

Heatherside Infant School



Prospectus



Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Heatherside infant School. Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions we make as parents for our children.

Reading this prospectus will offer you a flavour of what our school is about. It gives you a glimpse of some of the opportunities and experiences that your child will encounter. If you haven't done so already, I hope you will come and see our school for yourself and take the opportunity to ask questions.

At Heatherside Infant School we offer you a strong sense of community for our families together with a rich and challenging curriculum together with a stimulating environment.

We are very proud of our school and we look forward to getting to know you and your child.

Our goal is for every child to leave our school happy and successful, with memories that they will cherish and skills that are the foundation of their future learning.

We welcome visits and feel that this is a very important way for you to come and learn more about us.

Christine Lynch

Headteacher



Our School

Heatherside infant School has a friendly, caring atmosphere where work and play go hand in hand. It is a place where children will build a firm foundation of skills whilst further developing their lively, enquiring minds so that they are equipped for the world in which we live.

We are a large mixed county infant school for children aged 4 to 7, with a published admission number of 100. Our ten classrooms, library and creative arts room are built around an inner court yard. There are two large playgrounds, an amazing pirate ship, two outdoor classrooms and two covered canopy areas for outside exploring and discovery.

Our school and classrooms provide a warm, welcoming and stimulating environment for our children.





Creative Curriculum

Enjoyment and Achievement are at the core of our curriculum. We believe that education is an holistic experience, not purely academic, so that the whole child is developed.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum enabling children to develop independence, confidence and a real love of learning. Thematic topics such as 'Golden Start,' 'Being an Explorer', 'My World' and 'Traditional Tales' are enjoyed simultaneously across the whole school. Our thematic approach allows us to encompass literacy and numeracy with such subjects as music, art, history and geography, so that learning is real and relevant. This approach is stimulating and motivates our children to learn and have fun in the process. It provides the opportunity to develop new skills and to use them in solving problems.

Enrichment

Our curriculum is further enriched through school trips both into the local area and further afield. At lunchtime children can join in organised games or play independently. The Year 2 children look forward to going to Heatherside Juniors playground in small groups on a daily basis. The Year 6 Young Leaders lead them in organised games.

We have a wide variety of after school clubs ranging from Judo and Football to Choir, French, Art, Gymnastics and Bake Through the Bible.





Partnerships

Partnership with Parents

As parents you want the best for your child and you have already begun their learning journey within your family. At Heatherside Infants we believe that by establishing an open, honest and positive partnership with you, your child will gain the most from his or her education.

We value our relationship with parents and are committed to ensuring families feel involved and informed. We run coffee morning programmes discussing topics from Educational Psychology to Lunchtime Supervision. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know other people and find out more about the school and the wider community. We also hold fun information evenings for parents covering reading, writing and arithmetic where you will be actively encouraged to join in.

We believe our partnership with you is a very important aspect of our work in nurturing your child's development.



Helping at School

Parents, grandparents and carers provide invaluable support with all aspects of school life.

This includes helping in the classrooms, library, cookery room, gardens and with our reading support groups. It's fun and rewarding, a good place to meet other people, be part of a community and to find out what your children are up to.

So if you have time or a particular expertise you think you could share with us, we would love to see you. We really value your help and the children love to see you in the school.



Heatherside News

Issue 2
Sept '19

Communication

Regular communication is vital and essential in building an effective partnership.

We encourage parents to come in regularly to meet and discuss things with our teaching staff, no matter how insignificant they may seem. For things that are more significant we are always happy to arrange to meet you so that there is quality in the time spent with you.

There are regular newsletters providing updates on events taking place in the curriculum as well as other aspects of school life. It is also a way of celebrating pupil and family achievements such as badges gained in swimming, ballet or at Rainbows and Beavers. Children always love to read about themselves.

During the year there are further opportunities to come and find out more about the curriculum and how you can help your child at school. We also have good supporting literature to help with ideas for number games, helping your child to read, spelling practice and knowing your numbers. Most of these can be found on our website.

Of course, we also hold parent consultation meetings where parents meet more formally with our teaching staff to discuss their child's progress.



Partnerships

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Heatherside Schools' Association

Our school association embodies our strong belief in partnership. Parents of both the Infant and the Junior Schools at Heatherside form one school association. This association is an intrinsic part of our school life. The committee works very hard, and has a lot of fun, organising a variety of social as well as fund raising events. Our Summer and Christmas School Fairs, Quiz Nights and Children's Discos are some of the events Heatherside Schools' Association organise during the year, with profits going to the school.

As soon as your child starts school you become members of our joint Heatherside Schools Association.

Breakfast Club

We have an on-site breakfast club which is run by SCL and starts at 7.45am. A healthy breakfast followed by fun activities is designed to start the children's day in the right way!



Lunch

Meals are prepared on site by our school cook. She is always happy to talk to parents and is able to support children with specific dietary needs.



Transition

Children join us from many different pre-school settings and we maintain good links with them. Our staff will liaise with each setting prior to your child joining us. During the summer term before your child starts school you and your child are invited to Explore, Stay and Play sessions.

There are further opportunities to come and listen to stories in their new classroom. These opportunities allow them to be familiar with the school and their new teachers before they start school.

Governors

We very much see our Governors as partners in shaping the future of our school. They bring to their role a variety of business and personal expertise enabling them to fulfil their commitment to ensuring our school continues to develop and provide the very best experience for your child. Governors meet regularly and have a variety of duties which include visiting the school and attending training to keep updated on their role and commitments.



Inclusion

Pupil Voice

The children are very proud of their school and are encouraged to take positions of responsibility such as school councillor, Eco councillor, library assistant, playground friend or helper of the day.

This is an important part of developing the children's independence, encouraging them to think about wider school issues and working together to make their school a great place for everyone to be.

We actively seek the opinions and ideas of the children and consider this a vital part of the school's self evaluation process as well as contributing to our improvement priorities.



Gifted and Talented

Children who are more able or talented in a particular area will be identified, challenged and extended through the provision of differentiated tasks, investigations and questioning strategies.

Equal Opportunities

In line with Hampshire County Council policy we provide equal opportunity for all children regardless of their gender, race, religion or disability.

Special Educational Needs

The school's aims and ethos are to ensure that all children have equal opportunities to access a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated to meet their needs. Sometimes children experience specific difficulties that require additional support or different programmes of study. In consultation with parents, an Individual Education Plan will be written and used as a means of regularly reviewing progress with you.

Collective Worship

Assembly is an important time in the day when we gather together to reflect as a class or in larger groups in the hall. Our assemblies are non-denominational however follow the basic principles of Christianity, as well as covering a wide range of beliefs and events in different faiths and cultures as well as reinforcing the values of good citizenship. Parents may withdraw their child from collective worship.

