



*Sowing the Seeds for a Flourishing Future*



## Welcome from the Headteacher, Mrs Hilary Latimer



Thank you for taking an interest in Englefield for your child. It is a very special place which combines high academic standards, a broad curriculum including many extra-curricular activities, and a true sense of community in which our pupils can grow in confidence, knowing they are valued.

The great joy of being a small school is that we all know each other really well so the children quickly become part of a big family. Fun, enjoyment and new experiences are very important at our school as we believe that a love of learning comes from feeling happy, supported, challenged and fulfilled.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into the Englefield family.

### School Vision

*“Our loving environment cultivates the foundations of mutual respect and the understanding that every child is special in God's eyes. Our children are the seeds from which we will build a brighter future. We nurture and nourish them so they grow and flourish.”*

As a loving and nurturing school, our values are all grouped under the headings of ‘Love of God’, ‘Love of Others’, ‘Love of Myself’, ‘Love of God’s World’ and ‘Love of Life’.

We focus on just three rules which ensure everyone in school can experience a productive and enjoyable learning environment. They are:

- Be safe
- respectful
- Be ready to learn



*“Englefield’s vision encompasses everything the school stands for, empowering everyone to succeed. This is making a difference to the lives of all pupils and adults.”*

*(SIAMS Report 2023)*



*Picture taken by Charlie Woodward (ex-pupil)*

## About our school

At Englefield CE Primary, we teach pupils from the ages of 4 to 11 years. We accept 16 children in each year group. Our Foundation Stage children are kept as a smaller group as we feel this gives them the best start to their primary school experience but they mix with the Year 1 and 2 children for some lessons. Our KS2 classes have two year-groups working together. We find this system of mixed-year classes has great benefits, not only educationally but also socially, as our children get to know those in other year groups much better than they would in single year classes.



*“Pupils show a high level of independence and pride in their work, saying, ‘Our teachers say we should always go the extra mile.’ They work hard and do not give up when they find a task tricky.”*

*(Ofsted Report 2019)*

## What we can offer your child

- High academic standards
- Excellent teaching
- A fun approach to learning
- Exemplary behaviour
- Excellent pastoral care
- A supportive, family atmosphere
- Opportunities beyond the school curriculum
- A good range of lunchtime and after-school clubs
- Membership of a truly welcoming community



## School organisation

All classes have an experienced teacher who is supported by a teaching assistant. Both adults in the class get to know the children well and provide pastoral care as well as a high standard of teaching. As a staff, we also have high expectations of behaviour, which our children rise to brilliantly; this is something of which the whole school community is proud.

## Houses

We have 4 school houses: Athena (red), Demeter (green), Hermes (yellow) and Poseidon (blue). All pupils are put into one of these houses when they join our school. We have regular house meetings throughout the year, led by our House Captains, as well as house competitions including the end of year Sports Day at which teams battle for the House Cup. The house system ensures that our younger pupils have the opportunity to get to know some of the older pupils who in turn take responsibility for looking after the young ones.

## School day

Children are welcome on site from 8.30am, when a member of staff will be on duty outside. Our school day starts when the bell is rung at 8.45am; the register is taken by 9am. Every day, children take part in an act of worship which supports our school vision and values. On most days, classes have their literacy and numeracy lessons in the morning and the other areas of the curriculum later in the day. We have a 15 minute break each morning and afternoon which gives the children a chance to get some fresh air and socialize with their friends. At lunchtime, all children eat their lunch in the school hall; Foundation Stage and Key Stage I children are entitled to a free school meal. The start of lunch is staggered to ensure our younger children have plenty of time to eat their meal and still have a chance to play outside. Our school day ends at 3.30pm, which is also the start time for any after-school activities.

## Curriculum

We teach all the subjects required by the National Curriculum, plus personal, social and health education. The National Curriculum is divided into Core Subjects and Foundation Subjects:

### Core subjects

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- Religious Education

### Foundation subjects

- History
- Geography
- Modern Foreign Language
- Music
- Art and Design
- Physical Education
- Design Technology
- Personal, Social and Health Education / Citizenship



We teach some subjects through topics based on a quality text, which can really excite the children and produce inspiration for their written work.

In Years 3 and 4 all pupils have the opportunity to go swimming.



## Outdoor Learning

As a school we are firmly committed to enhance the learning environment through the use of the outdoors.

Outdoor learning is shown to have many positive outcomes including:

- developing confidence,
- environmental awareness,
- life skills,
- social and emotional awareness,
- enjoyment.

## Church school status

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, we aim to encourage learning by providing a welcoming, happy and supportive environment in which Christian values are central to the ethos of the school and its teaching. We maintain strong partnerships between the school, the families of our pupils, the parishes of Englefield, Sulham & Tidmarsh, and our local community. Everything we do and all decisions we make are underpinned by strong Christian values, such as forgiveness, compassion or thankfulness. These values ensure we are always putting the best interests of our pupils first. At Englefield, we expect our pupils, parents and staff to treat each other respectfully, and in this way we all enjoy working together.

*“Collective worship is a joyful and uplifting experience for pupils and staff alike. It is fully inclusive and invitational.”*

*(SIAMS Report, 2023)*

## Collective worship

Pupils at Englefield participate in a daily act of worship, though they may be withdrawn from this at the request of their parents. The worship may involve the whole school, or just the class and may be led by a teacher, a member of the local clergy or even by the pupils themselves. Acts of worship may include topics for discussion, interactive activities, Bible stories and/or songs; we always conclude with a prayer.

On alternate Fridays we hold a celebration assembly when we share our learning and celebrate the achievements of individuals, both in and out of school. Many of our parents attend this assembly and it is a very special part of our school week.

## Values

Our school values are based on love:

We show our love of God through the values of faithfulness, open-mindedness, spirituality, trust and reflection.

We show our love of others through the values of respect, forgiveness, compassion, empathy and cooperation.

We show our love of God’s world through worship and the values of thankfulness, fellowship, courageous advocacy, justice, and responsibility.

We show our love for ourselves through the values of self-worth, confidence, independence, integrity and resilience.

We show our love of life through the values of passion, joy, appreciation, hope and peace.

*“There is a deep feeling of togetherness and love at Englefield. The vision, based on the parable of the mustard seed, reflects the rural context well. Like the surrounding trees and plants, both pupils and adults grow and thrive in abundance.”* (SIAMS Report, 2023)



## Homework

Children throughout the school are expected to supplement their learning in school by carrying out shared learning projects at home. These can be as simple as drawing the family pet through to making a PowerPoint presentation about a family visit to a museum. The children are given a list of possible activities from which they choose the ones they want to do...this means that families have a say in how much time they wish to spend. As the children progress through the school, they will also be given spellings and times tables to practise as well as maths homework.

## Behaviour

We take pride in having pupils who demonstrate exemplary behaviour both in school and further afield. The children respond well to our high expectations and it is always a pleasure to take them out of school and receive wonderful comments from those we are visiting.

## Special needs

Pupils with Special Education Needs are nurtured and well-catered for. Our Special Needs Coordinator works closely with staff to ensure each child is receiving the additional support they need to achieve their potential, both academically and socially.

Some of our children benefit from time with our ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants). Talking through areas of difficulty, either at school or at home, can really help a child get a sense of perspective and enable them to face challenges as well as engage more effectively with others, including their peers.

## More able pupils

Many of our pupils achieve beyond the age-related expectations of the National Curriculum and we ensure that we continue to provide stimulating and challenging lessons for these pupils. In addition to stretching them academically, we also aim to give our pupils opportunities to shine through organising their own activities, such as fund-raising or designing house competitions.



*“Children get off to a great start in the early years. They are safe and happy. They behave and play well together. The curriculum is exciting, and the learning environment is rich and engaging.*

*(Ofsted Report, 2019)*

## Extra-curricular activities

As a school, we strongly support the development of the whole child. To this end, we offer a good range of extra-curricular activities for our children to enjoy, either at lunchtimes or after school. Many of these clubs are run by staff and are free whilst some are run by coaches and incur a small charge.



Examples of clubs that we offer are: choir, cross-country running, football, bee-keeping, performers' club, multi-skills, outdoor club and netball.

Music is a real strength at Englefield. All children in Year 3/4 have the chance to learn an instrument which will be taught free of charge for two terms by a member of the Berkshire Music Trust staff. They will also play in our Key Stage 2 band which practises each week in the

summer term in preparation for an end of year concert. Many of our pupils have additional instrumental lessons at school, such as piano, violin, clarinet, cornet, guitar and drums. Lessons are organised by Berkshire Music Trust or other visiting music teachers; there is a charge for these lessons.

## Visitors, school trips and residentials

To ensure that learning is fun and rewarding, we plan in regular visits and/or visitors to enhance our classroom teaching. KSI children regularly visit Ufton Court and Rushall Farm whilst older children might visit a museum or art gallery. All children are given the opportunity to visit different places of worship as part of our RE curriculum.

Each year, we take the whole school on a trip together. Previous destinations have been The Science Museum, The National Gallery, Christ Church Cathedral and Portsmouth Historic Dockyards.

All children in KS2 are offered the chance to go on a residential trip each year. Years 3 and 4 go away for 2 nights to Thirtover Place in Coldash whilst Years 5 and 6 stay away for between 2 and 6 nights, often visiting Rushall Farm (to camp) or Rhos y Gwaliau (an outdoor education centre in Wales). Our children thoroughly enjoy these visits and the experience really helps them make firm friendships and create life-long memories.



## Working with parents

Our school is very family-friendly and we encourage parents to take an active role in supporting their child's learning. We hold regular parents meetings, and will happily spend time talking through any concerns or queries you may have. We strongly believe that working together as a team is the best way to support your child. Parents are also welcome to help in school, either working with the children or supporting us in other ways, such as mounting pictures.



## The PTA

All parents automatically become members of the PTA, and can benefit from the many and varied social activities that are planned throughout the year. Some of the activities are designed to make money, which can then be spent to enhance the opportunities available to the children at school, whilst others are purely social events for the pupils, the parents or the whole family. Popular events during our school year include: Flower Show and School Fete, Christmas Fayre, silent auction, Easter egg hunt, children's disco, film night and a quiz.



## Environment and facilities

We are extremely fortunate to be situated within the Englefield Estate with its beautiful woodland and deer park. We have strong links with the Estate which means our children get many opportunities to go outside for

their learning; activities include woodland learning, nature walks, sketching in the grounds and cross-country running to name but a few.

Our classrooms are all well-resourced and are fitted with Interactive Boards which enable teachers to deliver stimulating, interactive lessons; the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes also have well-equipped outdoor areas. In addition we have a well-stocked library, a kiln room and a cookery room. We have netbooks and ipads for children to use across the curriculum. We also have our own beautiful grounds which include 3 adventure playgrounds, a multi-gym, a pond area, a large field with a stage and our very own vegetable garden – ‘Ruby’s Garden’.



## Admissions

As a Voluntary Aided school, our Governing Body is responsible for deciding admissions. We work closely with West Berkshire Local Authority to coordinate admissions; details of how to apply are available on the West Berkshire website, [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk). This explains how parents can express a preference for a school and give reasons for that preference.

Our school tortoise, Pebbles. Classes take it in turns to look after him and someone even takes him home for the weekend!



## Wraparound care

We run a breakfast and after-school club each day during term time which provides out-of-hours childcare to help working families.

Early Birds runs from 8am until the start of school. Children are provided with a breakfast and then have a chance to read, draw or play games until school begins.

Barn Owls runs from 3.30pm until 6pm. Children have the chance to play outdoors as well as using the games and other resources in our Barn Owls room; they also have a sandwich or pasta-based tea.

## Contact details

To arrange a visit to meet Mrs Latimer and look around our school, please attend one of our Open Days or contact Mrs Thomas or Mrs Scott in the school office.

Tel: 0118 9302337

Email: [office@englefield.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@englefield.w-berks.sch.uk)

Website : [www.englefieldprimary.co.uk](http://www.englefieldprimary.co.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you.

