

Welcome

to Rothersthorpe CE Primary School.

A small village primary school with approximately 90 children who live in the village or nearby Northampton.

We are a happy, friendly and caring school that prides itself on being at the heart of our local community.

Each and every child is valued as an individual and helped to develop and progress in his or her unique way. Your role as a partner in this process is one which we value and we seek to develop close home-school links with all parents.

You are very welcome to visit the school and experience for yourself the spirit and joy of learning, which we think makes us better by smiles.

Nicola Fountain
Headteacher

Ethos

Governors at the school still endorse the Mission Statement written over 20 years ago:

- *“At Rothersthorpe School general and specific skills are acquired; knowledge and understanding developed; positive attitudes and personal and social attributes encouraged.*
- *We aim to provide a broad, balanced, relevant education for all our children.*
- *We aim to help children to develop lively, enquiring minds and to develop independence.*
- *We aim to achieve this in a structured, happy, stimulating Christian environment.*
- *The ethos of our school is to help all children to develop respect for themselves and each other, to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and to be aware of and sensitive to the needs of others.*
- *Besides a respect for persons, all members of the school community are encouraged to share a respect for property, to have a strong sense of right and wrong and to have a caring attitude for the world in which we live. The curriculum we offer is not merely academic, but embraces the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.”*

The School

Our relatively modern school building (built in 1982) combines with the Village Hall and is an integral part of Village life.

In addition to our class bases, we have a library, ICT area, art area, a large school hall, kitchen facilities, hard playground, garden area and our own playing field.

Though our site is relatively compact we believe the facilities it offers support and enable us to deliver a very broad curriculum.

Next door to school is a private nursery, which caters for pre-school children (from 3months) and which also offers 'before and after school' places for school aged children.



Pastoral Structure

Within our school, we have four classes. We are keen to give our Reception children the best possible start to their education. To this aim, we provide the opportunity for them to follow the Foundation Stage curriculum within a very small class of approximately 15 children. Our other Key Stage One children are in a mixed Year 1 / Year 2 class of approximately 28 children. Within Key Stage Two, we have two further classes catering for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 pupils, similarly of approximately 28 children each. We are fortunate to have staff who are well experienced and effective in delivering the differentiated curriculum required to enable all individual children to achieve their full potential within a mixed age class.



We have a well developed “buddy system” throughout the school. This starts for new Reception children on their first day when they are paired with a pupil from Class 4 (our oldest children). The Buddy becomes an extension to the support offered by staff in helping the new children to feel safe and welcomed at our school.



Confidence, respect and good attitudes are also fostered through our pupils’ engagement with a wide range of activities. As a member of a small school all pupils (not just the most gifted) have the opportunity as they mature to develop sporting or creative skills and then have their chance to shine at a school performance or sporting fixture. These experiences are invaluable as confidence boosters. As a staff we actively look at all our children to find opportunities for them to bring their own individual talents to the fore within class, school or beyond so that each one feels special, important and valued.

The development of good social, interpersonal skills and enthusiastic but also thoughtful and caring attitudes in all our pupils is central to our happy community.

Curriculum

Recognition of individuals and personalised learning is a strong feature of our school. Our dedicated staff are committed to delivering our broad and balanced curriculum, ensuring the best academic progress for all children. Lessons are skilfully differentiated to cater for each child's needs and thought is given to their preferred learning styles.

We aim to create enthusiastic learners who are keen to rise to challenges set and achieve to their full potential. As our pupils mature, we encourage and support them in the processes of self evaluation and target setting.

In our Reception class our pupils follow the Foundation Stage curriculum.





In Key Stage One and Key Stage Two all elements of the National Curriculum and Primary Strategy are taught. National Curriculum subjects are divided into two categories - 'Core' and 'Foundation' -

Core subjects (English, Maths, Science) have a greater weekly timetabled allocation as compared to the Foundation subjects (History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, IT and RE)



In recent years, the Government has increased the recommended allocation of time for PE. All pupils receive a minimum of 2 hours P.E. weekly and for KS2 pupils this is further enhanced by a large range of extra curricular sporting clubs. In recent years, we have achieved highly in sports and have won local competitions for both netball and Tag rugby.

French has been taught throughout KS2 since 2006 (well ahead of the Government target coming into place in 2010).

KS2 pupils have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Extra curricular creative opportunities are available through a KS1 Art club and KS2 Food Technology club.

The importance of developing a Healthy Lifestyle is another key focus and integrated into all aspects of school life.

Parental involvement

We work hard to create worthwhile partnerships with all our parents as we recognise the importance of working together in unison if we are to maximise on each child's potential. To this end we make lots of opportunities for parents to share and contribute to their child's education whilst they are at our school.

We have 1:1 parents' evenings close to the mid point of the Autumn and end of the Spring terms. Reports are prepared at the end of each term and parents have the opportunity to make a further appointment if they so desire.

Staff are on hand at the beginning and end of each school day and we encourage parents to speak to us if they have any immediate concerns or advice that needs communicating urgently. If there is an issue which needs discussing at length, we will make an appointment to speak with them at a mutually convenient time. We will also telephone parents if any problems or concerns arise with their child at school.



Additionally, we hold 2 annual Parent Surgery evenings (usually February and July). These meetings are an opportunity for the staff to meet with all the parents of the children in each class. They are very useful occasions when we try to give and receive more general information e.g. homework issues, class routines, how to help your child with reading etc. and a question session. Class 1 and Class 2 both hold annual reading workshops during the Autumn term and in Class 2 parents are invited to read with their child one morning a week from 8.50 - 9.15am.

We try to invite parents regularly into school, sometimes combined with fund-raising events, a church service or a school performance. We hope these are always enjoyable and often sociable occasions when parents will have the opportunity to see their child participate / perform and also to chat and enjoy the company of other parents.

School Organisation

The school day: School starts at 9.00am for all pupils
(there is a member of staff on duty in the
playground from 8.50am)

Lunch - 12.15- 1.15pm

School finishes at 3.30pm for all pupils
(children supervised until 3.40pm)

The flexibility at the beginning and end of the day is to try to alleviate parking problems in Church Street.

School uniform: School uniform colours are royal blue
sweatshirts and grey trousers or skirts.
Sweatshirts printed with the school emblem
are available from the school office.

School meals: Hot School meals, provided by NCC Nourish are
available by ordering a week in advance (£2.00
per day) or children can bring a packed lunch.
All children eat together in the school hall
under the supervision of Lunchtime staff.

Healthy snacks: A healthy snack is offered to all children and
Reception class children also have a fruit drink
or milk at mid- morning break.
All children in Class 2, 3 and 4 are encouraged
to bring a water bottle to drink throughout
the day.

Rothersthorpe CE Primary School Diary of Regular Events	
Autumn Term- first week back	Team Building Activity Days for all children in Years 1 -6. Children take part in a variety of activities e.g sporting, cookery, artistic, based on a theme.
Sept/October	Visit from Life Education Caravan - all children visit the caravan during the day for a teaching session based on Healthy Lifestyles.
	All children take part in the school's Harvest Service in church. Children bring harvest gifts, which are distributed to villagers and charity organisations after the service.
	Parental Consultation evenings
November	Mufti Day for Children in Need
	Year 12's Reunion dinner. Ex pupils return to bring us up to date on their progress.
	Children's Photographer in school
December	Christmas production - 2 performances - All children except Reception class take part
	Christmas Lunch and Party for all children
	Combined Reception class Nativity play and whole school Christingle service in church

In addition, Key Stage 2 extra curricular clubs run during September, October and November - Netball, Football, Tag Rugby, Basketball, Volleyball, Rambling and Country dancing.

Netball, Football and Tag teams take part in Cluster tournament at Campion School

Spring Term - January	New Year Disco
March	Annual Talent Show
	Red Nose Day - Mufti
	Parental Consultation evenings
March / April	All children take part in Easter Service in Church

Sporting extra-curricular clubs resume at the end of February.
Also Key Stage 1 Art club and KS2 Food Technology club.
Children in KS2 have weekly swimming lessons at Duston Pool

Summer term - May	Class photos
End of half term May	May Day celebrations - crowning of May Queen and Maypole dancing
June	Parents evening for new intake children
	Year 7 tea party - pupils return to tell us about their first year at Secondary School
June / July - alternate Years	Four day residential visit for KS2 children
July - alternate years	Summer Productions
July	New Reception children visit Year 6 children visit Campion School
	Sports Night and Family Picnic
	Class surgery evenings for parents

Swimming lessons continue. Sports activities continue. Teams enter local tournaments for Tag Rugby and Football. Netball and football matches are arranged against teams from other local schools.

- Throughout the year, children take part in various Gifted & Talented joint events with other schools in the Campion Cluster.
- Trips are arranged for most classes to go out for a day's visit which ties in with their topic for the term e.g Museum visit, Holdenby House and other local places of interest.
- Visitors are also invited into school to enrich the children's education
- Whole school visits have been arranged for the past few years, visiting the Black Country Museum, Think Tank and Everdon Country Park.
- Fund-raising activities are arranged throughout the year, in addition to the mufti days for national charities - we raise funds for a charity chosen by the children each year. 'Friends of School' events help to pay for additional resources or whole school trips.
- Our local vicar and lay preacher visit regularly to lead assemblies
- Peripatetic music teachers provide Violin lessons for older children

...and finally

When the time comes for our pupils to leave us, we want each one to feel a real sense of achievement, full of confidence and well motivated to take the next steps.

We want our pupils to have happy memories of their primary days - in a school where they were made to feel special, challenged and their contributions, progress and happiness were valued and important to us all.