



Temple Hill

Community Primary School

Educate, enable, enrich



Temple Hill
Community Primary School & Nursery

Welcome to Temple Hill Community Primary School



Foreword: Garry Ratcliffe, Executive Headteacher, says...

I am incredibly proud to be the Executive Head of Temple Hill - having been here since September 2012 when the school federated with Oakfield Primary to form The Galaxy Federation. Since then, we have grown together and gone from strength to strength, and over the last three years we have seen dramatic increases in standards both at Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. With dedicated leadership, amazingly talented teachers and committed support staff, I am confident that any and every child would thrive in our school. Why not come and see for yourself - myself or Temple Hill's Head of School would be delighted to give you the full tour!

Parent and Carer Partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. The Galaxy Federation is currently working towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA), which is a national award that aims for outstanding parental partnership. 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

The staff and governors of Temple Hill Community Primary School are very proud of our children and our school. We hope that you will enjoy exploring the school website, but nothing will be as good as paying us a visit! Please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to see how wonderful our school is. To make an appointment please email: office@temple-hill.kent.sch.uk or call 01322 224600.

Sara is the fourth in her family to **enjoy success** at Temple Hill Community Primary School

Hard working staff

Shelina has seen at first hand how hard the teachers work at Temple Hill and how much time and effort they put into planning and delivering their lessons. "I wouldn't have realised how hard the staff work if I hadn't been in the school to witness it for myself when I was helping there one day a week as a volunteer," she says.

Popular teacher

"It was wonderful to see that the children loved their teacher in the class I was helping with and also it was quite an eye opener to see how much work she did each day," Shelina says. "I wouldn't have known how much effort the teachers put in if I hadn't seen it for myself. That's why I think it is a good idea to let parents volunteer their time to work in the school!"

Happy time

Shelina's youngest daughter, Sara, is just finishing Year Four at Temple Hill having started in the nursery at the age of three. "Sara likes everything about the school. She likes her friends, her teachers, all the lessons and playtime. She is very happy there," she says.

Work and play

Sara particularly enjoys English and Maths. "She likes writing stories and her spelling is very good. She tries hard at everything and her teacher has said she is very pleased with her progress. Sara also loves games and sport and enjoys taking part in gymnastics, athletics and netball. They have a great range of extra activities for the children to try at Temple Hill. Sara has enjoyed all the after school clubs she has attended but I think her favourites were probably the arts and crafts club and the gardening club," Shelina says.

Pleasant environment

"I like the way the staff at Temple Hill maintain good discipline and teach the children to behave well. There is always a lovely, friendly, welcoming atmosphere at the school because of the people who work there and the good conduct of the children who attend," Shelina says.

Early success

"When we first moved to the area we applied for our children to go to another school but we were unsuccessful and then they were offered places at Temple Hill. I am so glad now that they went to Temple Hill. All my children have been happy at the school and done well there. I would definitely recommend Temple Hill to other parents whose children are about to start at primary school. The academic standards at the school are high and the teachers are all very helpful and kind. They always have time for the children and listen to what they have to say," Shelina says.

Parent participation

"When I was studying to be a classroom assistant I was really grateful to be able to work one morning or afternoon a week at the school as a volunteer. I think it is a great idea to allow parents to see at first hand how much effort goes in to make the school a success," Shelina says.

Children say

Sara says: "I like going to school to see all my friends."

Shelina Chowdhury and Anisul Haque live in Dartford with their son, Thanbir, aged 18, and daughters, Thakwa, aged 15, Nusrath, aged 13 and Sara, aged eight.

School day



School hours

School is open between 8:30am and 3:15pm, with the Nursery offering a morning and afternoon session, each of three hours (8:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 3:30pm).

Wraparound care

Breakfast club operates during term time between 7.30am and 8.30am. Children are able to enjoy some quiet time and a healthy breakfast before the school day begins.

Run by school staff, The Hill is an after-school care club, which runs from 3:15pm to 6pm every day. Children can have a healthy light meal before they leave.



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 or by consulting our Parent Handbook.



School meals and snacks

Principals Catering provides hot and healthy meals for the school, with vegetarian options. Children may bring a packed lunch if they wish. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

Break-time and drinks

A range of options are available for all pupils to receive free or paid for milk and fruit, depending on the age of the child. The office will be pleased to provide further information. Fresh drinking water is available all day at school and pupils are encouraged to purchase a water bottle to keep in school for use during the day.



Gemma Cook and her partner Lee Adamson live in Temple Hill Dartford with their children Courtney, aged 14, Jessica, aged 11, and Reagan, aged seven.

Jessica is now **all set** for secondary school **thanks** to the **caring staff** at in Temple Hill Community Primary School

Helpful staff

Jessica is in her last year at Temple Hill and is excited about starting at secondary school - a move her mother believes would not have been possible if she had not been given so much care and support. Gemma says: "I am so grateful for all the help she has been given by the school since she was first diagnosed with ASD and ADHD."

She is going to a mainstream secondary school in Dartford where her sister goes and is really looking forward to it. I will be anxiously waiting to see how she gets on, but I know that Temple Hill have done everything they can to help her."

Early years

"Jessica used to get upset when she first started in the nursery at Temple Hill and would cry if another child touched her but we didn't know what was wrong with her at that time," Gemma says. "It was only after her younger brother was diagnosed with ASD that we realised Jessica might have the same problem. Reagan was in the nursery when his condition was diagnosed and Temple Hill helped me find another school for him that was more suitable for his needs."

Concentration issues

By the time Jessica was referred to hospital she had moved further up the school. Gemma says: "A member of staff from Temple Hill kindly came with us to the appointment where they did some tests and diagnosed her with ASD and ADHD. One of the effects was that she couldn't concentrate properly, which was affecting her school work."

Improved attitude

"The school were very helpful and the staff had meetings with me to work out the best way to help her learn. At first she wouldn't even try to read a book and when I asked her to read to me at home she would get upset. The school were very understanding and said that reading had to be on Jess's terms. She has made a really big improvement now and will read to me sometimes during the evening. Her attitude towards learning has changed a lot," Gemma says.

Caring teachers

"I am very grateful to the school for all the support she has had over the years. Teachers have come and gone during that time but they have all been very helpful," Gemma says. "They have also given me practical support such as letting me drop her off at the breakfast club so I can take my son to school and getting her to do jobs for the school at the end of the day while she waits for me to pick my son up again."

School trip

"I was confident Jessica would enjoy the school trip to Wales this year because she likes her teacher, who went with them. I was pleased she wrote to me from Wales saying she was having a good time. A few years ago she did not want to write anything, but now she will sometimes sit down and write a story, which is real progress," Gemma says.

Children say

Jessica says: "I like my teacher and enjoy helping out at the Homework Club for the infants on Wednesdays."

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

Nursery and 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
- English
- Science

- Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- British Citizenship
- Computing
- Latin
- Personal and Social Education.

Outdoor play and learning

We are fortunate enough to have four large playgrounds at Temple Hill, which are supplemented by a playing/sports field, and a pond area with an allotment. The latter serves as an environmental study area for classes.



Tracey and Rick Robertson live at Temple Hill in Dartford, with their daughter Josie, aged 11, son, Henry, aged 16, and daughter, Lily, aged 18.

Josie has ***blossomed*** and developed in ***confidence*** during her time at Temple Hill Community Primary School

Excellent progress

From a quiet three-year-old when she joined the Nursery at Temple Hill, Josie has grown in confidence and gone on to become Head Girl and Captain of the girls' football team during her last year at the school. Mum Tracey says: "Josie has had a wonderful time at Temple Hill and has finished Year Six with fantastic grades, well prepared for secondary school. She used to be very quiet and shy but now she joins in everything and puts her hand up to answer questions."

Committed staff

"I have been lucky Josie has always enjoyed going to school and likes learning, but she has also benefited from good teaching," Tracey says. "I can't speak highly enough of the school. My older children both did well at Temple Hill and I was a pupil there when I was primary school age, but the school has continued to develop and improve. It has changed in the last few years. The staff are even more committed now to helping the children achieve and doing extra lessons with them to improve their grades."

Teaching skills

Josie is good at Maths and Science and also enjoys history. "She has done well across the whole curriculum because she absorbs everything they teach her. She has been helped to achieve her good grades by the skills of the teachers, who go above and beyond to help all the children. We are kept informed of Josie's progress by parent consultations at least every three months and told of any areas that need improving and anything we can do to help at home," Tracey says.

Taking on responsibility

"I was very proud when Josie was chosen to be head girl by the staff but she was very calm and took it in her stride. I think it has made her even more confident and she has coped well with the responsibility during the year. Josie also loves being captain of the girls' football team and playing in the school netball team," Tracey says.

Success for all

Temple Hill's main goal is for all the children to succeed. "Children who get behind can have one to one attention from members of staff, who recognise if they need to be pushed or encouraged. There are more men teachers now, which makes a difference as it is good for the children to have male role models to look up to. The younger teachers have brought fresh ideas with them, which has also been good for the school. I feel Josie has done well at Temple Hill because in the last few years the teachers have encouraged her more, resulting in her achieving excellent grades. It is a shame they haven't got a linked secondary school, as all three of our children would have gone there," Tracey says.

Open door policy

"I would recommend Temple Hill to any other parents looking for a primary school. I am on the PTA and know that the school also support the parents, not just the children. They go out of their way to find out what families need and make everyone feel included. The door is always open to parents who want to raise concerns," Tracey says.

Children say

Josie says: "I have enjoyed going to Temple Hill and playing football and netball for the school."

Extended curriculum: trips and visitors



Trips

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities. Recent educational trips have included:

- Houses of Parliament
- A trip to Barcelona
- The Royal Observatory
- Dartford Council Chamber
- Godstone Farm
- Kent Life

Visitors

We aim to provide an "experience" - that being a school trip or an in-school visitor for every child, every term (6 times per year). Each July, we also plan a full and varied curriculum enrichment week for the whole school based around one topic. Previous years have seen the school take part in Carnival, World Cup and Music Festival weeks.

Budding footballer Asanti has *flourished* in the exciting environment of Temple Hill Community Primary School

Talent encouraged

Asanti and his older brother Imarn both had their talents recognised when they started at Temple Hill and have benefited from lots of help and encouragement from the school. Their Mum, Elisha, says: "Both boys have had an amazing experience at Temple Hill. The school quickly found out they were good at sports and the staff and specialist coaches brought in by Temple Hill really encouraged their talent."

Moving on

Imarn now attends a local Academy in Dartford and Asanti, who is in Year Six, will be starting there in September. "He'll be attending a specialist sports school, so we are hoping Asanti's talent for football will continue to be developed," Elisha says..

Confidence building

The boys started at Temple Hill when Imarn was in Year Four and Asanti was in Year Two after the family moved to live in Dartford. Elisha says: "When they started at Temple Hill we were new to the area but the school opened up a lot of avenues for them and they both developed in confidence."

Football training

Asanti's talent for football was first noticed when he was younger by a scout working on behalf of Chelsea Football Club. Elisha says: "Asanti has since had training at Charlton, Crystal Palace and Southend football clubs as well as being helped by specialist football coaches and free holiday football courses provided by Temple Hill."

School team

A highlight of Asanti's time at the school was being picked to play for the school football team when he was in Year Four. "Usually it is just children from Year Five and Year Six who play in the school football team but the coaches spotted his capabilities and asked the headmaster to let him play in the school team early. Temple Hill have encouraged him a lot with his football and he has done courses during half term holidays," Elisha says.

After school activities

"One of the things that makes the school brilliant is the after school activity," Elisha says. "There are two or three after school clubs going on every afternoon which makes the children enjoy going to the school even more and puts the school at the heart of the community. They do lots of fun things at Temple Hill as well as educational things."

Enjoying dancing

Asanti likes English and Maths lessons as well as enjoying drama, dancing and performing arts. "The teachers and specialist people they employ demonstrate that they really want to be there working with the children. For instance, the lady who runs Jiggle Club fills them all with enthusiasm for dancing at festivals and dressing up in carnival clothes. There is always plenty put on for the children to do and the staff who are brought into the school, such as the dance teachers and football coaches, are specialists in their fields," Elisha says.

Children say

Asanti says: "Going to Temple Hill is a fun way to be educated."

Elisha and Desmond Amoah live in Swanscombe with their sons, Imarn, aged 13, and Asanti, aged ten.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all

Inclusion Manager

The school has an Inclusion Manager and an Inclusion Assistant who coordinates the provision for those children in school with special educational needs. In liaison with a range of outside professionals, parents and teachers the Inclusion Manager ensures that children receive the support they require to make progress and achieve their best.

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.



Behaviour and Self Development

Beyond the classroom

At Temple Hill, children will not only learn to read, write and use numbers, but they will be encouraged to develop interests that go beyond the classroom. They will learn to solve problems and work independently and collaboratively. It is our aim for every child that leaves Temple Hill to be fully equipped to access secondary education and beyond.

Green to go Behaviour Strategy

Staff are committed to creating a safe, happy and secure learning environment for all pupils, who follow our Green to go Behaviour Strategy, which includes:

- Speaking politely
- Keeping hands and feet to yourself
- Taking turns and sharing
- Doing as they have been asked straight way
- Being kind and friendly to others
- Using equipment appropriately and carefully
- Moving carefully around the school

- Always trying their best
- Listening to others.

Communicating with parents

Your child's achievements

Parent consultation meetings are held regularly, but we hope that parents will feel free to visit the school at any time to discuss their child's progress. If teachers are unavailable when parents call, they will always make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

School News

There are plenty of ways we help parents and carers to keep up to date with school news. A regularly added-to website, Facebook page, as well as a weekly online and paper newsletter are some of the main ways we share school news with parents, carers and the wider community.



Clubs



Advanced Status

At Temple Hill we are very proud to have been awarded "Advanced Status" for Extended Services, as we are one of only a handful of schools that have achieved this award across the county. We offer an extensive range of out of school learning opportunities across the week. Clubs may include:

- Environment
- Football
- Performing arts
- Photography
- Homework club
- Construction
- Film club

Sport

As well as following the Physical Education programme of work as set out in the National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for your children to enjoy extracurricular sport and team games.

Competitive Sport

We take part in a range of competitions and we especially encourage all pupils to experience competition at a school, federation, town or district level.



Carrie-Anne and Adam Deal live in Dartford with their seven children, George, aged ten, William, aged nine, Milly-Anne, aged seven, Albert, aged five, Henry, aged four, Edward, aged 20 months and Daisy-Grace, aged nine months.

With five happy children *settled* at the school Carrie-Anne and Adam have nothing but *praise* for Temple Hill Community Primary School

Friendly atmosphere

Even though there are three primary schools within a short walk of where they live, Carrie-Anne and Adam would not think of moving their five, school-age children from Temple Hill. Carrie-Anne says: "It is a lovely, friendly welcoming school and all my children are doing well there. We used to live really near the school but then we moved house and now it is a few minutes drive away. But we don't want to move the children to another school as they are all doing so well at Temple Hill."

Enjoying Maths

"William, who is now in Year Four, loves his Maths classes and is doing really well in the subject. His teachers say he is always very helpful and he sometimes wins certificates for his good behaviour," Carrie-Anne says.

"Milly-Anne is in Year Three and is doing well with her reading and Maths. The teachers always say she is a very happy little girl. They tell me that she likes helping other children and is always the first to go and make friends with any new children."

Winning awards

"They all like getting their awards and coming home with their certificates for things they have done well," Carrie-Anne says. "And they like joining in all the different activities Temple Hill put on, such as the football club during the holidays. The teachers are all friendly and helpful and make both the children and the parents feel welcome at the school."

Reading success

Carrie-Anne says Albert has come on particularly well because of the Read Write Inc phonics programme. "His reading has progressed in leaps and bounds during his time in the reception class. He has had a very enjoyable year and particularly liked playing in the garden and going on a school trip to learn about wild life. I just can't fault the reception team, they're brilliant. They give the children a great start and help them get used to the school. They are all really patient," she says.

Helping others

"My eldest child, George, who is now in Year Six, loves reading and we have been told that he encourages the other children of his age to read as well," Carrie-Anne says. "It was lovely to hear from his teachers that he's helping other children to make progress. He has just come back from the Year Six trip to Wales which he really enjoyed. He has made lots of friends at the school and the other children once voted for him to represent them on the school council."

Children say

George says: "We have had a really fun time at Temple Hill and enjoyed taking part in everything."

Admissions



Applying

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our nursery or school are invited to visit and look around at any time. Children start Temple Hill in the autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

Applications

Applications for school places in Years One to Six as well as Nursery can be made directly to the school by calling 01322 224600 or by emailing office@temple-hill.kent.sch.uk. For a Reception class place, admissions are coordinated by Kent County Council. Please visit www.kent.gov.uk for further details.



Getting involved



Parental Involvement

The Friends of Temple Hill School (FOTHS) is a registered charity that is run by local parents and carers. The main focus of the group is to help raise money to help additional equipment for the children and their classes. Fundraising helps the school buy items and activities that the school does not have sufficient budget to pay for from school funds.

Do you want to join the Friends of Temple Hill ?

All parents and members of the school community can get involved if they choose, even if they only have a small amount of time. For further information please ask at the school office or email the team via a contact form on the school website.

Voluntary helpers

Many parents give practical help in school, working with a particular teacher and class, performing a variety of jobs such as listening to the children read or helping them with craft

work etc. If you would like to help in school then please get in touch with the class teacher or the school office in order for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS – formerly known as CRB) check to be completed.

Governorship

The role of the governing body is central to the effectiveness of a school. School governors want to make a positive contribution to children's education and provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Parent governors must have a child at the school at the time they are elected. When vacancies arise all parents are invited to express an interest in standing and an election will be held in which all parents of pupils in the school have a vote.

Come and see what it's all about!

At Temple Hill we hold regular drop-in sessions for parents and carers to see the school at work. Come and join a craft session or observe a maths lesson. Look out for invitations through ParentMail or in your child's contact book.



St Edmund's Road
Temple Hill
Dartford
DA1 5ND

Tel: 01322 224600
Email: office@temple-hill.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.temple-hill.kent.sch.uk



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Oakfield Community Primary School and
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