good relationships with each other and to become good citizens of the future.
- The staff at Whitchurch believe every child is capable of learning well and being successful. They look to celebrate and nurture children's individual talents and support them in learning concepts, which they find difficult.



An Exciting Curriculum



- The teaching team deliver a creative and exciting curriculum with lots of opportunities for active learning where children can investigate, work together and develop problem-solving skills. The curriculum covers all of the National Curriculum subjects: English, Maths, Science, Computing, Art and Design, Design Technology, Geography, History, Music, French, PE and RE.
- The curriculum is enriched with school visits and visitors. The Year 6 pupils have a week's residential "outward bound" trip to Calshot, near Southampton and the Year 4 pupils spend two nights at Ufton Court studying the Vikings. All year groups have day visits, which may include visiting Hampton Court, Milestones, The Natural History museum as well as local visits.
- The school provides specialist teaching in music to all year groups. Physical Education is taught by the class teachers and dedicated sports coaches. We offer football, tag rugby, cricket, athletics, netball and rounders. The school plays in leagues with other Basingstoke and Andover schools. There are several after school sports clubs available.
- Forest School, where children have opportunities to learn about the environment within the environment is provided by a specially trained adult. The school has a dedicated Forest School set up within the school grounds, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a full term of Forest School each year.
- The school has up to date IT resources which include a two class sets of laptops and two class sets of I-pads. All classrooms have up to date Interactive Whiteboards.
- In October 2023, we launched an exciting new project to improve our playtime facilities, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC. The aim here is to ensure that playtimes are varied and interactive with a wide range of resources available for children to play with. We open up different areas for the children at lunchtimes such as the large sandpit, the small forest area, the multi-gym and we encourage children to put on a pair of wellies and spread out onto the field where they can build with crates, tyres, barriers etc. We have dressing up clothes, small world toys, lego and chalks all available to play with too.

The Whitchurch Promise

Experience a range of adventurous activities, including outdoor pursuits

See a live theatre production	Experience a residential trip	
Run an enterprise project		Raise money for charity
Visit a zoo	Cook meals	Gain a cycling award
Travel on a coach		Visit London
Improve at swimming	Dance, sing and perform	Forest School
Develop a range of life skills	Take part in a sports event	
Visit the seaside	Learn an instrument	
Visit a museum, a place of historical importance and a place of worship		

Achievement and Progress

- The school recognises that children enter school at different starting points. However, our aim is for all children to achieve at least age expected levels in reading, writing and maths by the end of Year 2. This means that they go into Key Stage 2 with a secure foundation of learning to add to as they progress through the school.
- The school has many able learners and the teaching team is quick to recognise them and provide additional challenges. Many children achieve greater depth learning at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, particularly in reading.
- The school understands that there are times when children need additional support. The school has a range of intervention programmes if required to ensure all children do their very best.
- Due to the expertise of the teaching team, a high percentage of children achieve the “good level of development” grade at the end of the Reception year. This is consistently above national figures.
- The well-developed phonics programme results in a very high percentage of children passing the National Phonics Test in Year 1. This supports excellent progress in reading and impacts on all future learning.

