



Athelstan Primary School



To be the best that we can be

Welcome

We would like to welcome you to Athelstan, a school we, and others, are justifiably proud of, as Ofsted stated in 2017 *"the school continues to go from strength to strength"*.

If your family is joining us for the first time we welcome you and look forward to a happy and successful partnership with you over the coming years. If you already have a child here, we hope to strengthen our existing links with you to enable us to provide the best education possible for each of your children.

Education is a partnership between home and school and we place a great deal of emphasis on our partnership with families. We believe that children learn best when home and school work together. When your child starts school, it is not where your job ends and ours begins, it is where our job begins and yours continues. Each of your children is an individual and their journey with us will be unique to them, but that journey will be all the richer and more successful with a strong mutually supportive home school partnership.

Athelstan can offer so much to those that join our school family. Having completed a 6.5 million pound extension and refurbishment in 2017, the school's facilities and grounds are both impressive and understandably the envy of many other schools. But we firmly believe that it is not just the wonderful learning environment that we offer our children which makes us, "good with outstanding elements" Ofsted 2017. It is the inclusive ethos and rich curriculum which underpins all that the school does, that truly impacts the most on our children's successes. Our aspiration is for all our children to be able to lead confident, healthy and independent lives, making a valued contribution to society, we aim and strive for everyone to be the best that they can be.

We hope that by reading this brochure you will recognise the spirit of Athelstan School and understand that the children lie firmly at the heart of everything we do, we would encourage you to complete your research and help formulate your final decision about your child's education by contacting the school to arrange a visit. You will always be made to feel welcome.





Aims

At Athelstan School, we believe our pupils are bright, caring, enthusiastic, confident and well-balanced individuals who work extremely well together towards common goals. We believe it is vital to fully extend our pupils' capabilities and ignite an enthusiasm for learning that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. With this in mind the children of Athelstan School Council have worked together with staff and governors to produce our aims:

- To be the best that we can be.
- To celebrate the success of everyone in school.
- To create a safe, caring, stimulating environment which inspires children's learning and understanding.
- To provide a wide range of opportunities and challenges for every child.
- For children to show respect and tolerance to all within a global community.
- For the school home and wider community to work in a strong mutually supportive partnership.

“My school is the best because the teachers are kind and everybody wants to help. The school is fun and educating.” Year 5 pupil

Home learning

We expect that all children who attend Athelstan School will read at home on a daily basis, regardless of how good a reader they are. We ask parents for their support of our home-school reading scheme and online reading material, as we see it as an essential part of every child's education. Every class and year group has arrangements to make sure that children change their reading books regularly. Other home learning tasks that children will focus on regularly will be spelling and numeracy related.

Enrichment

We see our enrichment and after-school club programmes as an integral part of the curriculum that we offer our pupils. Throughout the year we provide a wide range of activities and experiences to stimulate all areas of learning. We welcome a host of visitors to our school to talk to and work with children on exciting, creative or sporting activities. We also offer exciting after-school club and enrichment programmes. These vary from term to term. Details of the activities on offer each term are shared with parents before the clubs begin.

Creative Curriculum

At Athelstan we ensure that our children embrace all aspects of the National Curriculum, but we see the statutory requirements as the minimum our children should be offered. We believe that all children have the entitlement to a broad, balanced, creative and coherent curriculum which should prepare them for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st Century. They should be equipped with the skills, attitudes and dispositions they need to become well rounded individuals and life-long learners whilst instilling a love of learning. In order for children to learn to think for themselves the curriculum should be enquiry based. It is important that children should take responsibility for their own learning enabling them to plan and show initiative; persevere and have a commitment to self-improvement. Staff share planning with parents, via the school's website, to encourage families to become actively involved in their children's learning

Our curriculum aims to:

- Promote and sustain a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning.
- Create a sense of wonder in its pupils.
- Promote inclusion, diversity and community cohesion.
- Keep up with technology.
- Encourage children to work independently and cooperatively.
- Ensure that children are taught to become enterprising.
- Develop emotional intelligence and raise aspirations.
- Help to make children socially responsible.
- Contribute significantly to pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.
- Ensure that children achieve high standards across a variety of subjects.
- Ensure that all children are taught the essential knowledge in the subject discipline.
- Ensure that all pupils realise their potential.

Our creative curriculum spreads into all aspects of our school life: our extensive grounds includes a large accessible, well equipped and resourced wildlife area which enable all children to gain practical experiences, further enhancing our curriculum provision.

In addition the school has a strong tradition in the arts, music and performance, with all children from Sunshines to Y6 participating in their own annual production. The school has won various local, regional and national awards for its creative projects.

Our children have a strong voice within the school; they have a very active school council, zealous eco warriors, passionate arts ambassadors and well trained playground buddies. In addition many children help around school with a variety of roles of responsibility. All of which help us to develop the children's readiness for the next stage in their education.



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Raindrops Nursery for 2-3 year olds, Puddles Nursery for 3-4 year olds and the Sunshines Reception classes do not work in isolation. They are a valued and integrated part of the school. In the EYFS we see a vibrant engaging curriculum as essential in creating enthusiasm and interest from our early learners. Communication is vital; staff at Athelstan have identified the key importance of speech and language in helping their pupils to make progress. They have successfully implemented programmes to support those children who require intervention.

Children's achievements and progress are noted and reported through an observational module called 2Simple. Families are able to see and share their child's personal learning journey and can see their achievements as well as their next steps. There is a wide range of opportunity for challenge, providing children with a mixture of discrete learning time and free flow activities. The large dedicated outdoor spaces reflect the provision inside and both mirror and enhance the learning environment.



“My school is the best because the school activities and school trips are fascinating. I love all the teachers because they are always encouraging you.” Year 5 pupil



We are a THRIVE school



We know that children learn best in school when they are happy and settled. At Athelstan we are using the Thrive Approach to help us develop our pupils' emotional and social well-being. Thrive helps us to check children's readiness to learn, to identify any gaps and then plan to meet them. Through doing so, we will be able to make sure that all of our pupils have what they need to make the best possible progress in their learning.

Positive relationships are at the heart of Thrive. We will use these relationships, together with play and creative activities, to give children key experiences at each different stage of their development. Thrive teaches the understanding of behaviour through communication, improving learning skills, which leads to greater attainment. It promotes productive learning for all children. It supports practitioners, providing them with confidence to work with more challenging and vulnerable children, and with parents and integrated teams. It leads to better relationships at home and in school.



PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE
MAXIMUM EQUIPMENT
WEIGHT IS
120KG / 10 STONE



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