

# High Halden Church of England Primary School



## School Prospectus 2020-2021



Rooted in God, we grow together



# Welcome to our school

Here at High Halden Church of England Primary School we believe that school days should be the happiest days of our lives and we endeavour to ensure that your child receives an enjoyable, secure and stimulating start to their education.

We pride ourselves on being a school that is at the heart of the local community, having strong links with our local church of St Mary's. As a Church of England school we place an emphasis on the development of the whole child-both academically and spiritually.

The school, which has served the local area since 1868, has a strong Christian ethos, underpinned by a core set of aims and values. We believe that every child should acquire the skills for life-long learning and be supported to develop as good citizens who contribute fully to our world. We have high, but realistic, expectations of each child, recognising each individual's strengths and weaknesses.

At High Halden, we recognise each child as an individual, we aim to give all children every possible opportunity to realise their full potential. We believe that a close partnership between the school, parents and the child is essential if we are to achieve this aim.



Mrs Kelly Burlton (Headteacher)

# Our Vision and Values

## Our School Vision

At High Halden we take pride in creating a nurturing environment where our community of learners are valued as individuals. Through God's love, rich experiences and a sense of belonging, all will make strong roots to grow, flourish and bear fruit.

## Our Christian Values

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

Our vision and associated values are theologically centred on the Bible narrative 'The Vine and the Branches'

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit (John 15:5).*

This verse drives our vision and helps in our understanding that God is the gardener who tends and cares for us so that we may grow and flourish. If we work together and grow together we will succeed. Adults, children and all in our school family and community are encouraged to grow and flourish.



# Our Beautiful School

High Halden Church of England Primary School is an attractive Victorian building with modern additions. The original school building was built over 150 years ago, this now houses the school office, staff room, Key Stage 1 and EYFS classes.

In 2008 considerable building works, which included 2 new classrooms and school hall, were completed. In the new section of our school, you will find two KS2 classes and our spacious school hall.

Our school grounds are both extensive and beautiful, stretching around the entire building and providing a wonderful natural backdrop.

Children at High Halden benefit from a vast playing field, adventure play areas, a playground, a thriving allotment and environmental areas.

A broad area of woodland, also within the grounds, provides an inspiring space for curriculum enrichment, as a stimulus for poetry or creative writing or as the location for scientific nature trails.

Additionally, our site has two ponds, an outside reflection area and an outdoor classroom, perfect for learning outside.



# Our School Curriculum

## Our Intent

With our vision at the forefront of all we do at High Halden School, we worked closely with all stakeholders to design a curriculum specific and unique to our school community and context.

From this we established key points and considered how we wanted children to leave our rural setting with the appropriate skills and experiences to enable them to succeed in life beyond High Halden. As a direct result, the aim of our curriculum is to enrich the children's lives and provide opportunities to grow their...

### **Curiosity and Creativity:**

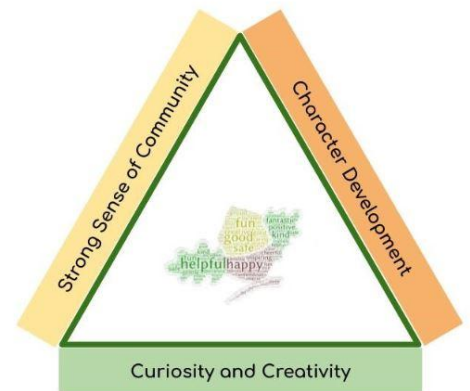
- Through enriching first hand experiences.
- Inspirational and enquiry led teaching and learning.
- Broad, active and exciting curriculum.

### **Strong Sense of Community:**

- Engaging with the features of our beautiful rural village.
- Collaboration with local residents and our wider communities.
- Embracing the diversity and background of all.

### **Character Development:**

- Building resilient, confident learners by providing opportunities for all to flourish.
- Encouraging aspirations and independence.
- Strong sense of moral purpose underpinned by our Christian values.



We recognise that our curriculum must not only support and build on the children's interests, but ensure that the children are given the opportunity to experience British culture and provide them with knowledge to ensure they can make informed choices in the wider world.

At High Halden, we understand the importance of reading, writing and mathematics in order to 'open doors' to other aspects of the curriculum. We aim to provide an education where all children are literate and numerate, giving them a solid foundation to build upon in the next stage of their journey.

# First Hand Experiences

At High Halden Primary School, we believe children thrive on the exploration and discovery that shapes their knowledge and understanding of how and why things work. The information they gather in this way is not simply filed in a memory bank for later reference, but worked through and repeated countless times in different situations, allowing them to process and make sense of what they have learned. We seek opportunities to provide this type of hands-on learning for students in everyday contexts that matter to them and provide them with the skills and cultural capital to succeed in later life.

When planning experiences, class teachers take into account the context of their class and how this will benefit their attainment and personal development. The first-hand experiences that we offer can be on a small or large scale, depending on the children we are working with and their needs.

Examples of first hand experiences provided:

- Using public transport
- Visiting the beach
- Visiting a city/large town
- Learning to cook a meal
- Growing vegetables and plants
- Learning to swim
- Going on a muddy walk
- Raising money for charities
- Developing the school grounds (creating bird boxes, hides and nature gardens)



# School Uniform

## Uniform

- Green jumper/cardigan
- Grey trousers, shorts or skirt
- White polo top
- Green/white summer dress
- Black shoes or smart boots (no trainers)

## PE Kit

- Yellow t-shirt
- Black shorts/jogging bottoms
- Plimsolls and/or trainers

## Extra Request

- Wellies (to leave in school)
- Apron (for messy play)



# The School Day

- Breakfast Club- **8:00am**
- School gate opens- **8:40am**
- Registration- **8:50am**
- Lessons begin- **9:00am**
- Break- **10:30am**
- Lunch- **12pm-1pm**
- End of day- **3:15pm**
- After school clubs- **4:15pm**



# School Meals/Snacks

We know that schools can play an important role in both promoting healthy eating habits to children, and ensuring school food provides healthy balanced and nutritious meals with the appropriate amount of energy and nutrients pupils need.



## Breaktime Snack

At High Halden all children in EYFS and KS1 are offered a piece of fruit to enjoy during their morning break. Our older children are encouraged to bring their own fruit for their mid-morning break.

## Milk

School milk at mid-morning break is an important part of a child's diet. Milk provides a number of health benefits and social opportunities that ensure children get the most out of their school day. As a school, we are registered with the Cool Milk scheme, this provides all children under 5 with free milk on a daily basis. Children over the age of 5, can also enjoy fresh milk at a subsidised rate.



## Fresh Water

We have two fresh water chillers which the children are able to use throughout the day. When your child joins us, they will be given a school water bottle, which they keep and use in school every day. Fresh water is also provided during lunchtimes for children who have a school meal.



## School Lunches

Children at High Halden are offered a wide range of nutritionally balanced meal options. Our school meals are provided by Pabulum, who are based at Homewood Secondary School. They offer a three week menu rotation and children are able to choose from three options each day (Meat, vegetarian or jacket potato/pasta). Additionally, we have a daily salad bar, which contains at least 5 different options to compliment their meal as well as freshly baked breads. The children are also offered desserts on a daily basis, again the children are able to choose from a main pudding option (crumbles/sponge etc), fresh fruit, yoghurt or jelly.



## Packed Lunch

Children who wish to bring a packed lunch may do so and they will also eat in the main hall. We ask that food brought into school in a suitable container marked with your child's name. We would recommend that packed lunches should provide a healthy balanced meal, avoiding sugary items as much as possible. Food that is not eaten during the meal time will be packed away and brought home; this gives you an indication of how well your child is eating.

Please note, we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL** because we have children with peanut allergies. Therefore children are asked not to bring in peanut butter sandwiches or any snack containing nuts (chocolate spreads, cakes and chocolates).





# Technology

At High Halden, we recognise that, in an ever changing and developing society, it is important that our computing curriculum reflects the demands of the world for young people and their life beyond High Halden. Therefore, our computing curriculum seeks to equip children with the computational thinking skills they need to become digitally literate.

Our curriculum, draws together the strands of computer science, information technology and digital literacy. Throughout the school, children learn the fundamental principles and process of computation; they gain practical experience of writing code to solve problems and model systems; they become skilled at creating high quality content using digital tools; and they become safe, responsible and critical users of technology.

In EYFS and Y1/2, the children begin to use tablet devices as well as laptops. In the lower end of the school, we have enough devices for all children to use, 1 between 2. As the children progress through the school, they begin to use Chromebooks as their main device. We are fortunate enough for the children to have access to their own device, which they use frequently, to learn computing or to support learning in other subjects.

As a school we use Google as our key component for sharing and recording learning across the curriculum. Children have a shared drive and their own personal drive, which can also be accessed at home. Additionally, we have the option to use Google Classroom to assign, collaborate and work in real time.

All of our classrooms, the hall and library are equipped with touch screen TVs, which allow the teachers to share visual representations, websites and video clips with the children.

Again, all of our technology choices are aimed to support the children with their learning in a meaningful way. It does not replace pencil and paper, it compliments it. By using technology in the classroom, both teachers and students can develop skills essential for the 21st century. Students can gain the skills they will need to be successful in the future.



# Home-School Partnership

We very much welcome parental involvement in the school and actively encourage it. As parents, you are the first and ongoing educators of your children and, as such, we believe you should receive information and support to help develop and extend your child's learning at home, in the community and at school.

Our main method of communication with parents is via Class Dojo. This allows you to see how well your child is doing at school in many different areas. It is a child friendly online system that the children find extremely motivating. Each child will have their own avatar and throughout the week they will be awarded points for various reasons, including excellent work and demonstrating positive behaviours (eg working hard, helping others, teamwork etc). This is shared with you in real-time, so you can see what your child is achieving during the day.

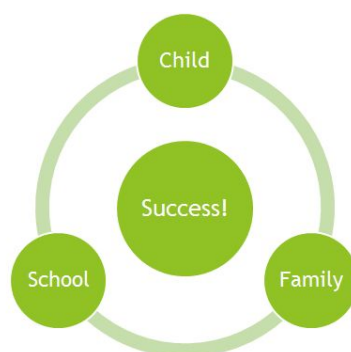
School staff use Class Dojo to share information quickly with parents and carers and to give an up-to-date picture of your child's learning. There are also weekly messages to families and it allows us to share images and videos of learning and the fun the children have throughout their time at High Halden.

In addition, we have an active PTFA who run a host of fun family activities throughout the year to raise funds for the school. Recent events have included a scarecrow trail, Easter hunt and children's disco.

Our Governing Body provides excellent support for the school, this is made up of staff, parents, representatives from the church, village and local authority. It gives parents greater awareness of the strategic overview of the school.

Finally, our children benefit immensely from a dedicated staff of teachers, teaching assistants, office and premises staff who all make a valuable contribution to the team at High Halden.

We hope that you and your child will want to be part of our family and we look forward to working in partnership with you.



# Admissions

We would be happy to show you around our school at a mutually agreed time. We welcome visits from prospective parents during the working day. Visiting us at this time allows you to meet both staff and children and see first hand what our school has to offer your child.

## Admissions to Reception

Applications for a Reception Place (starting in September 2021) need to be made directly to the Local Authority. More information can be found here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places#tab-1>

Each year, in September, we admit a maximum of 15 pupils in to our EYFS class. All children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 will be eligible to start their first full time education in a primary school at the start of the Autumn term in September 2021.

We provide a range of transition sessions to welcome and help settle the children in prior to admission. Our programme of visits and workshops for parents and children will take place in June and July. This enables children to become familiar with their new surroundings and to settle in quickly and supports parents in to school life. Prospective parents may also visit the school at any time by arrangement with the School Office.

## In Year Admissions

Admissions for families with children, who arrive new to the area or are looking to move to our school, must also apply directly to the Local Authority (this can be completed via the school). Please enquire at the school office to find out if we have space/s for your child/ren. After confirming the space, we welcome an informal visit to have a look around and you will need to complete an In Year Casual Admission form, this can be found here:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/3522/in-year-application-form.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/3522/in-year-application-form.pdf)





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