



Pevensey and Westham Primary School
more amazing every day

Welcome to Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School



Foreword: Headteacher: Mr R, Thomas

I am very proud to welcome you to our wonderful school. Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School is a mixed, two-form entry, voluntary controlled school for children of between four and eleven years old. We are based in the beautiful historic village of Westham, where the school enjoys close links with the local community.

Safe and caring

We offer a safe, caring environment in which the Christian faith and beliefs are upheld. High standards of behaviour and achievement support children to be 'more amazing every day'.

School Values

At Pevensey and Westham C E School we try to live and learn by strong Christian values. We believe that with Christian guidance we can be 'more amazing every day'.

Inspiring curriculum

Our school offers a rich and inspiring curriculum delivered by a team of outstanding practitioners. We excel at quality learning based on innovation, research and developing effective new strategies. Through real experiences and creative and specialist teaching approaches, we encourage children to achieve their full potential.

Dedicated Staff

Our staff are approachable and happy to help. They are dedicated to providing the best possible education to the children in their care, academically, physically, socially and morally. We want all the children in our care to feel safe, flourish and achieve to the best of their abilities.

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school we also believe that we must provide amazing pastoral care. Our Church School inspection team said that we "nurture the well-being of the whole child, enabling them to be personally valued, happy and secure".

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning. Our innovative ClassStory allows you to stay in touch with daily updates about the teaching in the form of photos and a commentary from the teacher.

We hope that your association with us will bring both happiness and success for your child.

Get in touch

We ask that you come and see us for a visit while our children are present; when you can see us as we really are. That way you will feel for yourself the sense of fun and happiness in our school and know why our children love being here. To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask us a question, please email: admin@pevenseyschool.org.uk or phone 01323 762269.

School Rules

We believe our three school rules of 'Be Ready; Be Respectful and Be Safe' help prepare pupils for the expectations in life



Michael and Charlotte have achieved academic success helped by the caring staff at Pevensey and Westham C&E School

Lindsay Iles and Geoff Fillery live in North Harbour with their twins, Michael and Charlotte, aged ten.

Children say

Michael says: 'I have enjoyed going to this school so much that I don't want to leave next year and they may have to drag me out.'

Charlotte says: 'Every day I love coming into school and seeing so many friendly faces. It's like one big family.'

Great start

Lindsay and Geoff are delighted with the good academic grounding Michael and Charlotte have received at Pevensey and Westham. 'The twins have also become more confident and developed great social skills and they will be sad to leave at the end of Year Six,' Lindsay says.

English success

'Academically they have both done very well. They are more into the artistic side of things and are very good at English. Charlotte excels at creative writing while Michael loves drama and performance arts. He has been given excellent support with Maths when he has needed it and now he is in Year Six, his Maths level is exactly where it should be.

Friendly atmosphere

'We went to look round schools when they were due to start and Pevensey and Westham was far and away the best we saw. We loved the village and its church. They started when they were four in the same reception class and have stayed together as they have progressed up the school. They were very happy from day one and enjoyed making new friends. It is a very friendly faith school and they loved being taken out to the village or the church,' Lindsay says.

Independent learning

'Their teachers have prepared them well for going up to secondary school next year. They are now encouraging them to be independent and keep a homework diary to keep track of their work and to take responsibility for their own learning as they will do at secondary school. In Year Six they do a whole day of forest school every week for the first term and they both absolutely love spending time outdoors.

Encouraging staff

'The help and advice from staff has always been tremendous. Michael has always been good with language. He had an excellent teacher in Year Four, who recognised Michael was interested in movies and musicals. Charlotte loves writing and got through to the last 50 in a Radio Two competition to write a 500-word story, out of about 27,000 entries,' Lindsay says.

Building confidence

'The twins weren't particularly confident when they started school but have both developed a lot along the way. Previously the School had a talent show and Michael had always been happy to take part. Charlotte didn't feel confident about standing up and performing in previous years but last year she sang a song in front of the teachers and children because she had overcome her shyness.

Parents included

'I like the way the school involve the parents. We have been invited in for Easter bonnet competitions and harvest festivals. But now you can download the Class Dojo app and they will send you pictures showing what your children are doing. Parents whose children have gone up to secondary school say they really miss that. Every summer the teachers and children put on a wonderful sports day like a mini Olympics that gives all the children a chance to contribute to their house scores and provides a great event for parents to watch - even having its own opening ceremony,' Lindsay says.

Outstanding school

'The Teaching Assistants the twins knew in reception are still there and the children still speak about them fondly and buy them presents. The school is like one big family. Since Mr Thomas became head teacher the school has gone from strength to strength and is now truly outstanding.'



School times are:
The School day starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.00pm.
Wraparound care: PaWS Xtra
Our PaWS Xtra clubs offer outstanding childcare at exceptional value for money. As a not for profit club, our prices represent the best possible value while providing top range sessions.



These clubs are:
Breakfast Club
Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am each day. It is very reasonably priced when booked in advance and provides a huge variety of activities and games before the group sits down together to choose from our healthy breakfast menu.
After School Club
Our After School Club runs from the end of the day until 5.45pm. Advance book to gain our very competitive rates. We promise to provide 'boredom busting brilliance' every day and we pride ourselves on offering the very best activities and care at every session.
Other clubs
We also offer a range of school holiday clubs and special theme days throughout the year.

Uniform
We believe that school uniform creates a sense of belonging and pride about a school. Our uniform is simple, smart and practical and can, conveniently, be bought online directly from the school
School meals and snacks
Break-time and drinks
All Foundation Stage and Key Stage One classes have a morning break time snack of fresh fruit or vegetables. We encourage children to drink water regularly during the day. All of our under-fives are entitled to free milk which is organised by the school. Milk is also available to all children who are entitled to free school meals and is available for the other pupils to buy and you can register for this at www.coolmilk.com.

School Meals
Our school meals are provided by Harrison's Catering Services who provide quality food, cooked on site using fresh ingredients every day. Children can also choose extras from a well-stocked salad bar together with freshly baked bread every day. There is a tasty vegetarian choice and any dietary needs are carefully catered for. This recent change was a big investment in ensuring a quality lunchtime for our children and we believe our dinners are now amongst the best in the county.
All our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal, this free meal is extended to older children whose family may be in receipt of certain benefits. Alternatively children can bring in a healthy packed lunch.



James is learning good values and is enjoying being challenged at Pevensey and Westham C&E School

Alan and Toni Bray live in Eastbourne with their son, James, aged eight.

Children say
James says: 'Apart from playing with my friends at lunch times and break times, I really enjoy 'outdoor learning.' We learn about the wildlife around the school and in our pond, the plants and trees in the school grounds and growing vegetables. We also get to make hot chocolate on a camp fire and climb trees.'

Promoting good values

Alan and Toni are pleased with the way Pevensey and Westham are helping James understand how to bring Christian values into his life and live his life according to those values. Toni says: 'I love the Christian ethos of the school because I was brought up to go to church and went to a Church primary school. Pevensey and Westham is a good setting to learn about Christian values and then children can make their own choices later in life.'

Enjoying reading

'He wasn't interested in writing but he loved books straight away. Every teacher has said how much they love the way he reads. When he started he hadn't learnt much at all, but he was soon able to read and write his name. He enjoyed bringing books home. He started with picture books and we would make up a story to fit with the pictures, then he brought books home with a few words to the page and now he is a free reader.'

Settling well

James started at Pevensey and Westham when he was four and a half. Toni says: 'He only knew one other child at the school when he went into reception but he settled in really well, helped by the caring staff. Every day I gave him the task of finding out someone's name in his class and it seemed to help him.'

Challenging work

'The transition from one class to another hasn't bothered him at all. His first teacher was well established at the school, but since then he has had teachers new to the school and has got on with them well, even though they all had different styles. His current teacher in Year Four got to know him quickly and has found out his weaknesses so she can strengthen them. She has learnt that he loves a challenge. If he finds things easy, he is less inclined to bother but if he is

asked to try the harder questions he'll rise to the challenge and get the answers right,' Toni says.

Making friends

'James is very sociable and has made several good friends at school that he plays with regularly. Encouraged by the Christian values taught by the school, he is kind, considerate and will always stick up for them. He enjoys singing at school and is in the recorder club, where he is learning to read music.'

Happy atmosphere

'Since Mr Thomas became head teacher things have got better and better at the school. James is always happy to go to school each day and in the school holidays he often asks me when it is time to go back. If the children do something good they can go and show the head or the deputy head and it seems to encourage them to try to do well,' Toni says.

Harvest service

'The school are helping James to understand Christian values and I also take him to the church in the village once a month. He gets involved in helping out with the service and has taken round the collection. The school have just had the harvest festival in the church and James said part of a prayer during the service. I love the way the church and the school are so closely connected.'





Engage, Develop, Innovate, Express

At Pevensy and Westham CE Primary School, we use '4 Cornerstones' to structure our termly learning.



Learning Knights

We encourage children to become independent learners by using our Learning Knights. Each Learning Knight teaches the children a key skill which will help them to take responsibility for their learning and to overcome any barriers and challenges to their progress and achievement. The Learning Knights are:

- Rodney Resilience.
- Rhianna Relationships.
- Rita Resourceful.
- Ralph Reflective.

Enriched curriculum

The topics within the curriculum at Pevensy and Westham CE School are designed to reflect the needs and interests of our children and the content is organised into topic themes with meaningful context. We believe that the individual needs of our children are best served through an enriched curriculum that enables children to exceed age related expectations and embed and master that learning. Through the delivery of our curriculum we will:

- Encourage all children to develop lifelong learning skills.
- Allow children to gain essential knowledge, skills and understanding for future life.
- Provide all pupils with access to broad and balanced learning which is inspiring and engaging.

Specialisms

We believe in providing high quality specialist teaching where appropriate and have several working in the school teaching, RE, Music, Forest School, Science and PE.

RE

Our specialist RE teacher brings a depth to this subject. Being a Church school we focus on Christianity, although our RE curriculum also covers Islam, Judaism and Hinduism, along with alternative world views. We have close links with many local churches and organisations, these all add to the children's wide experience and understanding.

Music

Our Music lessons are inclusive, active and varied! The curriculum covers a wide range of genres; including hip-hop, pop, reggae, rock and classical, and the children have experiences of playing different types of tuned and un-tuned instruments. We have a thriving choir and there are opportunities for children to learn instruments with qualified instrument teachers. Making music promotes teamwork, concentration and perseverance – all fabulous learning skills.

PE

Our physical education lessons are taught by an 'outstanding' PE specialist in order for our pupils to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The lessons are broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated with cross-curricular links. In physical education we monitor and support the overall progression and development of every individual we have, while embedding a positive learning experience within curriculum lessons and extra curricular sport that allows for our pupils to achieve their individual potential. This has led to our school being credited with a School Games Gold Mark.

Forest School

Every child gets six weeks of Forest School each year as they progress through the school. This means going into our woodland area one day a week to learn practical skills such as fire lighting, cooking and shelter building; to learn how to manage risks and to become more confident and independent; and, to develop a closer connection with the natural world. We believe that Forest School supports our pupils to become more successful learners in the classroom and to meet some of the challenges of everyday life. We have achieved recognised Forest School Status and a provider of the John Muir Award for Conservation.

Science

Science is a real strength of the school with amazing resources and hands-on experiments taking place every week for every child thanks to a unique loan arrangement that means we can regular change topics but ensure we have the very best materials to undertake awe-inspiring lessons. We have successfully achieved the Gold Quality Mark for Science.

Enriched curriculum: trips and visits



Trips

Our school involves the children in musical productions, theatre trips, residential trips and trips to enhance the curriculum and develop their understanding of the wider world. Some recent examples of our trips include:

- Brighton Museum.
- Drusilla's Zoo.
- London Theatre trip
- Pevensey Castle.
- Local beaches and the surrounding village community so that children can also learn to appreciate the wider world around them.

Residential trips and visitors

Older children have the opportunity to go on residential trips during the school year. These experiences can help to develop qualities of self-reliance and tolerance of others. Children also learn independence and develop confidence.

Our trips include an overnight badger watch in Year 4, and residential for Year 5 and 6.

Herstmonceux Science Centre:

Every year the children visit the local science museum at Herstmonceux. In addition to visits to the large installations, the science centre also brings events in to school to enable the children to be hands on with smaller exhibits. Last year some children were lucky enough to hold rocks from the moon and some parts of an asteroid; once in a lifetime opportunities.

Visitors

We have a range of visitors who come into school. These visitors provide a range of curriculum expertise and opportunities for pupils to learn through workshops, music, drama and much more.



Stanley and Margot are making excellent progress and enjoying the broad curriculum offered by Pevensey and Westham CE School

Sharon Smith and Miles Denyer live in Hankham with their son, Stanley, aged eight, and daughter, Margot, aged five.

Children say

Stanley says: 'I like being challenged and finding out new facts.'

Margot says: 'In worship we sing and learn actions as well as words. I love the actions. The actions help me learn the words.'

Enjoying learning

Sharon and Miles are delighted their children are being challenged and making good academic progress at Pevensey and Westham. Sharon says: 'When Stanley discusses school with us he makes it clear he likes being challenged with work. Margot has a real passion for learning and is excited about everything she is taught.'

to take time out at lunch-time to sit quietly. They handled it well, giving him good support without making a big deal of it.

Building confidence

'By Year Two Stanley was more confident and taking an active role in school matters. He has enjoyed becoming one of the Environmental Leaders and has joined the Nature Club. Stanley was recently chosen to represent his school in an enterprise challenge. They chose five children from his year to pose as a business arranging an event. Stanley played the part of the buyer and they worked as a team to put across what they were offering, competing against other schools.

Calm environment

Stanley joined the school in Year One. 'We had looked at a few schools but were impressed with Pevensey and Westham after meeting Mr Thomas, the head teacher. We thought the school looked smart and the overall atmosphere felt calm. Stanley had previously attended an independent school with small classes,' Sharon says.

Varied curriculum

'Stanley also attended a curriculum enrichment day at Bede's Prep school in Eastbourne. He was thrilled to have been given such an opportunity and it was lovely to see the effort he puts in recognised. He enjoys everything on the curriculum, but particularly likes Science. Stanley was inspired by the Empiribox system and

thoroughly enjoyed the practical experiments. This was funded by the PFT, who enthusiastically raise funds to provide a richer educational experience for all the children. Stanley loves sport, encouraged by the dedicated PE teacher, who motivates the children to try their best at everything. Stanley is also in the school choir and enjoys singing lessons.

Quick progress

'Margot started in reception when she was four. She also had to get used to a larger class but quickly began making progress. Again her transition was sympathetically handled. Within a week she was writing her name for the first time and explaining phonics to us. She has made plenty of friends and is looking forward to joining the sewing club at lunchtimes.

Forest School

'Pevensey and Westham have a grass field for play, an allotment area where they grow their own vegetables and a woodland area for their forest school programme, where children learn to develop nature connection and an understanding of their rural habitat. Stanley has enjoyed making bows and spears and Margot has taken great pride in being able to recognise trees by their leaves.'

Helping others

Sharon says there has never been a day when Stanley and Margot have not wanted to go to school. 'They feel safe at Pevensey and Westham and appreciate the way other children's challenging behaviour is dealt with. They both like to help other children and we are pleased the school promotes good values. We would wholeheartedly recommend Pevensey and Westham to other families and particularly admire the strong leadership and forward-thinking attitudes of Mr Thomas.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



- Equality**
We are committed to providing all our children with a high-quality education. We provide equal opportunities for all and ensure that any differences that exist due to race, language, social background, gender, ability and special educational needs or disabilities are valued.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**
Our SEN policy aims to ensure that we meet the needs of every child and ensure that they are given full and equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum. We adopt a whole school approach to identify and assess children with SEND as early as possible. We also find ways to overcome barriers to learning so that each and every child can fulfil his or her potential.
- Everyone involved**
Children with SEND are involved as far as possible in decisions affecting their future learning and targets, with their views sought and taken into account. We work in partnership with parents recognising the vital role they play in supporting their child's wellbeing and education. We liaise closely with outside agencies to enable every child and all involved in delivering those personalised learning needs, to have access to specialist support and expertise.
- Outcomes**
Pupils with SEND are thriving at our school. Increased differentiation of the curriculum is provided to meet diverse individual needs. Staff understand the objectives of their curriculum planning for pupils with SEND. Regular monitoring and reviews of individual needs takes place with clear records kept of action taken. Good home/school communication is established and maintained.



- Gifted and talented children**
We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs. Opportunities are sought for such pupils to meet and work with similarly gifted pupils in the area.
- Pupil Leadership**
Every pupil is encouraged to take a leadership role and we regularly have elections to identify successful pupils. We have over 100 pupils of all ages with leadership roles that include House Captains, charity leaders, reading mentors, environmental leaders and sports captains. The school really benefits from children taking this extra responsibility and pupils feeling they have ownership of some decisions made in school.
- Classrooms and staff**
We have 14 classrooms and 14 full time equivalent Class Teachers, along with Specialist Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Support staff. All our classes are themed around books and include Fantasia, Wonderland, Narnia, The Black Pearl, 100 Aker Wood and Hogwarts.
- Outside activities**
Our outside areas enjoy the benefits of a rural setting. We have a large playing field for our sports lessons and events. We have a woodland area which hosts our Forest School sessions. We also have a wildlife pond, our own beach area and an allotment area. We also have our own very special woodland reflection area and we use the area for regular outdoor worships.

Wide variety of clubs

We believe in providing as many different opportunities to children as possible. Our school day is enhanced with an amazing variety of after school and lunchtime clubs. The majority of these are provided free of charge although a few require a small financial contribution.

Examples of our clubs include:

- Netball.
- Cookery.
- Science.
- Technology.
- Football.
- Basketball.
- Dodgeball.
- Comic Club.
- Sama Karate.
- Film.
- Recorder.
- Board Games.
- Archery.
- Sewing.
- Flag American Football.
- Ultimate frisby.
- Mission X / Robotics.
- Gardening.
- Drama.
- Cross Country.



Holly has made a bright start and is enjoying learning thanks to the caring staff at Pevensey and Westham C&E School

Kyra and Paul Merchant live in Stone Cross with their daughter, Holly, aged five, and son, Benjamin aged two.

Children say

Holly says: 'I really like writing and doing guided reading.'

Phonics briefing

Kyra and Paul were delighted with the good start Holly made at Pevensey and Westham and the way the school invited parents in to be briefed on how their children were going to be taught. 'It was really useful as we didn't know anything about phonics, but being included like that meant we were able to support her at home afterwards,' Kyra says.

Good progress

'Holly was very excited about starting school and settled in really well in the reception class. There was plenty of support from the staff. We were happy with the progress she made and pleased she was enjoying school and having fun. She was always excited to be going to school and never said she didn't want to go.

Welcoming atmosphere

'We chose the school for a variety of reasons. We liked the fact it was a Church of England school and it reminded me of my own primary

school. It is in a lovely rural setting and had a warm welcoming feeling when we visited it. We had looked at several schools but instantly felt that Pevensey and Westham was the right school for Holly. We liked the layout of the school and the fact that it was spacious.

Making friends

'Holly knew only one person at the school before she started but found it easy to make friends. She enjoys playtime and lunchtime and is looking forward to joining the sewing club after half term. She gets on well with everyone and is invited to lots of parties. She comes home and tells me enthusiastically about what she's been doing. You can tell she really enjoys school.

Fun outdoors

Kyra and Paul are pleased the school do a lot of lessons outdoors. 'The staff take them out to nearby woods and really use their imagination as to how they get things across to the children. I am pleased they have specialist PE and music

teachers and regard those subjects as important. They have a structure to their week and Holly is aware when it is music day or PE day. She enjoys PE and when she was in her early years class attended a sports day at another primary school to compete against other schools.

Social events

'They have a strong parent committee that put on great events for the school such as Bonfire night and the Christmas fair. It was lovely celebrating the harvest festival at the church in the village recently and the children enjoyed bringing in their food and donations. I am pleased the right values are being instilled into the children.

Enjoying homework

'Holly's reading is coming on really well now and she recognises words by the shape and is remembering words she has seen before. She gets very encouraging comments in her reading diary. She absolutely loves Maths and for

homework recently was asked to do some work on a Maths website. She enjoyed it so much she wanted to do it twice.

Working hard

'I would recommend the school to other parents. The children are encouraged to work hard and put effort into their learning. They are receiving a rounded education and learning a lot outside the classroom. It is not just about teaching them the core subjects of Maths and English,' Kyra says.

Building confidence

'As parents we are made to feel it is okay to let our children be competitive. Children are encouraged to take on leadership roles, such as being a sports leader or a reading monitor. We are delighted to see Holly is learning to be confident in her abilities.'

Admissions

General contact information for East Sussex School Admissions Team

- Email contact is an online format via the County Council's website:
 - Website: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions
 - Opening hours for enquiries:
Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm.
 - For general enquiries you can contact:
Admissions and Transport Team
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1UE
Tel: 0300 330 9472
- Internet access is available at public libraries and some schools may allow you to use their computers to apply.

Starting school and compulsory school age

Children must start school at the beginning of the term which follows their fifth birthday. However, your child is allowed to start school full time at the beginning of the school year which follows their fourth birthday.

Admission into Reception

To apply for your child's Reception school place at Pevensey and Westham CE School, you will need to follow East Sussex County Council's procedures for admission. The closing date for September applications is in mid January of that year. Full details are available on their website and you can apply online.

Admission into other year groups

For children joining the school after the beginning of the Reception year, parents and pupils are encouraged to visit the school and meet the Headteacher. You should still apply to East Sussex County Council for schools through the 'In-year Admission' scheme.

Applications

Although there is no right to choose a child's school, you do have the right to state a preference for the schools that you would like your child to attend. East Sussex County Council recommends that you list three different schools in case your first preference cannot be offered.

- You can apply online at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions.
- If you are not able to apply online we can offer internet access at the school or, please contact the Council's Admissions and Transport team for a paper application. Your completed form should be returned to the address specified on the form before the closing date.
- You will be notified of your child's placement the following April.
- Our school has no say in how places are allocated. However there is an appeals process which parents can access.

Getting involved

Parental Involvement

We work to nurture and encourage links between home and the local community, so that everyone can contribute towards the life of the school community whatever their background or personal circumstances. We believe that the positive examples set by parents, compliments, supports and contributes to the education of each child. We encourage frequent contact between home and school through parents' evenings etc. We welcome parents into the life of the school, whether helping on a school visit, joining the PFT or supporting children with their work.

Parent Fundraising Team

The PaWS Fundraising Team (The PFT) is a group of parents whose aim is to raise additional funds for the school, by way of fun events throughout the school year. In recent years we have helped the school with the Den in the playground, outdoor learning equipment and many smaller contributions. All are welcome and we have regular meetings at an informal setting. People can do as much or as little as they like, from becoming fully involved in helping to set up an event, to baking a cake for bingo night. No reasonable offers refused. If you would like more information, or find out when the next meeting is, please e mail us at pawsfundraisingteam@gmail.com. You can also follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/PAWSFundraisingteam.

Governorship

Pevensey and Westham Governing Body are an enthusiastic group of volunteers who include parents, staff and members of the local community. We come from a variety of professional backgrounds but have one thing in common – we are dedicated to ensuring that the children at PaWS have the best education possible. Our role is to promote on-going improvements in standards throughout the school and to promote and maintain the Christian ethos. We help to set the school's aims and values and work to ensure these are delivered for the children.

The governing body are involved in the life of the school. Not only do we carry out 'scrutiny visits' in different areas, we also pop in and get involved in activities with children and the staff. If you have any questions for the Governors, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair by e-mailing: chair@pevenseyschool.org.uk, or contact the Clerk, Mrs Walters, through the school office.

Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.



