

A Child's Journey at Ocklynge Junior School.



"Tell me about the experience my child will have at Ocklynge Junior School."

Our Ocklynge Family

We often refer to ourselves as 'The Ocklynge Family', our school is a place where all adults care deeply, are kind and supportive; it is a place where we ensure all our children and adults are happy. We achieve very good and improving academic results but what is even more important to us is that every child is known as an individual and cared for exactly in the way they need. This is because our teachers and support staff know their children well.



All staff at Ocklynge junior School value the importance of nurture, we have specific staff and a designated space to deliver support in this area. We have a mental health first lead, Mrs Berhane, who is also our designated safeguarding lead. We also run parenting workshops. Mrs Edgoose is our parent support advisor and works full time in this capacity supporting children and families. People who understand children developmentally and emotionally surround our children and this helps children to feel secure and happy, which is how every child needs to feel to be able to learn.

Getting children ready to start at Ocklynge.

All children are supported in transitions throughout school life. Before starting with us in year 3, children enjoy a range of visits and experiences at Ocklynge, these include forest schooldays and sports events. They will make visits to the school and spend time with their new teacher and sometimes Mrs Willer (our SENCo). At the start of September all of our new year 3 children have a staggered start to help them settle into our large school. At the end of each academic year, the teachers work hard to get to know their new class and have lots of fun with them through transitional activities so there aren't any nerves before they start in their new class.

Our Adventures in Learning

All the classes have a learning support assistant in their class every day. They work alongside their teacher to make sure that everyone gets the help with their learning that they need.

We like to make sure that children have all the physical skills they need for learning which is why all identified children have 'Jump Ahead' session every week which helps develop and strengthen their gross and fine motor skills. Our PE is based around 'Real' PE which is inclusive and encourages children to compete against their personal bests in a range of skills and exercises. This scheme will also help children to strengthen their gross motor skills. It is vital that children are enthusiastic and motivated about their learning which is why we have designed our curriculum to be engaging and stimulating. We have woven





many inspirational figures into our curriculum of different genders, ethnicities, fields of study and experiences so that all children can see the wide range of possibilities that their future can hold.

Our classrooms are filled with children working with partners, investigating problems, explaining their understanding, discussing their theories, challenging themselves and questioning their own learning - all directed by a qualified and enthusiastic teacher.

Keeping our Bodies and Minds Healthy

Children need to be physically active to maintain health and to be ready for learning. The children have regular work breaks to help keep them focused. The children love 'The daily mile' and we have a dedicated track for this which can be used all year.

All year groups get to go to Forest School throughout the year, our teachers plan to and do take more of the children's learning outside into our beautiful school grounds when they can. We are also introducing structured and well resourced playtimes which encourages children to be more active, play more freely, interact with more children and develop excellent social and problem solving skills.



Needing a Little Help

Some children may need a little extra support at some point in their primary education and we have a wide range of interventions and strategies tailored to exactly what is needed. This may be emotional or academic. We have in-class early morning work sessions, different approaches and aids such as visual timetables, work stations, pre-planned and reactive interventions, and carefully adapted work - all focused on the areas your child needs. We use Read Write Inc. to support reading and phonics in years 3 and 4. We have developed bespoke programmes that support

children with early reading and writing, mental maths groups to develop those crucial skills for mathematicians as well as dyslexia friendly support, social skills development, mental health support and a whole lot more!

Extra Activities and Wider Understanding

We believe children need to have a wide understanding of the world around them and experience a wide range of opportunities so they know how to be a valuable member of society when the time comes and to have as many life skills as possible so they can make the best choices for themselves in the future. We run a large number of sporting and non-sporting clubs each week that are accessible to all. These are run by our coaching staff and outside providers – the choices change each year as we like our children to have a say in the clubs they would like to participate in – we've had golf, chess, art, choirs, board games, basketball, drawing, gardening, archery, swimming and football to name just a few.



We also believe it is important that children have a good understanding of the country we live in and our British values, which is why we have a whole school Council (Rainbow groups). This involves every child and staff member in making choices and decisions about school improvement. The voice of the children is heard loud and clear and is listened to. We have sports crew, who support with sport and playtimes: we have play leaders who support at

break times; we have peer mediators who help with conflict resolution at break times and lunch times. Our school ambassadors are democratically elected and represent the school at parent events and other public facing activities.

Love and Care

Interacting with animals has been widely proven to be beneficial to humans. Such interactions have been shown to improve confidence, reduce stress and anxiety, improve social interactions, and increase feelings of self-worth as well as helping children to learn about empathy, respect and unconditional love. Animal interactions help children to develop and understand the life skills necessary for caring for animals which enhances their appreciation of the natural world around them and for all forms of life on earth. We have our in-school chickens, 1:1 therapy/reading dog, Jenny. We also have Rabbits and Guinea pigs that the children love getting to see, interact with and take care of.





Some of our children and their families may need a little extra care because of things that may have happened in their lives. Our Parent support advisor (full time), nurture groups, play therapy, trauma informed work, are all avenues that we have to provide the right kind of support for those who need it.



Parents are Important Too

We believe a strong parent-school relationship is of the utmost importance.

We provide lots of opportunities throughout each year (under normal circumstances!) for parents to come in to gain an experience of their child's life in school such as 'Bring Your Parent to . . .' sessions, subject specific workshops, fundraising activities, open afternoons, inviting parents in to share their cultures, lives and workplace experiences and so much more. We also run a termly (6 times a year) parent council and we welcome ideas and suggestions from all members of our school community.

Please get in touch with the office or me directly if there is anything else you would like to know.

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We are looking forward to hearing from you,

Best wishes

Jon Reynard

Headteacher