



Herstmonceux

Church of England Primary School



School Prospectus

Learning, Loving, Living



The journey begins here...

Welcome to Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School!

We are proud of our school. We are committed to providing the very best education for our children. Our school is an exciting place to come and learn and our excellent team of staff have been recruited for their passion, enthusiasm and imagination to ensure that all children are engaged, excited and challenged by the learning experiences here. We get to know every child as an individual so that we can provide personalised learning; every day counts and every child matters. We are ambitious for our children's academic achievements and committed to their happiness and wellbeing. Your choice of school is one of the most important decisions you will make and we want to help you make the best choice for your child. We are very pleased to welcome you and your family to our school and hope that you will be joining us.

We carefully plan our transitions for children from pre-school or home into school and for transfer to secondary school when the children are ready to take their next steps. The journey begins here... Our transition to school programme currently consists of: a parent meeting, a home visit, taster sessions for children, discussions with

pre-school providers so that you feel totally prepared for your child taking their first steps into the world of school. We are committed to strong home-school partnerships to give each child the best chance to learn and achieve. Parent views are actively sought and highly valued.

Our staff team work diligently to make learning irresistible by providing rich learning experiences that enable children to persevere and achieve. We have the highest expectations of our children, and ourselves. We know that when we work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust we develop a love of learning, self-esteem and self-confidence.

We are a proud member of Sussex Spires Federation along with All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary School and St Mark's Church of England Primary School. The vision of Sussex Spires Federation is that our schools are committed to working both together and separately for the benefit of our children so that we are stronger together through the faith that is central to all that we do. We aspire to provide our children with a love of life and learning, knowing how to be responsible and valued members of society.

“Pupils thrive in this school. They show a genuine care for one another and form strong friendships. Staff know them well.”

Ofsted report September 2022



Our School

We are a primary school founded on Christian values. People of all beliefs are welcome at our school. We educate, encourage and support each child to achieve their very best. We encourage creativity, independence and respect in a positive environment, helping our children to become responsible members of the community. All that we do is informed by our values of courage, community, hope, compassion, wisdom and respect. Our focus on values helps children to be well mannered, honest and considerate.

Our school is a one form entry school in the heart of Herstmonceux village, enjoying a beautiful, rural location. We have well equipped classrooms as well as newly developed playground spaces and access to the large recreation ground behind the school.

Our classes are named after trees and are as follows:

Reception		Oak
Year	1	Maple
Year	2	Willow
Year	3	Chestnut
Year	4	Spindle
Year	5	Ash
Year	6	Sycamore



Ofsted report September 2022

“Warm relationships between staff and pupils create a calm and respectful culture. Pupils are happy, feel safe and enjoy their learning.”

“The school has everything in place to help teach and nurture the children to become happy human beings in whatever they choose to do in life.”

Parent voice

A young girl with blonde hair tied in a ponytail with a green and blue plaid bow, wearing a dark blue school uniform, is seen from behind, sitting in a classroom. Other students are blurred in the background.

“Our school values teach us to be kind and respectful to other people and their opinions, and to accept people for who they are.”

Pupil voice

Our School Vision is:

Learning to be the best we can be
Loving all God's kingdom
Living life to the full



John 10.10: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

Our School Vision is part of everyday school life. Our Christian Values, Golden Rules and Learning Powers are linked to each area of our school vision.

Each class creates their own version of what our school ethos and values mean to them at the beginning of each year so that our school vision grows with the children.

Pupil voice

"As you walk through the corridors, everyone is smiling at you. You hear people having fun in their lessons and enjoying learning. It makes me feel really happy and safe!"



Learning to be the best we can

Our staff are committed to providing an outstanding and diverse curriculum that enables all our children to learn and achieve. Our curriculum design inspires thinking and learning beyond the classroom through our Philosophy for Children (P4C) programme. We are building a mindset for learning that will last a lifetime. We organise links with our surrounding communities in order to optimise the learning experiences and opportunities. Each child at Herstmonceux is encouraged to be the best they can be.

SIAMS report May 2023

“The school has a strong sense of community, driven by the vision. This is seen in supportive partnerships between the school, the parents, the village and the local church.”

OFSTED report September 2022

“Pupils rise to the challenges set by their teachers so that they succeed in their academic and personal development. They show interest in what they learn and ask searching questions. Pupils take pride in roles they are given to make the school a great place to learn. They are well prepared for secondary school.”



Parent voice

“There is a strong sense of promoting confidence and independence in children.”

Loving all God's kingdom

At Herstmonceux, we create an environment that encourages and reinforces good behaviour and positive attitudes. Adults and children have high levels of respect for each other; we listen carefully to each other's views and value each other's individuality.

We strongly believe that children should have a clear voice and that they should be instrumental in the decision making that happens here. Children from all year groups are voted onto the School Council.

Emotional and mental wellbeing is a priority at our school. All staff are trained in the Thrive Approach to support this. Our teaching teams are passionate about the children in their care, planning learning that focuses not only the academic, but also places great value on emotional regulation, building relationships and self-confidence.



Parent Voice

“The children feel valued and important. The school provides excellent extra-curricular activities with exciting trips, forest school, cross-school events that help make the school interesting and enjoyable for the kids.”



Pupil voice

“We are a really nice mix of people in school. Big people, small people, long hair, short hair, different skin colours.

Everyone is different and we all have different personalities but we all work together as a proud, happy community.”

Living life to the full...

Enrichment opportunities across the curriculum bring learning to life. Children learn through a wide range of first hand experiences, including visiting local places of interest to learn about the world around them and by meeting experts such as scientists, musicians, and authors. Visits and trips are planned throughout the year and links made to the learning in classes.

As part of our unique curriculum at Herstmonceux we have Forest School. Our Forest School programme is holistic and learner-led. It allows children to develop themselves through healthy engagement with risk, problem solving and self-discovery, all within a natural environment in a hands-on and thoughtful manner. Research shows that, through Forest School learning, children experience an increase in their confidence, learning capacity, communication, problem-solving skills and emotional wellbeing. Children can then transfer these skills into school and into other areas of their lives.

Pupil voice

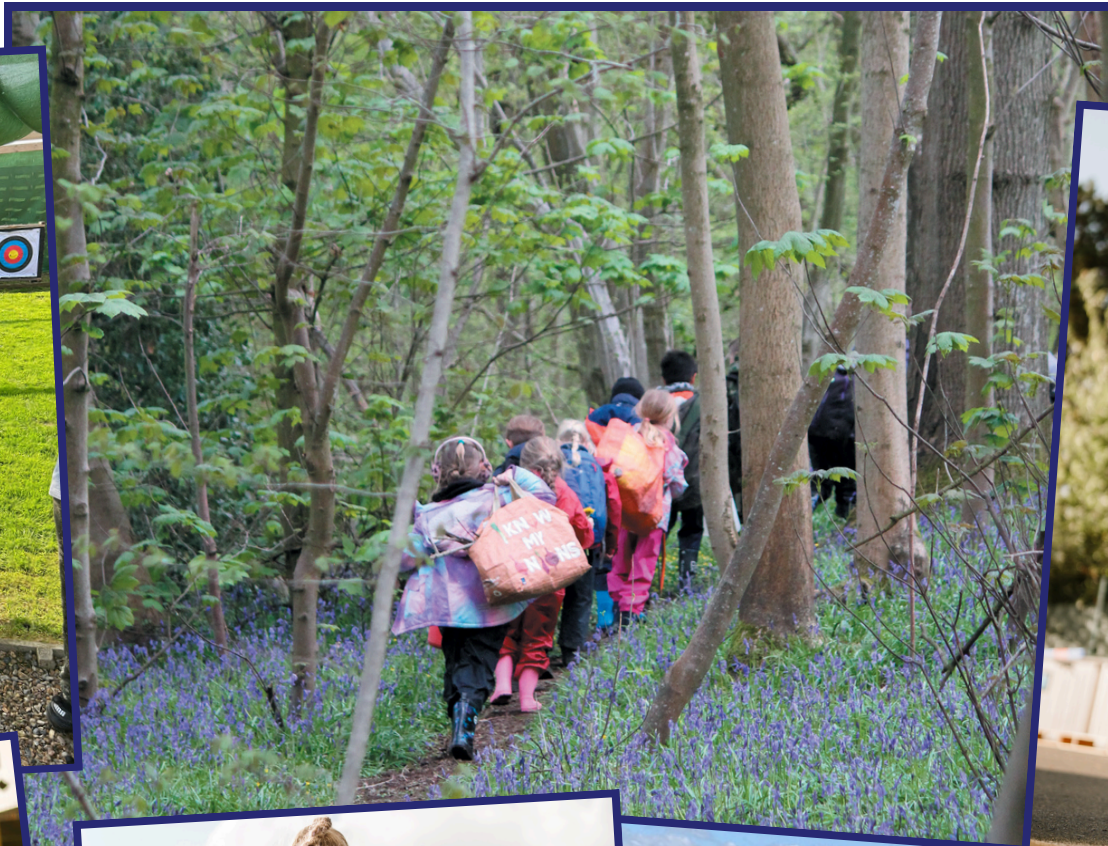
“We are encouraged to step out of our comfort zone and challenge ourselves fully in every lesson to be the best we can.”

Pupil Voice

“We have a lot of freedom and choice to challenge ourselves in a range of activities that aren’t in the classroom, like the Big Dance and Forest School!”

Ofsted report September 2022

“Leaders provide a range of interesting and relevant activities beyond the curriculum. Pupils engage well in outdoor learning to develop their ability to work collaboratively and solve problems. They learn to play musical instruments and engage in a range of sporting and creative activities. Pupils relish these opportunities and describe their learning with enthusiasm.”



Parents considering applying to send their children to Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School are warmly invited to visit the school by appointment.

Applications are made online at **www.eastsussex.gov.uk**

Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School

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