



Greatstone Primary and Nursery School

Together we learn

Welcome to Greatstone Primary and Nursery School

Foreword: Mrs Sharon Lewis, Headteacher, says:

A warm welcome to Greatstone Primary School and Nursery

At Greatstone Primary School we believe that every child has their own set of gifts and talents which makes them who they are. We provide a learning environment and unique curriculum that is built on mutual respect, high expectations and independence. Our children are happy, safe and curious learners who enjoy being challenged and creative in their thinking and learning. Our aim is that every child is inspired and achieves together with their peers, parents and wider community.

Developing the whole child

We are particularly proud of how we care for each other, our community and the wider world. We place an emphasis on the development of the whole child both academically, emotionally and physically. Our children are friendly, well behaved and enthusiastic about their learning. They are our finest ambassadors.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to also enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Dedicated staff

I am also very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential, and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

Partnership with parents

Childhood is a precious time and as parents, choosing the right school and nursery for your child can be a challenging task. As your child's first teacher, you understand what makes them unique and what type of school is right for your child. We work closely with our parents to develop a partnership which focuses on the individual needs of each and every child.

Our location

Situated in the coastal village of Greatstone, we are a school with a wealth of local facilities which our children enjoy exploring as a platform for their learning beyond the classroom.

Get in touch

If you wish to hear more about what we can offer your child, please contact us for more information or an appointment to meet me. We welcome visits and love to show our school 'in action'. Telephone on 01797 363916 or email enquiries@greatstoneschool.co.uk



School day: settling in

Nursery hours

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm term time only. We offer morning and afternoon sessions, as well as full day care.

Primary school hours

8.45am to 3.15pm.

Breakfast Club and After-School provision

Our Breakfast Club starts at 7.30am and After-School club currently ends at 5.15pm, although we are extending this to 5.45pm from January 2021. The wraparound care is based in the small hall and staffed by school and nursery staff who are fully qualified. We offer a wide range of activities to stimulate play and social interactions with others and, where we can, we also support children to complete their home learning (reading and spellings for example) which for working parents, is incredibly helpful.

There is a designated door for parents to drop their children off in the mornings and to collect from at the end of the day to make it as easy as possible.

Uniform

We are proud of our uniform and the sense of belonging it instils. We expect all children to wear uniform and all parents/carers to support the school in this matter. Our uniform is simple, comfortable and flexible and our school colours are bottle green jumper, cardigan and polo shirt, with dark grey or black trousers or skirts.

School meals and snacks

We are extremely fortunate to have our own full-sized catering kitchen on site where we cook all food from fresh using local produce where possible to support local businesses. Parents are able to order meals for their on-line in advance and the menu is shared with you in advance. There is always a main meal and a vegetarian option as well as jacket potatoes if children would prefer. Salad and vegetables are served daily and there's also a choice of desserts which includes fresh fruit, yogurt as well as a further main dessert option.

Packed lunches

Alternatively, children can opt to have a packed lunch if they prefer and we encourage parents to include healthy options please. Fizzy drinks in cans are not permitted.

Free school meals

All Key Stage 1 children receive a free school meal. We encourage all parents of children in Key Stage 2 who think that they may qualify for free school meals to apply for them, even if your child does not intend to take the meal. Registering your child can make a big difference to the amount of money given to the school to educate your child.

Fruit and snacks

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 have access to free fruit at break-times.



Creative curriculum: foundations for success

Varied and rich

Our curriculum begins as soon as children walk onto the playground each morning. A curriculum is much more than a set of discrete subject lessons, it's the whole school day starting from taking the register, through to playtimes and lunchtimes. We have a varied and rich learning curriculum for each class and year group which is well-planned and reflects our unique coastal location; for example, our children are taught French given our closeness to Europe.

Preparing children for the future

At Greatstone Primary School we recognise that we have a responsibility to ensure we are preparing children for the future and therefore need to equip them with the skills, knowledge and passion to make the world a better place. It is our intent to create a primary school where children love learning, seek challenges, value effort and persist in the face of difficulty. The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5.
2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7.
3. Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The curriculum we teach in the reception class meets the requirements set out in EYFS Statutory Framework 2014. Our curriculum planning focuses on the Early Learning Goals, as set out in this document, and on developing children's skills and experiences.

Learning through play

Greatstone Primary School fully supports the principle that young children learn through play, and by engaging in well planned and structured activities and as such we have Continuous Provision to support children in developing key life skills such as independence, innovation, creativity, enquiry, analysis and problem solving. Teaching in the reception classes builds on the experiences of the children in their pre-school learning as we have strong links between our own nursery and Reception class and do all we can to build positive partnerships with other pre-school providers in the area.

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.

Modern Foreign Language

From Year 3 to Year 6 we teach French to all children. Our approach is to make learning a new language fun. Young children are very receptive to learning a new language; they like to mimic pronunciation and they can easily pick up and duplicate new sounds. They feel a real sense of accomplishment when they learn to say something new. We will have discreet lessons on the timetable, but we will also integrate the foreign language into the everyday routine.



Enriched curriculum: trips, sport, PE, music and clubs

Educational visits and residential trips

We believe that learning extends beyond the classroom and so we use additional enriching activities to develop children's learning even further. Our links with local groups and companies allows us to extend our children an amazing array of learning adventures, whether it's being beach warriors or experiencing a drama workshop with a visiting theatre company, our children delight in memorable learning adventures.

Sport, PE and music

We are incredibly fortunate to have peripatetic teachers who come and support children's PE and music education. This means they are fully qualified experts in their field. We also offer additional sporting fixtures for children to be part of after school should they wish to, where they can compete in a sport of their choice through local inter-school competitions.

We also work closely with Kent music school to ensure that all Key Stage 2 children learn to play a tuned instrument by the end of Year 6. Additionally, parents can opt for private music lessons after school should they wish to.

Wide range of clubs

The school offers an exciting range of extracurricular activities and clubs such as:

- Football
- Running
- Tennis
- Art and craft
- Enterprise
- Sewing
- Computing
- Musical instruments
- Choir
- Board games
- Origami
- Athletics



Inclusion: a curriculum for all

Special educational needs

All Kent Local Authority (LA) maintained schools have a similar approach to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and are supported by the LA to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school.

Inclusive

All schools are supported to be as inclusive as possible, with the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities being met within a mainstream setting wherever possible.

The four broad areas of SEN are:

- Cognition and Learning.
- Communication and Interaction.
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- Physical and/or Sensory.

A caring environment

At Greatstone we recognise that children come to school with a variety of needs. Each child has a right to have those needs recognised and met. By recognising those needs and differentiating our resources and practice we aim to give access to the curriculum for all our pupils and seek to provide a caring and supportive environment for all pupils to learn and develop regardless of their ability.

Appropriate support

All the children on the SEN register are integrated fully into mainstream classes and supported as appropriate by all staff members. We strive to raise the aspirations of and expectations for all pupils with SEN focusing on outcomes and progress.

Medical Conditions

Pupils with medical conditions will receive an Individual Healthcare Plan where the type and level of support will be identified. Where the child also has SEN, this will be planned and delivered in a co-ordinated way with the Healthcare Plan.

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. Children are given additional opportunities to develop holistically through challenge and activities.



Admissions and getting involved

Applications

The Admissions Authority for Greatstone Primary School and Nursery is the Governing Board. Responsibility for decisions on Admissions is delegated to the Personnel Committee. Three members of the Personnel Committee who are not members of staff will form an Admissions Committee.

Admissions Policy

The purpose of Greatstone School and Nursery Admissions Policy is to ensure that the facility is accessible to children and families from all sections of the local community. Greatstone School Nursery is a 52-place nursery. In the event that the nursery is over-subscribed the following criteria will be applied in priority order as follows:

- Three-year old children.
- Current family association – where a brother or sister is already on roll at Greatstone Primary School and the family continues to live at the same address as when the sibling was admitted or has moved to a property within two miles.
- Health reasons – the evidence for this must be strong and the Governors will require written evidence from a qualified person. Parental health is not a criterion.
- Nearness of a child's home and ease of access to school as measured by a straight line from home to school.

Getting involved

Volunteering and PTA

We have an active army of volunteers who help out around the school, especially in hearing children read. Our PTA are active and help to raise additional funds for the school through a range of activities for all the children.

Governors

The Governing Board is the key strategic decision-making body of a school. It is their role to set the school's strategic framework and to ensure all statutory duties are met. The Governing Board has three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure its money is well spent.

What we do

Greatstone Primary School is classified as a Foundation School and, therefore, the Governing Board is the Admissions Authority, the Employer of all Staff and the owner of the land and buildings in addition to the normal responsibilities of school governance.

Governing Board meetings are convened six times a year. In order to carry out its duties more efficiently and to ensure the expertise of individual Governors is used in an effective manner, some functions of the Governing Board have been delegated to three sub-committees, Finance, Personnel, Buildings and Grounds, who meet regularly and report back to the full Governing Board. The governors can be contacted through the school.





Vision and values

Vision

A warm welcome to our friendly school where everyone is included and nurtured to be a wondrous and open learner with infinite potential. At Greatstone Primary School, we believe that learning is an ever-lasting journey where everyone in our family is able to grow and thrive into the mighty learning warrior they are meant to be. We are incredibly proud of how we treat one another, our community and the wider world ensuring that we remain respectful, tolerant and compassionate.

Our values:

- Family.
- Thrive.
- Friendship.
- Courage.

Greatstone Primary and Nursery School

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