



SCHOOL BROCHURE



'We believe in respect and success for all.'



Welcome to Oakley Cross Primary School



This brochure is intended to provide you with information about our school which we hope you will find useful. The information within this brochure is correct at the time of publication but changes may be made throughout the school year. Should you require any further information or wish to visit the school, please contact the school office.

Oakley Cross Primary School and Nursery Unit is a welcoming, happy and hardworking school which currently provides high quality education for children from 2 to 11 years of age. It situated in spacious grounds in a rural setting in the village of West Auckland. We are very proud of our school; children, staff, parents, governors and the wider local community and continually strive to ensure we offer our children the very best start in life.

Mrs R Brannan
Head Teacher



Our School Aims

At Oakley Cross School we aim not only to educate children and develop basic skills to the highest standards within the National Curriculum, but also to nurture self-discipline and high self-esteem by providing a caring, friendly, environment within a creative learning setting. We endeavour at all times to ensure children are safe, happy, independent, motivated learners who have positive attitudes and make valuable contributions towards their school and community. Our mission statement, 'We believe in respect and success for all', underpins these school aims.

Strengths of Oakley Cross

Our school was last inspected by Ofsted in May 2018. Oakley Cross Primary School is a good school where 'The headteacher and governors share a strong vision and determination to promote pupils' personal development. They are committed to ensuring that pupils achieve highly. Staff are motivated by this vision in their day-to-day work with pupils. The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding and Leaders ensure that pupils have effective opportunities to learn well across a wide range of subjects, as well as in English and mathematics.'

Our academic achievements are due to the hard work of our caring and dedicated staff team who aim to develop a love of learning in all of our children. Good teaching is coupled with a well-planned, exciting and stimulating curriculum for all of our children which focusses on developing key skills in Maths and English throughout.

Alongside this we continually promote a strong sense of personal development through our personal, social and emotional curriculum. We openly teach the values of respect, tolerance, kindness, honesty, resilience and good humour. Children hold positions of responsibility in school; Playtime Guardians, Mini-Buds, Nursery Monitors, and Library Monitors as well as electing Rights Respecting Ambassadors and Online safety Cadets from each class.

We hold a number of nationally recognised awards including; Rights Respecting School Gold Award, The Basic Skills Quality Mark, the Young Carer's Charter, The Wellbeing Award for Schools and the Silver School Games Award.



Our Staff

Teaching Staff

Headteacher:	Mrs R Brannan
Acting Deputy Headteacher	Miss C O'Neil
Acorns & Saplings (Nursery)	Mrs W Askwith
Blossom (YR & Y1)	Mrs A Chapman (EYFS Leader)
Pine (Y2 & Y3)	Miss K Turner
Willow (Y3 & Y4)	Mr C Smith & Miss C O'Neil (SENDCo)
Sycamore (Y4 & Y5)	Mrs S Stones
Maple (Y5 & Y6)	Mr C Robinson

Support Staff

Miss A Comerford (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs R Smart (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs A Sheldon (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs L Collier (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs L Geraty (HLTA)
Mrs S Lowrie (Learning Mentor)
Mrs J Betts (Teaching Assistant)
Miss J Lightfoot (Academic Mentor)
Miss M Warburton (EYFS Apprentice)
Mr C Dixon (School Sports Apprentice)
Mrs B Mathwin (School Attendance Officer)

Kitchen Staff

Mrs S Green
Mrs S Parsons

Lunchtime Staff

Mrs R Furness
Mrs A Dickinson
Miss V Ebdon

Breakfast Club Staff

Mrs S Lowrie
Mrs R Furness

School Secretary - Mrs J McPartlin

School Caretaker - Mr A Coverdale

School Cleaners - Mrs R Furness & Miss V Ebdon



Our School Day

- 8.45 - children admitted onto school premises
- 8.55 - Start of the day
- 10:30 - Break time
- 11:45 - Lunch time begins
- 12:45 - Afternoon sessions begin
- 3.15 - the end of the day for KS1 and KS2

Please ensure that your child arrives at school promptly. Late arrivals create anxieties for the child as well as administrative problems for the staff. Please inform school if anyone other than the child's parent or guardian is going to collect them.

Our school lunch break is staggered and lunches are served from 11:45 am -12:20 pm. KS1 return to their classes at 12.45 pm and KS2 return at 1:00pm.

Breakfast Club

Children can arrive at school anytime between 8.10 and 8.30am for a healthy breakfast provided by our Breakfast Club team. Breakfast club is free for all children as we are currently sponsored by Greggs and it offers a variety of activities in addition to breakfast. It provides social, physical and creative opportunities as well as a healthy start to the day.

School Meals

School meals are prepared each day at school by our cook. We make every effort to ensure that the meals are of a high nutritional value and whenever possible only fresh produce is used. We are extremely conscious of the importance of a healthy diet and healthy choices are always included on the menu. School meals are of a very high standard and are monitored closely by all staff. We offer a deli menu which offers a cooked meal and a sandwich alternative.

Packed Lunches

Some children choose to bring a packed lunch to school. Parents are asked to provide a healthy packed lunch and follow our packed lunch policy. Foods high in salt, sugar and fat are not allowed in packed lunches.

Snacks

School provides a piece of fruit for every child regardless of age each morning. This fruit snack is in part funded by the National Fruit Scheme for the younger children, and the older children's fruit, is paid for by the school. A wide variety of fruit is offered. Children are also offered milk each day through the Cool Milk scheme.



Water

Lots of research has been done into the benefits of children having access to drinking water. It is believed that drinking water throughout the day improves alertness, concentration levels and the ability to learn. All children have access to drinking water throughout the day.

Our Curriculum

At Oakley Cross we believe that inclusive education means providing all children with appropriate education and support. The Curriculum is all the planned activities that the school organises in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the range of additional opportunities that the school organises in order to enrich the experiences of our children. Our curriculum also includes the social aspects that are essential for life-long learning.

The school curriculum follows the current principles from the EYFS curriculum and the New National Curriculum. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, to motivate and interest children, by doing so encourage high standards of both work and behaviour. Children are taught through a variety of experiences, preparing them for the experiences of adult life.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, for children in Nursery and Reception provides a broad curriculum based on the three prime and four specific areas of learning and development. Our children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) follow the National Curriculum Programmes of Study in English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, RE, History, Geography, Music, PE, MFL (French), DT and Art.

PSHCE is delivered in school to develop the personal and social skills and emotional well-being of children. We follow a comprehensive PSHCE programme and are proud of our anti-bullying and safety curriculum and the work we do as a Rights Respecting school. We enable children to fulfil their role as responsible citizens now and in the future by developing skills of independence, creativity and teamwork. As part of thinking independently, we seek to develop each child's ability to make informed choices, recognising that their actions contribute towards ensuring that the rights of all are respected. Our curriculum is founded upon the explicit development of these skills.

Assessment

We believe that effective assessment provides information to improve teaching and learning. We give children regular feedback on their learning so that they understand what it is that they have achieved and what they need to do better. This allows us to base our lesson plans on a detailed knowledge of each child. We give parents regular written and verbal reports on their child's progress so that teachers, children and



parents are all working together to raise standards for all our children.

Behaviour at Oakley Cross

'The behaviour of pupils is good. Pupils behave very well throughout the day. They are thoughtful and caring towards each other, adults and visitors. They act as full partners in learning with adults in the school.' We are a Rights Respecting School and children are taught about the rights they have as children. We have charters in school which have been written by the children that outline the responsibilities and behaviour we expect in our school. Positive reinforcement of good behaviour is the key to success and we aim to praise and reward good behaviour whenever possible. We encourage children to develop self-discipline and to accept responsibility for their own actions.

Our 'stamp chart' system is used throughout the school and involves children being awarded stamps for many and varied achievements, from improvements in academic work to being a good friend, and from looking after equipment to having a good playtime. Charts are kept in each classroom, and children are awarded a prize once their individual chart is full. Up to three children from each class are also nominated to have their names placed in the Superstar Book each week and their particular achievements are shared in our weekly celebration assembly. Stickers and stamps are also used for additional rewards and motivation. Weekly and termly rewards are given to those classes and individual children achieving 100% attendance. There are known consequences for inappropriate behaviour in school as we know it is important for children to be aware of their boundaries and to make good choices. For example, we use the traffic light system in all classes, verbal warnings and loss of play time.

Bullying

Staff and pupils take a pro-active approach to bullying. We have an up to date anti-bullying policy and children are taught about the effects of bullying during PSHCE lessons and assemblies. Bullying will not be tolerated in school and cases are dealt with promptly and sensitively.





Meeting children's individual needs

At Oakley Cross a range of suitably differentiated activities is offered within the planned work so that every child, from the least able to the more able, is stretched and challenged. We aim for every child to fulfil his/her potential.

Some children will be identified by their teacher as having special learning needs in one or more areas of the curriculum. This could be in the form of a specific learning difficulty or it could be that the child has been identified as being gifted and talented in an area of the curriculum. The specific need will be identified by class teachers and will be discussed with parents at an early stage so that they are fully involved regarding any additional provision for their child.

Appropriate measures will be taken within school to ensure that all children will be given every opportunity to make progress. It may be decided that some children need more individual help identified through a SEN support plan. This may include having support from additional adults working alongside them in the classroom or being withdrawn for individual/group work. The class teacher will liaise with Miss O'Neil our Special Needs Coordinator and if appropriate any outside agencies e.g. Speech and Language Support, Occupational Therapy Support and the Education Psychology Service, to devise programmes of work appropriate to each child. Parents will be consulted and consent obtained before this is done.

Those children who are identified as having specific gifts or talents will be supported through classroom differentiation and by extension programmes within the school. Children will also be able to access support from appropriate professionals e.g. school sports coach, members of the music service and specialist staff within our cluster secondary schools.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities to children. These may vary according to the time of year, as well as from year to year. They may be organised by staff, parents or visiting teachers and whilst some activities are free, there are charges for others to cover resources/fees. Some of these activities take place during lunchtimes whilst others are out of school hours. After school clubs start at 3:15pm and usually finish at 4.00pm.

Sport

We have weekly after school sports clubs for both KS1 and KS2 children at appropriate times during the year and aim to provide opportunities for interschool competition where possible.



Music

There is an opportunity for children in Key Stage 2 to learn to play a musical instrument. Currently we have children who play the guitar. This instruction takes place in small groups or individually during the school day. There is a charge for music tuition.

Educational Visits and Visitors

All children will have the opportunity to go on educational visits. These are chosen to enrich and consolidate children's learning and include Beamish Museum, Theatre, The Farm and local religious buildings. Visitors are also invited into school to enhance the curriculum such as Crazy Creatures, Brass bands and specialist sports instructors. Parental consent is sought for educational visits when your child begins school and this consent will apply for the duration of your child's enrolment at this school or until withdrawn in writing.

Residential Experience

Children in KS2, usually years 5 and 6 are given the opportunity to take part in residential visits to Edinburgh, London and/or Dukeshouse Wood. During these visits the children have opportunities to put their curriculum knowledge into practice and try some new experiences. The chance to experience life without parents, co-operating and communicating with other children is invaluable.

School Performances

There are several performances throughout the year including our Harvest Festival, Christmas Play, KS2 Carol Service and Year 6 End of Year Production. Children of all ages are involved in our performances and parents are invited to all of these events. Our Drama Club plays a key role in leading performances but is well supported by all of the children. From time to time individual classes lead assemblies which aim to share some of their topic work or mark significant events such as Remembrance Day.

Links with Home

We value our relationship with parents. Our aim is to be as open and honest with you, as we hope you will be with us, for we believe that parents have a central role to play in the educational development of children. We aim to keep you fully informed about your child's progress throughout her/his time at Oakley Cross School and we will certainly approach you if we have any anxieties. You are welcome to see your child's class teacher at any time but immediately after school is best. New parents will be invited to sign our Home School Agreement which was carefully put together by staff, parents and governors. We hope that parents will want to play a full and active part in the learning process both in school and at home. We welcome parents into school and into our classrooms where there are many and varied opportunities for helping. If you are willing and able to help in any way please speak to your child's class teacher.



Homework

We ask that you support your child with their school work in various ways. In the early days we would like you to take an active and on-going interest in your child's reading development. The children are given reading diaries in which we invite you to record reading done at home on a daily basis. A reading/homework folder is provided by the school to protect work and books and we ask that this is used by all children. By Year 1 we may be adding weekly spellings and/or short maths activities. As children progress through Key stage 2 there will be a gradual shift in emphasis towards a greater homework load. Whatever the task we hope that parents will show an interest and offer appropriate help and support.

In addition we ask you to:

- Check that your child brings their diary and reading book to school each day and home again each evening.
- Sign your child's reading diary at least weekly.
- Ensure that homework is completed and brought to school on time.

Keeping Parents Informed

Parents are kept informed of news and school events through school newsletter which is sent home via the youngest child in the family attending our school. This is also uploaded onto our website. Parents will also receive letters about extra-curricular clubs, class trips, and Oakley Cross Friends' events via the same system. We also provide regular information regarding school events via our Facebook page and website.

We have a texting system, Parent Mail, for contacting parents which we hope you will find useful. We use this system instead of making phone calls, for example, if a club is cancelled, reminders about payments etc. It is also extremely beneficial in times of extreme weather to inform of school closures and opening times.

Contact Information

When your child starts school you will be asked to fill in a Personal Details form so that we can contact you or another adult known to the child if the child is ill or has an accident at school. If any details change e.g. you move house or your telephone number/s change please let the school know immediately so that the form can be kept up to date.



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Community Links

School Governors

Our School Governors, together with the Head Teacher, are responsible for the overall educational and financial health of the school. They are all unpaid volunteers who meet regularly to discuss and decide upon all aspects of school activities such as appointing staff, monitoring the budget, maintaining the premises and reviewing the curriculum. The Governing Body is a legal entity and governors execute their responsibilities collectively. In short, the governors are best thought of as trustees of the school who act in the interests of current and future pupils and staff.

Oakley Cross Friends (PTA)

All parents and staff are automatically members of Oakley Cross Friends. Their work is guided and organised by a dedicated committee which is made up of volunteers. Oakley Cross Friends organise fundraising and social events throughout the year in which a wide range of parents, grandparents and friends help. These include coffee afternoons, social evenings, competitions and treats for the children.

Links with the Wider Community

Our links with the local community are being developed through:

- Our membership in the Bishop Auckland School Games Partnership; developing games and PE skills.
- Local churches; the representatives from our local church lead regular acts of worship in school and we hold our carol service in church every year.
- Regular visits from the Fire Service, Police and school nurses.
- Working closely with our local schools.
- Our support of local and national charities including Children in Need and UNICEF.
- We support our local Foodbank at 'The Well'.

Our School Uniform

Presentation

We encourage parents to support us in ensuring that we maintain high standards of appearance here at school and that the children are proud to be part of Oakley Cross. We ask that parents support us in this and do not allow children to come to school with, for example, brightly coloured hair or inappropriate slogans on clothing.

School Uniform

The grey school uniform with maroon sweatshirt, incorporating school logo, must be worn. Sweatshirts and T-shirts can be ordered as required through the school office but alternatives can be purchased from local supermarket stores. For reasons of safety we ask that children do not wear jewellery during school hours. Children should be sent to school wearing sensible black footwear and not bright coloured shoes. In bad weather it



would also be sensible for children to have slippers or shoes to change into on entering school should they walk to school in wellies.

P.E. Clothing

Children do need a change of clothing and footwear to enable them to take part in P.E. lessons. We ask children to wear a white t-shirt and navy/black shorts. Indoor lessons are usually in bare feet; however, appropriate footwear for outdoor lessons is needed especially during the summer term. P.E. kit should be brought to school on Mondays and taken home for washing each Friday. A school PE kit is available through our school supplier which consists of T-shirt, shorts and a gym bag.

Please ensure ALL clothing brought to school including outdoors coats etc. are clearly labelled with your child's name. This means that any lost property can be quickly returned to the owner.

Practical Information

Admissions

We are always pleased to show new parents around our school and answer any further questions you may have. Please arrange a mutually convenient time either by telephone or by calling at the school. The admission limit for our school is set by the Local Authority and we currently have an admission number of twenty six. If more applications are received than this number the Local Authority Policy on admission is then adhered to. For new admissions please contact the school admissions section at County Hall in Durham on 03000 265 893 or via their website www.durham.gov.uk.

Absence

If your child is absent either through illness or for any other reason please inform the school as soon as possible either by telephone or in writing. If the school has not been informed of the reason for a child's absence then we will telephone you in the first instance to ascertain why the child is not at school. If a child is absent without an explanation being given this will be counted as an unauthorised absence. Under current regulations all absences must be accounted for. An unauthorised absence is likely to be followed up by Mrs Mathwin our Attendance Officer.

Holidays During School Time

The school year includes 13 weeks when the children are on holiday. A formal request must be made to Mrs Lowrie, Mrs Mathwin or Mrs Brannan before any additional time can be taken during term time. We closely monitor attendance in collaboration with our Attendance Officer and if your child's attendance falls below the Government recommendation of 96% further action may be taken. Term dates are available on the school website or from the school office.



Medicine

For reasons of safety we should not have medicines on the premises. Should your child be required to take medicine during school hours then in certain circumstances this can be arranged. The medication must be prescribed by a medical practitioner and parents must sign a form giving permission for this to be administered in school. Inhalers for asthma are an exception but please see the Head Teacher before allowing a child to carry an inhaler in school, as the school needs to be aware of all children who have medical conditions. Minor accidents such as grazes and bumps will be treated appropriately in school. If a child receives a bump to the head then parents will be informed either by telephone, verbally or by way of a written note from school.

Safety

Please ensure that on entering and leaving school the footpaths and pedestrian gates are used and not the vehicle gates. Please set a good example to children by always using the footpaths and not walking across the car park area.

Dogs are not allowed on school premises for health and safety reasons. Smoking is not allowed in the school grounds.

Cars

Please be aware that the area immediately outside school is designated as a clearway. This means that no stopping, even to drop off or pick up children, is allowed (parents are liable to a fine if this is ignored). If a car is used please ensure that you stop/park outside of the controlled area. Use of the school car parking entrance is an obvious danger area and we ask that for the safety of all children parents do not use this. The only exception to these rules is specifically for disabled children only.

Safeguarding

At Oakley Cross Primary School, we believe that everyone achieves their maximum potential in an environment which is safe, secure and supportive of all their needs. Consequently, the safety and well-being of our pupils and staff is an essential part of our work. We rigorously follow all safer recruitment procedures for all adults working at the school. We provide a safe environment on site and follow all regulations for school trips and visits. We value everyone as individuals and both pupils and staff have numerous opportunities to express their views and raise any concerns they may have.

Concerns and complaints

If ever you have any concern about any aspect of school life, we hope that you will feel able to come and talk either to your child's class teacher or to myself as Head Teacher. Most difficulties can be easily resolved in this way.



We sincerely hope that you and your child enjoy your time at
Oakley Cross Primary School & Nursery Unit.



Getting in touch

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