



School Prospectus

Pupils support one another in class and can collaborate well. They build and maintain very good relationships with each other. One pupil told an inspector that the school has a 'family feel'. Parents agreed, with one saying, 'Windermere is an incredibly nurturing and caring school.'

(Ofsted 2018)



Message from the Headteacher

At Windermere Primary School we focus on the individual child. For us academic achievement is important, but equally important is creating happy, thoughtful citizens of the future. We offer excellent teaching within a broad and interesting curriculum, whilst also creating memorable experiences that children will take with them for the rest of their lives.

You will find that Windermere is a community school in every sense of the word. Being a small school helps to create strong relationships not just between adults and children, but also between older and younger children. Our termly Learning Together Weeks emphasise this community approach to learning. A strong ethos of pastoral care ensures that the needs of our children and their families are met.

The pupils at Windermere Primary School reflect the local community of St Albans. We welcome the demographic diversity this brings and recognise how this prepares our pupils for life in modern Britain.

If your child is joining the school, then we will look forward to welcoming you into the school. If you are considering Windermere for your child, then please come and visit us so that you can see for yourself what we can offer your child.

Mrs D Raftery

BUILDINGS and FACILITIES

Built in the 1950's, Windermere Primary School benefits from a large attractive site with well-resourced classrooms and communal spaces.

The school has bright sunny classrooms, a large hall and separate dining room. Classrooms are arranged around a central quadrangle, with every room having its own access to the playground or field. Classrooms are well-equipped with interactive whiteboards and visualisers, and each classroom has its own toilet and cloakroom area.



A canopied area outside Year 1 and 2 provides additional learning space for children in KS1, whilst Reception use the well-resourced, central courtyard for their outdoor provision.



An ongoing programme of development ensures that the facilities are kept current and reflect the needs of the children. In 2017 the main building was extended to provide a new library area. This is well-used, with children able to select additional books from the extensive fiction and non-fiction books available.



OUTDOOR FACILITIES

The school grounds include two playgrounds as well as a playing field. Both playgrounds have adventure trails, seating, quiet areas and playtime resources.



The outside theatre, sheltered by a canopy of trees, is a lovely location for classes to read poetry and books during the summer term as well as being a popular play area at breaktimes.

With its raised beds and wide paved paths, the kitchen garden is accessible throughout the year, offering a quiet area away from the excitement of the playground as well as an opportunity to develop gardening skills for KS2 classes. KS1 and Reception have their own gardening patches and the annual potato growing competition ensures everyone gets involved.



The wildlife area helps to bring science teaching alive, with its pond (and safety cover), wood pile, bird and bug boxes. It also provides a quiet space when playtimes move onto the field in the summer months.

The outdoor gym and pirate galleon are just two of the ways that help children stay active and develop their gross motor skills, whilst playing with their friends.



CURRICULUM

As a maintained school, Windermere Primary follows the National Curriculum for England programme of study. Where appropriate topics are adapted to meet the needs and interest of the children.

ENGLISH



From phonics first thing in the morning, to the end of the day story, reading is a core element of our school routine. Reading is taught both directly through daily phonics or reading lessons, and as part of other curriculum subjects. As a result, the school's results in the Year 1 Phonic Screening Check are well above the national average and pupils across the school read with enthusiasm. Every classroom has its own book corner and children are able to borrow two books from this or the school library.

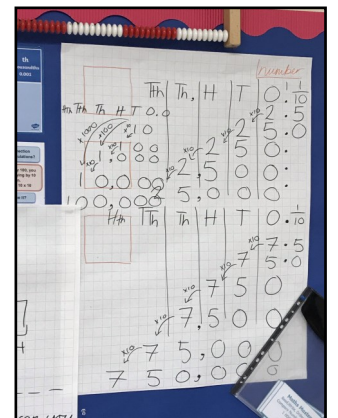
To achieve reading fluency, reading at home is essential practice, so pupils who read 20 times to an adult at home are allowed to choose a book from our selection of brand new **Reading Reward** books. This is theirs to keep and add to their own personal library at home.



Writing is taught using *Talk for Writing* principles. This helps children to internalise text structures and develop their vocabulary, so that they are able to produce a range of fiction and non-fiction text genres.

MATHEMATICS

Using pictorial representations and mathematical apparatus such as beadstrings, Cuisenaire rods and Dienes cubes, pupils develop an understanding of mathematical concepts, so that they are able to successfully apply this understanding and knowledge to more challenging problems. The school participates in inter-school maths competitions and Royal Institution masterclasses.



SCIENCE

Our accreditation with the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) is currently being renewed; we understand the importance of science teaching being underpinned by practical and investigative activities. From sorting sweets to understand the principles of classification in Year 6, and using digital microscopes to examine rocks in Year 3 to dissecting a fish in Year 1, science is interesting and fun.



CURRICULUM

COMPUTING

Living in a digital age, it is essential that children are able to understand and safely use modern technology. With class sets of laptops and iPads, and extensive use of our online learning platform, Google Classroom, pupils are definitely computer literate. The school is well-equipped with IT resources, from dataloggers to BeeBots, ProBots, Flowol and Lego WeDo programming devices.

Internet safety is taught as part of the computing curriculum as well as in PSHE lessons.



PE and SPORT



Sport plays a very important and popular part in the life of Windermere School. We firmly believe that skills learned during sporting activities help to develop team spirit, co-operation and foster self-esteem. The PE curriculum includes sports such as orienteering, lacrosse and Tri-golf, as well as games such as football and netball. Specialist sports coaches teach PE lessons during the school day and run sports clubs after school. These are fully funded by the Sports Premium Grant to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to participate.

There are many opportunities for competitive sport at Windermere; being a small school it is very likely that any child who is interested in doing so, will have the opportunity to represent their school at a competitive level.

Pupils in KS2 have swimming lessons at Westminster Lodge swimming pool.

One of the highlights of the sporting year is our very own cross country event in the autumn term. Every pupil takes part, with the slower runners being supported and encouraged by their classmates and older pupils.

Our annual sports day takes place in the summer. The morning is filled with a variety of fun games and activities which ensures everyone gets involved. In the afternoon the serious business of competitive racing takes over, with traditional obstacle races and nail-biting sprints side by side.

CURRICULUM

RE and COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We follow the agreed Hertfordshire syllabus for religious education. This introduces a range of faiths and belief systems. In KS1 topics are varied and include every major religion at appropriate times. In KS2 a different religion forms the main focus each year and this is then contrasted with Christianity to see differences and similarities in beliefs.

The school's collective worship acknowledges the diversity of the school community, offering opportunities for daily reflection, whilst continuing to develop cultural capital through stories and historical recollections.

PSHE and P4C

The PSHE curriculum has been carefully structured to develop pupils' emotional intelligence, provide them with knowledge for the future, and to give them the social skills necessary for successful friendships. Sex and Relationships Education is incorporated into the PSHE programme of study.

P4C or Philosophy for Children is an exciting opportunity for children to consider philosophical questions and to share their views and opinions with their peers.

HISTORY and GEOGRAPHY



Workshops and educational visits bring these subjects to life. Spending a day as a Celtic villager or following the River Ver as it meanders through St Albans, creates a memorable experience and embeds learning deeply. Visits aren't always possible, but practical activities (such as making an Ancient Greek vase) are an engaging element of lessons in these subjects.

CURRICULUM



ART, DESIGN and MUSIC

By their very nature, these subjects are practical and interactive. Pupils are taught about famous artists, studying major works of art before creating their own using a range of different media. Large display boards in the hall showcase collaborative pieces of work, so that every child can see their artistic contribution celebrated.

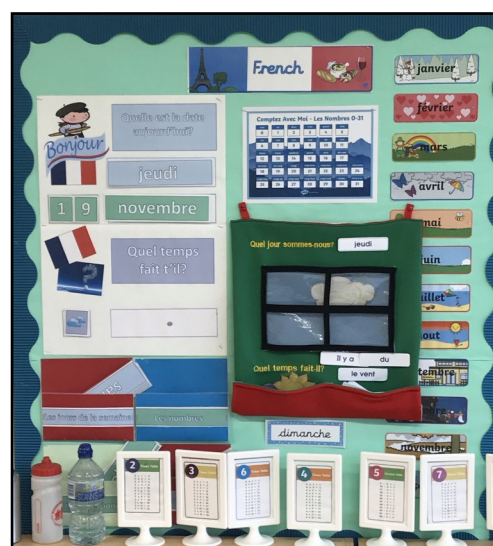
Music is taught by specialist music teachers from Year 1 to Year 6. In Years 3 and 4 the children learn to play the ukulele as part of the music curriculum. The school choir has performed at the O2, the Royal Albert Hall and the Alban Arena, creating wonderful memories for all of those involved.

The Christmas and end of year performances showcase the children's many talents in music and drama.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: French

French is our chosen language for MFL. Taught by a native French speaker, through a mixture of games, songs and stories, pupils learn to communicate in simple sentences and to talk about themselves. This knowledge and understanding about a modern foreign language is a highly transferrable skill which can be applied to other languages in the future.

Within the school community many languages are spoken and pupils are encouraged to share knowledge about their own languages and culture with their class.



EYFS

Reception

Reception pupils follow their own EYFS curriculum in a bright and engaging classroom environment and large well-equipped courtyard.

EYFS has seven areas of learning and development:

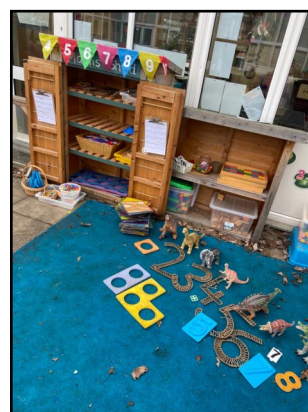
- Personal, social and emotional development.
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



Throughout the day subjects are taught both directly, led by the teacher, and through child initiated learning and play. Different focus areas within the classroom allow the children to develop their understanding and skills through inquiry and practice.



In Reception, books and stories provide the focus not just for reading and writing, but also understanding the world and expressive arts and design.



Indoor and outdoor maths areas support counting and calculation, but also comparing, measuring and creating patterns, which form the foundations of mathematical understanding.



The different areas within the classroom are all well-resourced and accessible to the children.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

BEHAVIOUR

Good behaviour is essential for a harmonious community and the opportunity to learn. Children are expected to treat each other and staff with kindness and respect. They are expected to look after school property and to share in common activities such as tidying up at the end of the lesson.

Most pupils behave well and show care and consideration to others. In class, behaviour is managed using a green and red triangle system. Good and impressive behaviour is recognised by progression up the green triangle, with the ultimate accolade being a visit to the headteacher. Behaviour, such as shouting out, which is not conducive to a calm learning environment is corrected using the red triangle, which acts as a visual reinforcement of the teacher's expectations. Reaching the top of the red triangle also results in a visit to the headteacher. Both triangles are reset at least daily.

The school follows the Hertfordshire STEPS approach to behaviour management, recognising that in children behaviours are often a form of communication. Adults will try to establish the root cause of poor behaviour and will work with parents to improve behaviour. Parents are expected to support the behaviour expectations of the school and not to undermine sanctions given by members of staff.

REWARDS

In addition to the green triangle reward system, pupils are awarded house points for good work, helpfulness and politeness. These house points not only contribute to a collective total, shared in our celebration assembly each week, but also earn individual rewards for children.

Good attendance is essential for children to learn and make progress. Class attendance is rewarded at the weekly celebration assembly, but individual attendance can earn a coveted attendance star. These are proudly worn by children who have achieved 100% attendance each term.



SCHOOL VISITS AND WORKSHOPS



In school workshops and educational visits enhance pupils' learning experiences. It is expected that every class will undertake an off-site visit at least once per year. These will be closely linked to a curriculum area, such as Crucial Crew and the PSHE curriculum or Celtic Harmony and the history curriculum.

Educational day visits are a key part of our curriculum delivery, but residential visits offer pupils special opportunities for personal development. An overnight visit to Phasels Wood in Year 4 or 5 gives many children their first night away from home without Mum or Dad. A five-day residential trip to a different part of the country -

Forest of Dean or Peak District - is an exciting memory that they will treasure for a very long time.

WRAP AROUND CARE

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our very own breakfast club offers all pupils a relaxed start to the morning. Toast, waffles, muffins and crumpets are provided, as well as a range of healthy cereals, fruit and yoghurts. Booking is not necessary and the club opens at 7:45am. Each session costs £5 per child, with discounts available for pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium Grant.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

After school wrap around care is provided up to 6pm, by an outside provider: **EnergyKidz**. Operating from the dining room at the heart of the school and with access to the KS1 playground, the club offers light snacks, craft activities and games in a friendly environment. Places at the after school club can be booked online, both in advance and on the day.



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

The school organises a number of after school activity clubs. The range of clubs may vary according to the availability of staff or parent volunteers. Sports clubs, such as netball, football and multi-sports, are subsidised by the Sports Premium Grant. These clubs enhance pupils' enjoyment of sport and encourage healthy lifestyles. Spaces can be limited for after school activity clubs, so these are organised on a first come, first served basis. Places at the clubs are booked online via SchoolCloud.

WHO's WHO

STAFF

The school has a strong and stable staff, who work closely with each other. All staff are offered training opportunities to ensure that they develop the very best teaching practice for the benefit of the pupils.

GOVERNORS

The school community benefits from a very committed and professional governing body, which comprises parent, staff and local community representatives. They work closely with the school leaders, providing both support and challenge as appropriate.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)



A dedicated band of parents who work tirelessly to not only raise funds for the school, but also to ensure that there are enjoyable community activities which help to keep the community strong. Whilst the Christmas and Summer Fairs are the highlights of the PTA calendar, discos, pumpkin trails, Easter egg hunts and Mother's/Father's Day makes all add to the annual fun.

WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Windermere Avenue
St Albans
AL1 5QP

Tel: 01727 851176
Email: admin@windermere.herts.sch.uk