

Welcome to Key Stage 2!

Who is the Key Stage 2 Leader?

Jess Stedman

There are 9 classes in our Key Stage 2 Department- P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11 and P12.

Each class has a specialist team of staff including a class teacher and teaching assistants.



How will my child get to school?

Home to school transport and bus escorts are the responsibility of the Local Authority.

The School Transport Department makes all transport arrangements. The school will advise the Authority about the suitability of practical arrangements for individual pupils, although this is arranged directly between parents/carers and the Transport Department.

Bus escorts are an invaluable link between home and school, and are able to assist in the transfer of both messages and possessions between rightful owners. Parents/carers can transport children themselves if they prefer.



Our School Uniform

We have a smart school uniform which consists of white shirt/polo shirt, green jumper or sweatshirt, black skirt or trousers or jogging bottoms (black shorts in the Summer term). Sweatshirts, fleeces and waterproof coats with an embroidered school logo. Further information about uniforms and where they can be purchased can be found on the parent section of the school website.

We request that parents/carers put their child's name in all uniform and personal items so that they are not mixed up with those belonging to another child!



Additional clothing items required

Pupils will need to have outer garments such as coats or anoraks for when we play outside. Some may also want to have hats, scarves and gloves.

Pupils may have blankets or covers for outside use if they are supported by a wheelchair. All these items need to be suitable to keep them warm and dry. Additionally, we may ask for waterproof clothing and wellies for horse-riding and Forest school activities. If you borrow any of our clothes, please return them promptly.

Pupils of all ages require a PE kit (shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit, plimsolls/trainers), and a swimming kit, in order to take part in a full range of activities. We usually keep their PE kit at school, sending it home to be washed at the end of each term, but it can be sent home if requested. Swimming kit will be required only on swimming days (see pupil's timetable). We will put a reminder in the home school contact book when swimming is to occur.

Governors strongly encourage the wearing of named school uniform by pupils. We provide aprons for cooking, art and craft activities.

A bag of spare clothes – a change of clothing - should be provided for pupils (just in case of 'accidents'). For pupils who wear pads, you will need to provide a pack of pads (of the right size) for use in school. Parents/carers of pupils with disabilities can obtain free disposable nappies through the local Health Authority (please refer to the School Nursing team).

The School Day

Our school day begins at 9am- each class has their own timetable of lessons and exciting activities.

When pupils arrive at school there will always be a member of staff to greet them at the door to show them the way to their class. Once in their classroom, the teacher and the team of teaching assistants will help pupils to develop their self-help skills with coats and unpacking their bags.

Pupils will be able to get involved in an activity straight away which helps to settle them into the day. They will join in with a 'Hello' activity at registration time, involving a song and using communication systems such as PECs, Makaton signs, symbols, communication charts and switches. As they move through Key Stage 2, they continue to be offered age-appropriate activities and KS2 theme days.



After snack-time we go outside to play for 15 minutes, in all weathers with suitable clothing, where possible (if the weather is really bad we play inside in our classrooms). Outside on the playground there is lots of equipment to explore including swings, a climbing frame and a roundabout, which is accessible for wheelchair users.

At 10.30am, we have mid-morning snack time when we have a drink and something to eat. There is a selection of healthy snacks offered including fruit and vegetables, yoghurts and toast with different spreads and cereals. A voluntary contribution of £1.50 per week is requested to cover the costs of the snack. Snack time helps us to learn about different tastes, cutting and using cutlery, preparing the food and social eating.

If your child has any special dietary requirements, please send in your healthy snack. Pupils are encouraged to get their own cup and pour their drinks, they learn to start to prepare snacks and share these with others, offering items to their classmates before having their own portions. This encourages them to become self-reliant and to carry out tasks without as much adult input.

There are scooters, tricycles and bicycles to ride and we can learn to take turns.

After playtime we have another time-tabled lesson.



On site we have specialist rooms including a Sensory Room, a Soft Play Room, a Food Technology Room, an Art Room, the Sports Hall and the Hydrotherapy Pool. We also have our very own horse simulator – Tonto. He helps pupils to develop in numerous ways, including their physical strength and coordination, horse riding skills as well as self-confidence and increased feelings of self-esteem.



Lunchtime is at 12pm and school meals are an integral part of the school day.

We go to the dining hall and eat together. We are supported by familiar adults and have our own place at the table. We can choose what we would like from a selection of main meals and accompanying vegetables, all prepared on site. The kitchen can cater for dietary requirements so please notify us of these, for example, if your child requires pureed meals, vegetarian etc. If you prefer, you can send in a packed lunch.

For pupils are nil-by-mouth, where possible during this lunchtime period a lunchtime club is offered, where pupils can enjoy music, stories and massage activities with their peers.

All children attending school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Free School Meals. However, this ends in Year 3 (the beginning of Key Stage 2). Please contact the school to discuss this further if you believe your child is entitled to Free School Means beyond Year 2.



In Key Stage 2 we are more independent and learn about social skills, learning from one another and also by helping the younger pupils in Key Stage 1. We have a range of specialised cutlery, place settings and seating, available for your child's individual needs. During this time, pupils will be developing their independence as they learn to use cutlery, to make choices, to tidy up, and to wash their hands and faces etc. after eating.

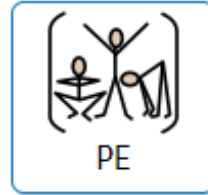
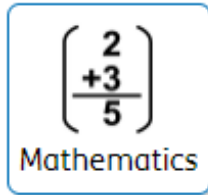
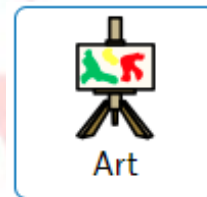


After lunch we can play and there are a variety of lunchtime clubs to choose from, including music, massage, aroma therapy, art and craft, sensory activities and the pupils favourite- Bike club! If the weather is bad, we can go to special resource rooms to play.



We have afternoon registration at 1.15pm followed by afternoon activities set out on the class timetable. Near the end of the school day we all have candle time, when we spend a few moments thinking about and reflecting on the day and our successes and achievements with school with our school day finishing at 3.10pm.

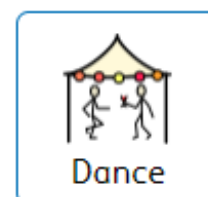
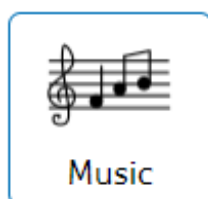




Our Curriculum

We offer an exciting curriculum, where pupil progress in all curriculum subjects is monitored and measured, along with accompanying awards and external accreditation in many subjects. We have a programme of learning in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), which includes work on personal and road safety, social sight vocabulary and 'stranger danger'. We also have a relationship and sex programme. Pupils have access to a wide range of ICT resources as part of our Computing curriculum, including computers and iPads, along with a wide range of software, available in all classrooms, and with adaptations to ensure equal access for pupils.

All National Curriculum areas are taught in a way that is made exciting to the pupils and differentiated to ensure it is relevant and meaningful to the pupils. Topics are planned each term and subject learning is tied into these.



Our Enhanced Curriculum

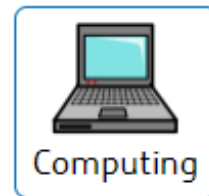
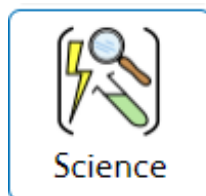
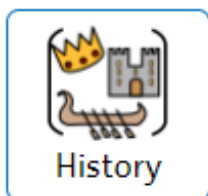
Every class has a weekly session swimming, either to our hydrotherapy pool at the Secondary department, or to a local swimming pool.

Pupils will work towards achieving accreditation in swimming, with some learning to swim, as well as enjoying the sensory aspects of being in the warm water.



An educational visit is planned for pupils each week. These provide different experiences directly linked to what happens in class in their current topics and projects. Educational trips are also extended to whole day excursions. Pupils also have access to Rebound therapy in school, and off-site horse-riding opportunities at a local riding school.

Pupils participate in inclusion placements which are curriculum focussed as well as social opportunities, where pupils are involved in activities based on the areas of the curriculum in which they are most confident.





All pupils will access weekly lessons down on our Abbey Court School Farm.

We have an exciting sequence of lessons, based around our Farm Curriculum, which your child will be able to access. Farming lessons will include animal handling and grooming, growing on the farm (farm to fork), producing animal fact files, jobs on the farm and many more learning experiences.

Residential Opportunities

In KS2 pupils have the opportunity to take part in residential activities. This includes an overnight stay in school with their peers which is a fun 'sleepover' experience with activities and games to enjoy. This may also be the first real opportunity for pupils to experience a stay away from home.



KS2 pupils also have the opportunity to take part in an off-site residential trip, usually for two nights away at a local activity centre. Here they have the opportunity to take part in exciting activities such as raft-building, archery, orienteering, campfires and zip-wires, which are great fun and designed to build confidence. These are also wheelchair accessible and fully inclusive. Pupils are supported by familiar staff from the department.



Health and Wellbeing

Medication:

The school nursing team administer essential medication at school. Only prescribed medication will be given at school and parents/carers are required to complete a "Medicine in School" form. The medicine is handed to the teacher by the escort or parent and it is then placed in a locked cupboard. Please do not send medicines in the pupil's bag without telling the escort. The medicine must always be in its original container with the child's name, the name and dose of the drug and instructions on how it should be given.

Wherever possible, please ask your GP for medication to be prescribed in dose frequencies (for example, 10 mg to be given twice a day with food) which enable it to be taken outside of school hours.



What if my child is ill during school time?

If your child becomes ill during the school day, they will be assessed by the school nursing team and Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher.

If they are not well enough to stay at school, then their parent/carer will be contacted so that they may be collected from school.

If a pupil sustains an injury at school, then a Qualified First Aider will assess them. If urgent medical treatment is necessary, then the Head teacher or Deputy will instigate arrangements for the child to be taken to the Accident and Emergency Department with an escort (someone they know from the school). Parents/Carers will be asked to meet them there. If treatment is not urgent then parents/carers will be contacted to arrange to collect their child from school and to arrange a check-up, either with the GP or at the hospital.

Pupils who are sick should not attend school and will only be fit enough to return when they are free of symptoms. Pupils with infectious illnesses or sickness and diarrhoea should not come in to school **until 48 hours after symptoms have ceased**.

It is important that parents/carers report absences to the school.

The School and Nursing Service work in partnership to meet pupils' complex needs. This includes training staff, giving medical advice and the ongoing monitoring of a pupil's needs.

Transition to Secondary School

For those pupils who will be moving into our Secondary department there is a planned timetable of transition activities. This is designed to ensure pupils are well-prepared and the transition smooth.

This includes trips down the corridor to the Secondary department to spend increasing amounts of time in classrooms, the lunch hall and playground as well as to experience free time and leisure opportunities on the brand new Secondary site.



Pupil Voice

We have a range of ways that ensure our pupils get to express how they feel about the curriculum and school life, these include the pupil survey, daily feedback to teachers and the Pupil Focus Group- class representatives meet with other class representatives to discuss how we can improve and develop our school and the resources we use.

Topics have included lunchtimes, school clubs, homework and maths.

Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school because they are unwell, parents/carers are asked to telephone the school in the morning to explain the absence and to follow this up with a note in the contact book or a letter. For any other absence, parents/carers must obtain approval in advance.

Parents/carers themselves may not authorise any absence—only the Head teacher may do this. If you have an emergency medical concern about your child, the school nurses have a direct telephone line - designed for these emergencies only.

If children arrive after registration has closed at 9.15am, their lateness will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, in accordance with Government Guidelines. Education is compulsory and children need to attend school every day, unless they are unwell. Your child must attend school every day and must arrive on time to ensure that they receive their full educational entitlement.

Making Contact

If you have any worries or concerns at any time, or just want to tell us some important news please contact the school office, where the staff will pass on any messages to the class teacher or to myself.

You may want to your child's teacher or write to me via the Home School Contact Book, or telephone to leave a message, and I will get back to you. You can also send me an email via the office email.

Additionally, from time to time we may telephone you so that we can have a brief chat.

The class teacher reads the Home School Contact Book every day, and will write in the book at least three times a week, and as well will send home photographs and information for you.

It is also really important that the school can contact parents/carers quickly in an emergency so they are asked to let the school office know immediately of any changes to telephone numbers or addresses.

Contact Us:

Primary and Secondary Departments

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Further Education Department

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