



# Milking Bank Primary School

To go further than I thought  
To run faster than I hoped  
To reach higher than I dreamed







# Welcome to Milking Bank Primary School

## Foreword: Richard Mason, Headteacher, says...

Welcome to our fantastic primary school! Milking Bank Primary serves an extensive residential development located 1.5 miles from Dudley town centre. The school, which opened in November 1989, caters for children aged 3-11 years.

### Two-form entry

We have a two-form entry with an admission limit of four hundred and twenty pupils. We also have a nursery unit catering for thirty pupils, each morning and afternoon session. The school is semi-open plan with its own hall, music room, library, fourteen class bases with quiet areas and community facilities.

### Dedicated staff

I am very proud of our highly experienced and dedicated staff, who work hard to ensure the highest possible academic standards for your children. By promoting positive attitudes, we can move forward with confidence, preparing our pupils for their future lives in and out of school.

### Safe and happy

Our main aim at Milking Bank is to provide a happy and secure environment, in which children will thrive and develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. Through a close partnership with parents, we hope all children will fulfil their maximum potential and enjoy their time here.

### Parent partnership

Examples of this school-parent partnership can be seen in the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus. The stories demonstrate that you, and your child, are very important to us. That we champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

### Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our amazing school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff that listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask me a question, please email me on [rmason@milking.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:rmason@milking.dudley.sch.uk), or call the school office 01384 816695.



"It's a creative, stimulating and caring environment where children reach their full potential."



Louise and Lee Clarke live in Dudley with their children Anna, 12 and James, 8 in Year 3.

## Louise believes Milking Bank Primary School produces confident, sociable, well-rounded children who are willing to have a go at anything

### No reason to look elsewhere

As a teacher herself, Louise knew what she was looking for in a school. She heard excellent things from neighbours about Milking Bank Primary School and she got a great feeling about it when they looked around. "Milking Bank Primary School had a brilliant reputation and it was within walking distance of our house. With such a warm, welcoming and friendly feel that I knew I wanted my children to go there without question. We had no reason to look elsewhere."

### Caring and safe

Whilst Louise appreciates the importance of academic achievement, the main priority for her is that her children will be cared for and feel safe and valued. "When we're not there I want someone who will look after my children. It has that warm, homely feel; my children couldn't have been better cared for than they have been at this school."

### Happy memories

Louise feels Milking Bank Primary School has been provided some amazing memories for her daughter, who has recently moved up to secondary school. "She had such a wonderful time, right from starting in nursery. We've never had one unhappy time. They've provided her with fantastic opportunities and a great grounding. Anna was very sad to leave."

### Stimulating lessons and a vibrant environment

Louise's youngest child, James is equally enjoying his time at Milking Bank Primary School. "James was used to seeing Anna go to school and how

happy she was there. He couldn't wait to go!" says Louise. "The learning is so stimulating that James never stops talking about his lessons!" says Louise. "The resources they have available ensure children are able to get really engaged in lessons. It's such a vibrant environment that children want to be there and want to learn."

### Helping to grow confidence

Louise feels that the teachers seem to understand each child's unique personality. "Anna's confidence came on so much at this school. Each year she grew as a person and Year 6 saw her thrive. Teachers go that extra mile to develop children's confidence to enable them to succeed and ensure they are ready for their move to secondary school"

### Parental involvement

There are also plenty of opportunities for parental involvement to support learning, which allows parents to work with teachers to help children develop. "They keep you up to date on new initiatives and you're invited into workshops and to share in your child's successes."

Louise adds: "There is absolutely nothing negative I can say about Milking Bank Primary School. It's a creative, stimulating and caring environment where children reach their full potential."

### Children say:

James says: "All the lessons are fun but my favourite is maths as they give you extra challenges!"



# School day



## School hours

### Nursery

- Morning Session 8.30am to 11.30am.
- Afternoon Session 12.15pm to 3.15pm.

### Key Stage 1

- Morning Session 8.45am to 12.00 noon.
- Afternoon Session 1.00pm to 3.20pm.

### Key Stage 2

- Morning Session 8.45am to 12.30pm.
- Afternoon Session 1.30pm to 3.20pm.

## Out of Hours Club

We have an Out of Hours Club, which runs before and after school for all our pupils. It starts each school day at 8.00am, and runs until school starts. The after school sessions run three days a week, until 5.30pm.

## Uniform

A simple uniform is helpful in establishing good standards of appearance in school and by wearing it children quickly feel part of the community. School uniform lists can be obtained by contacting the school office.

School ties, book packs and PE bags are available to buy from the school office. Other items with the school logo can be ordered through the office. If families need help towards the cost of school uniform please let us know and we can provide further information.

## School meals and snacks

Hot, tasty and healthy meals are available at school, with vegetarian options. We encourage good table manners and standards of behaviour at lunchtime.

All children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 can receive a free hot school meal. Children can also bring in lunch boxes. Children can also go home for lunch.

Children may bring in fresh fruit to have at mid-morning. Water is always available during the day.

## School Houses

Each child is assigned to one of our four houses:

- Griffin
- Phoenix
- Roc
- Unicorn.



"I love school because we learn new things with fun activities and every day is different!"



Natasha Mahmood and her husband, Babar live in Dudley with their three children, Mya, 12 and their twin daughters, Amila and Ambar, nine in Year 4.

# Natasha believes a school should offer life skills as well as good academic results, and that Milking Bank Primary School does that and more

## So much to offer

As a primary school teacher Natasha knew what she was looking for in the perfect school for her children. She'd heard lots of positive comments from colleagues and friends about the academic results, the friendly teachers and the varied extracurricular activities and resources available at Milking Bank Primary School. They moved into the area in the hope of securing a place at the school. "You know a school is good when there's a long waiting list and you struggle to get in," says Natasha. "We knew from other families whose children had been to the school how happy they had been and that too was an important factor for us."

## A rounded, holistic approach

"At Milking Bank they focus on what the individual child is good at, which isn't always academic things. Mya's a fairly quiet girl but they turned that into a positive, which set her in good stead for her secondary education," explains Natasha. "The school is brilliant at making the children feel like they really belong. Our heritage is Pakistani and it was important our children felt included and had positive role models. It's a family orientated school and I feel their rounded approach, both academic and personal, provides a strong foundation for the transition to secondary school."

## Going beyond the curriculum

"Milking Bank Primary School is very good at doing what's needed to satisfy the curriculum, but they go beyond that by including children's

personal interests to support their learning and by adopting a fun approach which really gets children enthused about their learning and engrossed in their lessons," Natasha adds.

## Drawing on individual experiences

Enjoyment at school has ensured Natasha's girls feel happy and comfortable sharing their own experiences of special Muslim celebrations. "The teachers are always interested and they value the girls' contributions and the individuality of what they are bringing to the school, but then it's all inclusive too. They get the balance just right."

## A strong community feel

Natasha feels strongly that education is also about teaching children that they are part of a community: "My children are achieving very well academically, but I also want a school to be setting a good example, teaching children that actions have consequences, and working together with parents to reinforce these values. This school does these things very well - their focus on citizenship is a real strength. They believe Every Child Matters."

## Children say:

Amila says: "I love school because we learn new things with fun activities and every day is different!"

Ambar says: "I like Milking Bank Primary School because the teachers are kind and I've made lots of nice friends."



# Curriculum



The curriculum is divided into three stages:

**Early Years Foundation Stage:**  
from ages 0-5

**Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7

**Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11.

## Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

## Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.

## Sport

As well as following the PE National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for extracurricular sport and team games. We participate fully in Dudley L.E.A. competitive sport including soccer, netball, cross country and athletics. We are also a member of the Ellowes Sports College Consortium.



## Moving on to secondary school

When our pupils move to secondary school we make the process as smooth as possible. We have strong links with local secondary schools. We arrange visits to these schools and also invite staff from these schools to our autumn opening evenings.



"For me that says a huge amount about the quality of the school."



Andrea and Neville Gooda have lived in Dudley for fifteen years. They have four children who have all been to Milking Bank Primary School, Elizabeth 19, Katie, 17, Jack 11 and Connie, 10, who is in currently in Year 5.

# Andrea has four children and believes Milking Bank Primary School creates wonderful young people

## Up there with the best

Andrea and Neville chose Milking Bank Primary School some fifteen years ago based on recommendations from friends. Andrea has lots of employment experience in an education department and feels Milking Bank Primary School is up there with the best of the schools she has seen.

## It feels right

Andrea says: "It's a very friendly school with a warm, inviting sense of community. I got a really good feeling from it and that hasn't changed in any way over the years."

"The Headteacher has been there since my eldest daughter started fifteen years ago and many of the teachers are still the same. The continuity of staff is excellent and speaks volumes to me - to know each of our children have all received the same standard of education is reassuring."

## No complaints!

When adding up the number of years her children have collectively attended Milking Bank Primary School it amounts to 27 years! "In all that time, I can honestly say not one of my children has ever complained that they don't want to go to school," says Andrea. "For me that says a huge amount about the quality of the school."

## Excellent resources to support learning

Andrea is also really impressed with the resources available. For her, the ICT facilities and the opportunities for school trips really shine. "Jack went to Belgium in Year 6; as a shy quiet boy it did wonders in building his confidence

and came at the perfect time to prepare him for the independence of secondary school," explains Andrea.

"And the school's children all have use of their own laptop; we purchased Connie's through the school scheme. They have access to so many brilliant software programmes to support their learning in different subjects and Connie loves that she can work on these at home!" says Andrea. "Connie's confidence has also grown hugely and I think all the clubs and activities on offer have really helped to develop this."

## "...it's a community - one big friendship!"

"Milking Bank Primary School is not just an education; it's a community - one big friendship! It's made my children into wonderful young people. I don't think you can ask for more."



## Children say:

Connie says: "The best thing about Milking Bank Primary School is the teachers. They make it a fun place to be!"



# Extended curriculum



## Trips and visits

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities, including trips to:

- Wightwick Manor
- The Toy Museum
- Birmingham Airport
- Gornal Library
- Bewdley Museum
- Theatre visits
- London.

We hold special theme days depending on topics being taught e.g. Victorians, Egyptian, WW2 etc.



## Behaviour and self development

We are proud of the behaviour of our pupils. We expect and encourage high standards. All members of our school community are expected to be courteous and well mannered. We foster a spirit of individual and community responsibility in our school. We help our children develop and maintain high self-esteem so that they:

- are confident,
- have a strong sense of identity,
- a positive self-image
- and develop the capacity for independent learning.

## Communicating with parents

### Your child's achievements

We let you know how your child is progressing at regular intervals. We also invite parents each term to come into school to talk with teacher and discuss a pupil's progress. Parents are also welcome to speak to the school at any time if they have any concerns. We have an 'open door' policy so parents are always welcome.

### School news

We have an active Twitter account and use this to keep parents updated with school news. We also produce regular newsletters.



# Inclusion: a curriculum for all

## Special Educational Needs

We are committed to a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils. Our Special Needs Co-ordinator ensures that the school provides the best support possible for children identified as having special needs. We discuss any support plans with parents and provide regular feedback on progress. External agencies may need to be consulted on some occasions, but only with prior consent from parents.

## Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school.

## Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.

## Collective worship

Our assemblies celebrate the multi faiths of our pupils and bring the whole school together for collective worship. They are a very important part of the school day and help support the moral and spiritual ethos of our school. We hope that parents will want to share some of our assemblies, especially 'class assemblies' and 'praise assemblies' when we share news and show children's work.



"Milking Bank Primary School is like an extension of our family."



Kamaljit and Manjit Nijjar have two children, Avneet, 13 and Ranveer, 5 in Reception. They live in Dudley with Harninder (Kamaljit's sister) and her husband, Balbir Nijjar (Manjit's brother) and their children, Amanjeet 13 and Pavan 9, in Year 5.

## Kamaljit is grateful to Milking Bank Primary School for the care and support it has given to her family's individual needs

### In high demand

When Kamaljit and Manjit first moved to Dudley, places at Milking Bank Primary School were in high demand. With Avneet being diabetic and insulin dependent it was important to them that she secured a place at a caring school close to home. They were absolutely thrilled when two places became available for Avneet and her cousin, Amanjeet: "We'd heard such positive things about Milking Bank Primary School, we knew we really wanted our children to go there," says Kamaljit.

### First class care

It was important to the family that the school understood Avneet's needs but that they didn't treat her differently to the other children. "Every school we'd been in previously requested that we go in and administer Avneet's insulin. Milking Bank Primary School didn't ask us to do that; instead some of the teaching assistants were trained so that they could administer it.

"The staff were absolutely fantastic! Avneet said she felt school was like her second home, they looked after her so well," says Kamaljit. "I really can't fault the care they showed her during her time there."

### Understanding of individual needs

When it came to applying for Ranveer's school place the local authority declined Milking Bank Primary School because Avneet had already moved up to secondary school. "We appealed because my sister's child was still there; as we all live together my children consider their cousins as their siblings," explains Kamaljit. "Harninder is in full time education so I'm often the primary carer for her children too; for me to be in two different schools at the same time was impossible!"

Kamaljit adds: "Ranveer was born prematurely and has a reserved character where it takes him time to feel comfortable in new surroundings. We felt it was important for him to be in a settling environment and it was the ideal school due to past experience with Avneet and because Pavan was there."

### Inclusive of all cultures

As predicted, Ranveer has settled well into school life and is enjoying his time there. As practising Sikhs, another important factor in securing a place for him was the need for him to feel comfortable in his headscarf. "It was important he felt welcomed and we knew the ethos of the school would mean the children would do that," says Kamaljit.

### A nurturing environment offering a bright future

When Amanjeet went to Belgium for the Year 6 school trip, Harninder was impressed with the teacher's interest in ensuring she could support him with his headscarf and was happy to show her how to do it. "As a parent it's very reassuring to know your child is there utmost priority. It also shows their respect for the different cultures and religions. Every experience is always a positive one, ensuring nothing holds the children back, which is wonderful!" says Kamaljit.

She adds: "Milking Bank Primary School is like an extension of our family. It offers a safe and nurturing environment where children thrive and are taught to respect one another, regardless of race, disability and gender. We believe the children that go here are offered a brighter future."



# Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs that children can join, during class, lunchtime and after school. Options often include:

- ‘Groovy Moovers’, which is a multi-sensory activity club
- art
- athletics
- music
- chess
- choir
- cricket
- cross country
- dance
- gym
- kick boxing
- multi-sports
- netball
- orchestra
- photography
- soccer
- touch rugby.



“We have no hesitation in recommending Milking Bank Primary School.”

Natalie and Mark Norris live in Dudley with Jack, 6 in Year 2, Katy, 4 at nursery and Charlie, 2.

## Natalie is grateful to Milking Bank Primary School for the nurturing environment it provides to support and encourage learning

### A nurturing environment

The size of Milking Bank Primary School really appealed to Natalie and Mark. “We were looking for a school that wasn’t too big and somewhere that had a lovely community feel. Of course, we’d also heard great things about the school from other people. It felt like the right environment for Jack so we were very relieved to be offered a place,” says Natalie.

Everything seemed to suddenly click for Jack in Year 1. As a summer baby he joined the school as one of the youngest and Natalie found it took him a little while to build his confidence. “He was doing fine in Reception but when Year 1 came along, he just took off,” says Natalie. “We think the nurturing environment at Milking Bank Primary School has been something that has really helped him to settle in to school life.”

### A good balance

Natalie and Mark are really pleased with how much Jack’s confidence has grown during his time at Milking Bank Primary School. He initially found it easier to learn his phonics by sight rather than by sound. Natalie liked how the school supported Jack’s learning style while continuing to encourage him to work with phonic sounds. “They were happy to go with whatever was working for Jack, rather than pushing something that didn’t feel right for him. The teaching staff supported him to take things at his pace, and worked with him to improve his concentration levels and his focus on learning,” explains Natalie. “The staff are incredibly caring. We think they have a great balance between nurturing and focused learning. Jack’s very happy there and loves learning!”

### Exceeding expectations

A lot of the staff are very experienced at Milking Bank Primary School and have been at the school for a number of years, which Natalie believes is a real strength of the school. “You can tell the teachers enjoy their job by their enthusiasm for the children, by how much enjoyment they get from watching the children grow and learn and from the way they know so much about them. It’s an indication of a good school for me when the staff choose to stay for so long. Whilst we had heard very good things about Milking Bank Primary School, I think it has exceeded our expectations.

### An environment where children can thrive

“We feel confident that there is always plenty of support available at Milking Bank Primary School. Jack thoroughly enjoys his lessons and the way different topics are taught. He comes home enthused by them, which is wonderful to see. We really feel it is the Milking Bank Primary School environment and the caring staff that has encouraged his enthusiasm for learning and helped the growth in confidence.”

Natalie adds: “We have no hesitation in recommending Milking Bank Primary School. It’s a very welcoming and friendly school which actively supports and encourages children so that their learning can thrive.”

### Children say:

Jack says: “I especially like maths and learning about all different things!”





# Admissions

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our nursery or school are invited to visit and look around at any time.

## Nursery

Admission to our nursery is open to everyone within Dudley, but is limited by the number of spaces available. However children who live within the vicinity, or do not have access to another nursery, are given priority. We also give priority to children with social, health or development needs.

## School

Children start at Milking Bank School in the autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

## Applications

**Nursery:** Please contact the nursery for a registration form.

**School:** Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council deals with all new admissions to Milking Bank Primary School. Contact details for the School Admissions Team:

**Tel:** 01384 814223  
**Email:** [admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [https://www3.dudley.gov.uk/ENROLWebsite\\_Live/](https://www3.dudley.gov.uk/ENROLWebsite_Live/)

## Settling into school sessions

During the half-term before your child starts school, you and your child will be invited to join 'Daisy Chain'. These are sessions where parents and children visit the school and find out more about what happens in the reception year, and the school in general. Daisy Chain helps welcome new parents and children to our community, and helps children feel excited and confident about starting school.



## Starting School Storybook

You will be also given a Starting School Storybook to read to you child. It will feature Riya, Thomas and Rosie, and show what happens in a school day...helping to ease any worries you and your child may have. For example, Riya, Thomas and Rosie will hang up their coats and put book bags away, make friends, enjoy learning in the classroom, have lunch, use the toilet... and have fun in school!



# Getting involved



## Parental Involvement

Parents and the school work together through our Home and School Association (HSA) to raise funds for school. Fundraising helps the school buy items and activities which the school does not have sufficient budget to pay for from schools funds. Taking part in the HSA also gives parents and teachers a chance to get to know each other.

## Do you want to join HSA?

If you are interested in joining HSA, please contact the school office.

## Governorship

Our school governors manage the school with the Headteacher. Our Governing Body is made up of elected parents, members appointed by the Local Education Authority (LEA), co-opted governors, teacher representatives and the Headteacher (who has the option of being a governor too). Members are elected for period of four years.

## Do you want to be a Governor?

Our parent governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact the school office.



# How to find us



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