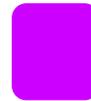


“Success for All, Enjoyment in Everything”



PROSPECTUS

Horstead CE (VA) First & Nursery School



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Welcome to our School

Thank you for taking an interest in our school. We are a small, rural and well-resourced school set in beautiful countryside. We are proud of the pastoral care and education we provide for the children in our community, and believe it is the values and ethos of a school that make each one unique. The nurturing environment and family feel we create give our school a special quality, helping us stand out as a place for children to learn and develop. The breadth of our curriculum and the high standards we set ourselves ensure that we achieve “Success for All and Enjoyment in Everything”, going the extra mile through exciting and engaging themes woven throughout the curriculum.

Please do come and visit us – the best way to learn about us and see for yourself what makes our school special.

Philip Asher **Headteacher**

Aims and Values

We serve our community by working in partnership to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice, alongside an understanding of core values and aims. They provide us with a sense of identity and belonging that creates our learning community – all of us working together to learn and grow. We celebrate diversity, and are committed to the principles of inclusion and equality of opportunity.

Children are encouraged to be courageous with their learning, taking on new challenges and growing in confidence so that they solve problems and overcome difficulties. We instil a sense of compassion and love through the collaborative and supportive way the children work with each other, making friendships that are respectful and kind. The children understand what they are doing and why they are doing it, helping them to view themselves as learners and giving purpose to what they are learning. We constantly reflect and review, helping us to improve and strive to be the best we can be.



We have seven core values, and they guide the rules by which we work and play together:

Love: We treat each other as we would like to be treated.

Respect: We show respect to people and property.

Kindness: We are kind and caring with words and actions.

Peace: We work quietly to help each other learn.

Co-operation: We work together, helping each other.

Honesty: We admit if we do something wrong and seek help if there is a problem.

Aspire: We will aim high and try our best in all we do.

We believe this approach will enable our children to develop lively, enquiring minds, the ability to question and discuss rationally and to apply themselves to learning and physical skills. It also gives pupils knowledge and skills relevant to life in a fast changing world, whilst helping them to develop a caring attitude, self-discipline and respect for other people and their property.



About Our School

Hormead First School is a small, rural Church of England First School situated in generous grounds on the outskirts of Great Hormead, 2 miles east from Buntingford, Hertfordshire. We provide education for children aged 3 to 9 (Nursery to Year 4) and feed into the Edwinstree (Buntingford) and Ralph Sadleir (Standon) Middle schools. We are part of the Rib Valley Cluster of Schools, and work closely with our local education partners to provide a broad and engaging curriculum.

Organisation

Our school is organized into three classes taught by their own, dedicated teacher.

Ash Class is our Nursery / Reception class, taught by Mrs Debbie Johnson & Mrs Lauren Hill

Willow Class is our Y1 and Y2 class, taught by Miss Rhiannon Taylor

Oak Class is our Y3 and Y4 class, taught by Mrs Stephanie Barrett

Pupils are taught individually, as a group or as a whole class, but always according to individual needs and in ways that will take them forward in their learning and development. The smaller size of our School enables a more flexible approach to grouping the children through the day, responding to their needs and the demands of the curriculum. This ensures that no child is left behind (OFSTED 2015).

The School Day

8:45am	School opens – children have morning work or Busy Fingers activities to get them ready for the day ahead
8:55am	Registration
10:30am	Morning Break (20 minutes)
12:00pm	Lunch (1 hour)
1:00pm	Afternoon Session
2.45pm	Collective Worship (daily)
3:15pm	End of the School Day – After School Clubs are held on a rotation through the year

Parent Partnership

There is a strong, caring ethos in our school, and many visitors comment on the warm, welcoming environment we create for pupils, staff and parents. We operate an 'open door' policy – helping to build a strong partnership with our parents and carers. This partnership is vital to the success of our children, and we encourage parents' to be actively involved with their children's education. There are many and varied opportunities to be involved in school life, from sharing assemblies, to listening to readers and helping out in class – alongside a supportive Friends and Parents of Hormead School Association, our PTA.



We use a range of ways to communicate with our parents, for example through our fortnightly newsletter, website or face to face meetings. We also have an active Facebook Page where we share our activities. There is a wealth of information on our website including our newsletters and a gallery of activities, key policies and information.

Parents are invited to attend Parent Consultations in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and each child receives a written report in the Summer Term. Staff will always be happy to meet with parents and carers at any point through the year to share any concerns – we operate an open door policy.

Our Curriculum

We aim to use the curriculum imaginatively, engaging children in their learning and deepening their understanding. We encourage our children to be independent learners, emphasising resilience and reflection as core to effective learning behaviours. Good behaviour is expected at all times, and is rewarded with team points, Hornead Hero slips and 'golden time'. We celebrate achievements – both curricular and social – as part of our weekly Celebration Assembly.

Our curriculum is taught through cross-subject, creative themes that help children forge links between knowledge, skills and interest. These links embed learning so that it is deep, broad and experiential, involving workshops, inspirational days, trips and residential visits, performing plays and learning to play musical instruments. We ensure that every subject is covered across a two year rolling programme of study in KS1 and KS2. Specific details can be found on our school website under the pupils section.

Our involvement with the East Herts School Sports Partnership and close links with the Rib Valley Schools centred around Buntingford, enable further opportunities to participate and in a varied programme of events and activities with local schools. We have recently been awarded the Gold Award for our participation in sports activities. This commitment to providing children with a wide range of experiences extends to our After School Clubs, which include cookery, football, photography, country dancing, and art, amongst others.

Celebrating Children

We believe wholeheartedly in celebrating pupil's achievements through our rewards systems and certificates in school. These are shared with the whole school community in our weekly Celebration Assembly, to which parents and family members are invited to join us and celebrate our successes! Every child is a member of a House Team and they can earn house points for their day to day learning, behavior and attitudes to each other. The prestigious Headteacher's Award is given to individuals for excellent work in class. Children can also be nominated for being a Hornead Hero – in celebration of their demonstration of a school value. They are awarded a gold slip and a Rainbow Lead - these are displayed on the tree in the entrance for everyone to see.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Our approach ensures that the children's needs are met in the classroom. From time to time, we may need to ask other professionals to help us provide for children in our school. These children are listed on our Special Educational Needs Register, and we create individual plans for supporting their learning and development. At every stage, we meet and discuss with parents our observations and the support we are putting in place to help your child achieve and succeed. More information about SEND matters can be found on our website.

Church Links

We are rightly proud of our strong church links in the village. Being a Church School, we attend church to celebrate key festivals through the year – Harvest, Christmas, Easter – and we hold a Leaver's Service there too at the end of the year. Our local Vicar, Revd. Kate, leads Collective Worship in school as well as these services, and we enjoy learning about bible stories. We also learn about other religions through our broad RE curriculum, and encourage the children to ask questions through enquiry based teaching methods. If you have any questions or queries about the distinctive Christian character of the school, please do get in touch. We are open to children and families of any and no faith who are sympathetic towards the Christian traditions we foster.

Admission Arrangements

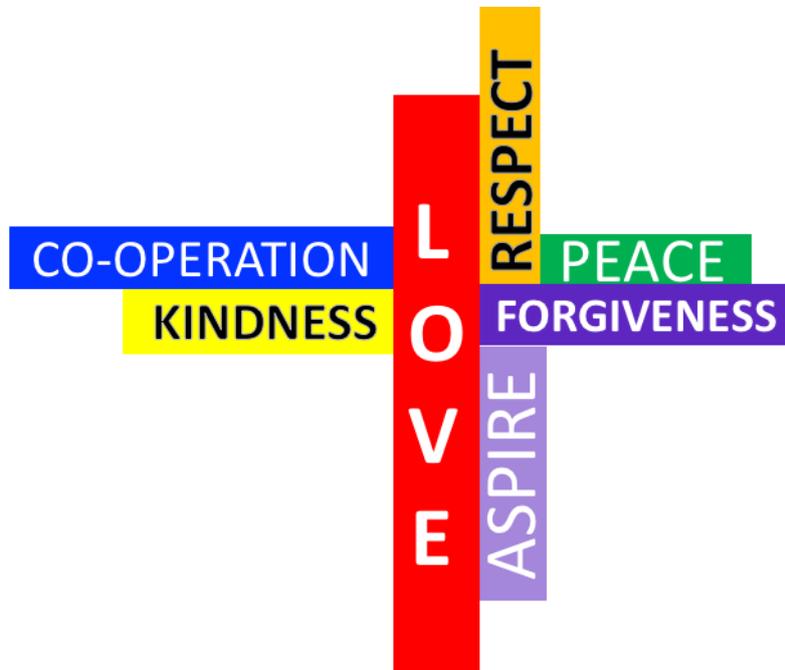
The enclosed Admissions policy details how you can apply for a place at our school. It is also available on our website, alongside other information about joining our school. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the school office where we will be happy to help. It is worth noting that there are different systems for Nursery and Reception places. Please ask if you are unsure how to proceed or need help with any step along the way.

Inclusion and Equality

Horstead CE First & Nursery School is committed to ensuring quality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children. We expect all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment. Staff work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe, secure and accepted. The curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognize and stay safe from abuse. Children know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent and supportive response.

Thank you for considering our school.



Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/hormeadschool

Visit us online: www.hormead.herts.sch.uk