

Frequently Asked Questions

How is an Infant School different to a Primary School?

Infant Schools take children from Reception to Year 2 (age 4 to 7). Children then move on to a Junior School to complete their primary phase, Year 3 to Year 6. Infant schools specialise in the infant phase. Field Place is the feeder school for The Orchards Junior Academy, although a few children move to alternative Junior schools such as Thomas a Becket.

How many children are in the school?

We are a four-form entry school, which means we can take up to 120 in each year group. When at full capacity, the school has 360 children plus the nursery.

Do you have any specialist provision?

Yes, the school has a special support centre for children with speech and language difficulties. Our SSC takes children from across the county who have an Education Health Care Plan with their primary need being speech and language. There are 12 places in the SSC and admission is arranged through SENAT.

Do you have before and after school care?

The school ordinarily has a breakfast and after school club, but neither of these is currently running. This is due to COVID restrictions. We would hope by September that our breakfast club would be available. Our after-school care is currently under review and may not be financially viable to reinstate.

Do you run after school clubs?

We ordinarily run a range of after school clubs including, French, football, art, befit, keyboard, gymnastics, gardening, and construction to name a few. Currently these are not running, but we would hope to be offering a range of after school clubs next September.

How do you communicate with parents?

We communicate with parents via parentmail (emails and texts). The school has a weekly update to inform parents of up and coming events and to send out any news. The Office is always available to answer queries and take messages on a daily basis. Parents can also contact the class teacher via a class email account. Parents are regularly invited to discuss their child's progress at parent's evenings.

How do you manage behaviour in the school?

We have three rules in the school, Be Ready, Be Kind, Be Safe. These simple rules are easy for children to follow and can be related to all situations. Our approach is one of positivity and children can earn class rewards and personal praise, such as having their name on the WOW wall or a text home to celebrate great behaviour or work. There is a monthly Headteacher's tea for outstanding behaviour. Please see our behaviour policy for information.

Do the children have homework?

Children are expected to read every day at home. This can be phonics, flashcards, a book, or any form of reading within the environment. In Key Stage 1, the children bring home spellings to learn. Topic homework takes the form of a choice of activities based on children's interests. These

activities enrich the learning in school and provide great talking points for parents to become involved in their child's learning.

How do you challenge children?

We have high expectations for all learners and high attaining children are challenged and supported to work at greater depth where they have already met the expected standards. We aim for children to master knowledge and then apply what they know. Our cornerstone, Growth Mindset encourages children to believe in themselves and to strive for excellence through effort. Children are provided with additional challenge through problem solving and explaining their thinking at a deeper level. Quality texts provide comprehension opportunities and higher attaining children are encouraged to make links across a range of books and authors. All children learn to write at length and to use their knowledge of reading to improve their work. Teachers encourage talent across the curriculum and the school takes part in PE competitions and dance performance. There is a strong art and DT curriculum which allows children to express their talent.

Your OFSTED rating is requires improvement, what does this mean?

In our last OFSTED inspection (October 2017), inspectors felt that the school needed to improve in some areas to ensure that children were receiving the best education possible. We embraced the report immediately and dedicated ourselves to implementing a robust school development strategy. In November 2018 we received an interim visit that confirmed we were making the necessary changes to be rated as good. The school's next full OFSTED inspection was timed for March 2020, but unfortunately was not able to go forward due to COVID. We are looking forward to having the opportunity for inspectors to see the school in action so we can regain our good status.

How are you managing the COVID19 situation?

The school was able to open to nursery, reception and year 1 in June 2020 and our full reopening in September has gone well. We are following the Government guidance and our principle of 'classes, cleaning, keeping clear' means that children are in class bubbles; there is a robust cleaning regime in place and staff socially distance to reduce the risk of any infection spreading. We have a recovery curriculum in place to ensure that our core priorities of reading, writing, maths and well being are supporting children to close any gaps in learning due to the lockdown.