

Ottery St Mary Primary School



Support Motivate Inspire Learn Excel



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Excel

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in our school.

We are the only primary school in the town and our children are drawn from a traditional 'catchment area' which, in addition to the town of Ottery St Mary, encompasses the hamlets of Wiggaton, Alfington, Gosford, Taleford and Fairmile.

The school was first opened in 1967 as an infant school and extended and enlarged in 1975 to a full primary school for the town. We currently have a single September intake. In 2008 the school was the subject of a 4 million pound building development which added 10 new classrooms, an ICT suite, a dedicated Art and DT room, a Dance/Drama studio and a new kitchen. Since then, in 2012 we refurbished the original toilets in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 areas. We have also developed and enlarged our outdoor swimming pool thanks to the hard work and generosity of our PTA.

The children, our greatest asset, are at the heart of the school and bring with them a real sense of community. This reflects their home town which itself is rich in tradition. There are many ways in which we work with the children to achieve this goal. The children in Year 6 play a prominent role throughout the school. They provide us with our Sports Leaders and House Captains who spend much of their free time organising events and activities throughout the school which encourage and involve even the youngest of our children. We also have a dynamic School Council and Green Team made up from children of all ages who work on projects that aim to benefit the school, local community and the environment.

We very much encourage the attitude of, 'Push yourself and have a go.'

All of the Staff and Governors hope that your association with us will be a long, enjoyable and rewarding one.

Mark Gilronan - Headteacher



Links with other schools

The children transfer to secondary school at the end of Year 6. The usual comprehensive school for our children is The King's School in Ottery St Mary.

We are part of a thriving Local Learning Community made up of ourselves, Feniton Church of England Primary School, Payhembury Church of England Primary School, Tipton St John Church of England Primary School, West Hill Primary School and The Kings School.

We meet regularly as a Learning Community and many events are organised during the school year to allow the children to benefit from collaborative projects. These projects give children throughout the school an opportunity to meet children from other primary schools and to take part in activities alongside them.

Special emphasis is given to Year 6 in the lead up to their transition to secondary school. In July each year the Year 6 children spend a whole week at The Kings School while the pupils of that school are engaged on projects and trips throughout Devon and indeed Europe. It is called Project Week and it gives all the Year 6 children the opportunity to get used to their new school and make new friends before the summer holidays.



Houses

We run a House system in the school which was designed by the children themselves. Each child is placed in a House when they arrive at the school and we aim to keep siblings in the same house. There are four Houses, each named after one of the historic houses in and around Ottery St Mary itself:

- Cadhay (green)
- Chanters (yellow)
- Escot (blue)
- Salston (red)



The House Captains design and run a series of events throughout the year in the spirit of friendly competition. Our main House events are the Tar Barrels relay in the autumn term and our Sports Days in the summer term. Other inter-house events run by the House Captains have included: Making a Guy for the town's bonfire in November, entering the town Carnival, a Christmas tree decorating competition, Sports tournaments (hockey, cross-country running, football, table tennis and tag rugby), reading challenges and a cookery bake off (to name but a few).





School Aims

The Governors and Staff of the school aim to provide a happy, secure environment in which each pupil:

- Will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum including the National Curriculum
- Can achieve their full potential in all aspects of development: academic, social, emotional and physical
- Will be encouraged to develop a caring attitude towards others, to be courteous and considerate and to respect opinions and beliefs
- Will be expected to accept a responsibility for the school's resources and its environment
- Will become self disciplined, develop a high standard of personal behaviour and a positive attitude to their own learning
- Feel they have a contribution to make and they are valued by other members of the community
- Has an equal opportunity in all aspects of school life
- Will be encouraged to act as ambassadors for the school

These aims focus on the goal that each child can play their part in the life of the school and will eventually take their place in the wider community.

We aim to provide a supportive environment where all staff have the opportunity to:

- Develop on both personal and professional levels
- Continually build and strengthen links with the family and encourage the involvement of parents and the wider community in the education of the children
- Make effective and efficient use of all human and physical resources

The School Day

Early Years Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1	
8.50 am	Duty teacher available in the playground
9.00 am	Children come into school/registration
10.45 – 11.00 am	Breaktime
12.00 – 1.15 pm	Lunchtime
2.40 – 2.55 pm	Breaktime
3.45 – 4.45 pm	Any relevant clubs/after school activities

Key Stage 2	
8.45 am	Duty teacher available in the playground
8.55 am	Children come into school/registration
10.45 – 11.00 am	Breaktime
12.05 – 1.15 pm	Lunchtime
3.30 pm	Hometime
3.45 – 4.45 pm	Any relevant clubs/after school activities

We ask that parents do not send their children to school before 8.45 am in Key Stage 2 and 8.50 am in Key Stage 1 as the duty teacher is not available for supervision before this time. This is particularly important on wet days when the children may come straight into their classrooms on arrival.

Admissions

We are a two form entry primary school with 60 places in each year group from Foundation Stage to Year 6. Currently class sizes are set at a maximum of 30.

The current admissions criteria for primary schools are laid down by the Local Education Authority. You can find more details about the current arrangements on their website at:

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline





Uniform

We ask that children wear a uniform comprising of:

Boys

- Grey shorts/trousers
- White polo shirt or white long sleeved shirt
- School sweatshirt with logo – green
- Grey, white or black socks
- Black shoes/black trainers

Girls (winter)

- Grey skirt, pinafore dress or dark grey/black trousers
- White polo shirt or white long sleeved shirt/blouse
- School sweatshirt with logo or cardigan – green
- Grey, white or black socks or dark tights
- Black shoes/black trainers

Girls (summer)

- A green and white check summer dress

We hope that this will achieve a consistency of standards of dress at the school as well as provide the children with a sense of pride in and identity with the school.

Each child must be provided with the necessary clothing for Physical Education together with a named bag in which to keep it. Please ensure that all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

Indoor PE kit:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Plimsolls

Additionally for outdoor PE:

- Trainers
- Jogging bottoms
- Separate sweatshirt

Sweatshirts, reading bags, polo shirts and sunhats are sold at the school along with drinks bottles.

School Meals

School meals are freshly cooked and provided on site and a meal ticket system operates. Tickets can be purchased online or on a daily basis from 8.45 am in the main hall.

If you are eligible for free school meals, a form for which to apply may be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website.

If they would prefer, the children are welcome to bring in their own packed lunch to eat in the dining hall or, of course, they have the option to go home for lunch if collected by their parent(s).

Keeping in touch

Most school notes and letters are sent home via the children. It is worth checking reading folders and bags each night. A half-termly school news letter is issued with a diary of forthcoming events and items of school interest. The school website is a useful resource regarding school information. We also use a text messaging service for parents that allows us to quickly send out messages and reminders.

If your child is absent from school, we ask you to telephone our dedicated absence line – 01404 815780 or to email absence@ottery-primary.devon.sch.uk

As part of our safeguarding procedures, we operate a first day calling policy by which the school office will investigate any unreported absences.





Swimming

- Swimming costume and towel
- Swimming cap (boys and girls)
- Goggles (if required)

Jewellery

Watches are a useful learning aid but other forms of jewellery can be a safety problem, particularly rings and dangling earrings. Stud earrings are much safer for school although they should be removed for PE and swimming. If they cannot be removed, they should be taped up.

Please support us on this safety issue.

Buildings and Grounds

We are very fortunate to have extensive grounds. As well as our recently extended building, we also have our own field, allotments (complete with chickens), pond and two large areas of artificial grass which can be used all year round. The playgrounds contain a range of play equipment for the children such as climbing walls and trim trails, goals and a basketball court. We are always looking to improve the surroundings for the children.

We also have a wonderful heated swimming pool thanks to the vision and hard work of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This pool was completed in the winter of 2012 and is a vast improvement on the original 1970s pool that was there before.

Safeguarding

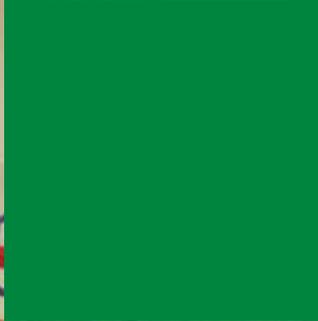
The Headteacher and Deputy Head are the school's designated Child Protection Officers. The school has a commitment to Safeguarding children that runs through all staff. Our policy and procedures are reviewed and updated annually in conjunction with the Governing Body. We will always attempt to work in partnership with parents offering support where we can. In this way we hope to keep everyone informed of any action taken concerning their child. However, if there is a conflict of interest, the welfare of the child will always be given priority.

Curriculum

Wherever possible within the framework of the National Curriculum, we try to develop and follow a cross-curricular approach to education. This allows us to create exciting and memorable learning experiences for all of our children. We constantly review the strengths of the curriculum as we strive to provide the very best for all year groups. Whenever appropriate, we try to build in opportunities for learning beyond the classroom either within our own school grounds, the town of Ottery itself or on day trips or residential visits.

Further details about our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 curriculum and topics can be found in the back of this prospectus.





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