



Mrs Lonie, Headteacher, says:

WELCOME

Thank you for showing an interest in Woodlands Primary School. We hope that you will find this prospectus informative, inspiring and will see how your child would thrive as part of our Woodlands community.

OUR VISION

“At Woodlands, we provide a rich and creative environment which inspires our pupils to learn. Academic success is underpinned by our focus on happiness and confidence. Our nurturing approach prepares children for the future: building foundations for them to become kind, resilient and valuable members of society. We are a strong community. We thrive together.”

KINDNESS AND RESPECT

Above all else, we want our pupils to grow up to be happy and kind people, to understand the world they live in, to learn what it is to be human, to respect and consider the views of others, to develop a moral compass and to care for others.

A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

From the very first day they walk through our gates – full of enthusiasm and curiosity – we aim to nurture and develop our pupils’ excitement for learning, so that they take this forward with them in their lives beyond Woodlands. Feeling a sense of achievement and enjoyment every day at school is critical to this.



MOTIVATION TO SUCCEED

We enable all our pupils to make positive connections and associations with the school, to value their own worth, to feel that they can achieve, so that they can move on to the next phase of their education – ready, excited and motivated to succeed.

PARENT 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. We champion the link between school and home and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child’s time here.

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to know more about what we can do for your child, please make an appointment to visit us by ringing 01732 355577 or email office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk.



ALEX AND BROOKE HAVE BOTH MADE A FLYING START TO THEIR EDUCATION WITH ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE EXCELLENT STAFF AT WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



XIA AND MEIQI LIVE IN TONBRIDGE WITH THEIR CHILDREN, ALEX, AGED 14, AND BROOKE, AGED, 10.

Supportive staff

Xia and Meiqi have been highly satisfied with the quality of teaching at Woodlands Primary School where they have seen both of their children flourish. Xia says: “Alex and Brooke have always had their talents encouraged by the teachers, who are very dedicated and prepared to go to a lot of trouble to cater for each child’s different interests.”

Happy environment

Xia said Alex, who is now at a grammar school, loved his experience all the way through Woodlands Primary. “His teachers were always very helpful to him, he made some lovely friends there, and we in turn also became friends with their parents.”

Well nurtured talent

Although Alex learnt the piano outside school, his musical talent was always encouraged by the staff. “The school provided him with opportunities to perform at their concerts and were always keen to let him demonstrate his talent for playing,” Xia says. “Alex was very happy during his time at Woodlands Primary. He did well academically and passed the 11 Plus exam. He obtained a place at an all-boys grammar school and is now getting on very well there,” Xia says.

Good communications

“All the teachers who taught Alex were very good with him and we felt they were always very approachable. If we ever had to contact them about anything, they would get back to us quickly,” Xia says.

Friendly community

Although Brooke is four years younger than Alex, she had an equally good experience after she started at the school and she also made some great friends there. “She has now formed lasting friendships with many of them and once again their parents have also become good friends of ours,” Xia says.

Exam success

“Brooke is now in Year Six at Woodlands Primary. All her teachers have been lovely along the way and I know that she will be very sad to leave the school and move up to secondary school next year. She has also now passed the 11 Plus exam and she will be going to an all-girls grammar school,” Xia says.

Enjoying sports and crafts

Brooke has really blossomed at Woodlands Primary and has always been encouraged to fulfill her potential by the teachers, Xia says. “She loves doing crafts and she has also enjoyed playing football and being in the football team.”

Motivated to write

Xia says Brooke has for a long time been keen on creative writing and she is pleased that all the teachers have encouraged her interest in it. “The school recently published one of the poems that she wrote and the teachers are always happy to give her feedback about what she has written, which is very helpful.”

Highly recommended

Some of Xia and Meiqi’s neighbours recently asked them what they thought about Woodlands Primary School. “I told them that we both think it is a very good school and that it is wonderful the way the teachers will go above and beyond to cater for all the children’s different needs,” Xia says.

Celebrating diversity

“We also like the way that the school celebrates diversity by putting on different events to celebrate cultural festivals, such as the Chinese New Year. We think it is a good thing that the staff at the school show they value different cultures and that they will welcome children from lots of different backgrounds and cultures to the school.”

Children say

Brooke says: “The teachers are all very kind and helpful to the students. I enjoy writing at school and going to the netball and football clubs, and I love being with all my friends there.”

SCHOOL DAY: SETTLING IN

WHAT ARE OUR SCHOOL TIMES?

School starts at 8.45am (registration) and finishes at 3.15pm, allowing for 32.5 hours of education per week.

Wraparound care

We offer a breakfast and an after-school club, run on the premises by Rainbow School Club.

Additionally, we run a breakfast club specifically to help and encourage pupils who have separation difficulties or find it hard to come into school. The pupils are invited to attend after consultation with staff and parents.

UNIFORM

To ensure a standard of dress and to create a sense of unity and belonging, we take pride in the wearing of our royal blue and grey uniform.

FOOD IN SCHOOL

Fresh and nutritious school lunches are prepared on site, based on healthy eating guidelines. Fruit and vegetable snacks are provided in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and we encourage older children to bring in these from home.

All EYFS (Year R) children are given a drink of milk, and water is available to everyone throughout the day. Packed lunches should be as healthy as possible – we do not allow sweets, chocolate or sweetened and fizzy drinks.

Free school meals

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals under the government's Universal Infant Free School Meals funding. If you receive benefits or have a low income, your child may be eligible for Free School Meals in Year 3 and beyond.



MATILDA AND OSCAR ARE BOTH FLOURISHING AND BEING ENCOURAGED TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL IN THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



SAM AND HUGH LIVE IN TONBRIDGE WITH THEIR CHILDREN, MATILDA, AGED 6, AND OSCAR, AGED FOUR.

Kind teachers

Sam and Hugh love the happy environment of Woodlands Primary, where everyone knows everyone, even though it is a big school. "Matilda and Oscar are having a great experience there and the staff are motivating them to achieve their best," Sam says.

Welcoming atmosphere

"We had heard good things about Woodlands and moved to live in the area so that our children could attend the school. It is in a lovely setting with woodland next to it, where the Reception children spend a lot of time and do Forest School. We liked the fact it was a big school where the children get plenty of opportunities. We attended the Christmas Fair before Matilda started and thought it was a lovely atmosphere, where the community were made to feel welcome."

Loving school life

Matilda went into Reception at the age of 4 and loved it immediately. "She was thrilled to go on her first day and proud to wear her uniform. The teachers were welcoming and the classroom was lovely. From that day onwards, she has always enjoyed school. She liked playing outside on the climbing frames and in the stream in the woods, because the children go outside in all weathers. She has enjoyed all the opportunities she has been given and loved performing in productions and being on the School Council. She does her schoolwork with pride and likes seeing it on display," Sam says.

Wonderful support

"When Matilda was in Reception, she was diagnosed with a brain tumour, which came as a big shock to us. But we were overwhelmed with love and support from all the staff, the children, and the other parents. Thankfully, Matilda was fine afterwards and only missed three weeks of school and then had a phased return. The staff were aware of her needs and we knew they would take good care of her at school," she says.

Fast progress

"Her class were incredible and, even though they hadn't known her long, they sent her cards and gifts and made her a video. Although Woodlands is big, the Headteacher knew who she was and would speak to us, and to Oscar.

Matilda is in Year 2 now and making great progress. She loves writing stories, learning phonics, and reading. The teachers know her strengths and push her to achieve her best."

Smooth transition

Sam says Oscar also loves the school. "He was used to the classroom and teacher when he started in Reception because they gave him the same ones Matilda had. The staff came to the house to see him before he started. They get to know all the children well and are very nurturing. He has made some good friends and now enjoys going to school to see them each day. He is progressing well with his reading, phonics, and maths."

Rewarding hard work

Sam and Hugh like the way the staff motivate the children to do well by giving awards to those who try hard. "Oscar recently received an Endeavour award for maths, and Matilda was given an Ambassador letter in assembly for demonstrating the values of the school in the things that she does. Oscar and Matilda are also fortunate to have been able to enjoy a wide variety of free after school clubs," Sam says.

Parents included

Sam loves the friendly atmosphere of the school and enjoys being in the PTA and helping to organise events to raise money. "We get a say in how the money is spent and are able to buy extra equipment for the children with it."

Children say

Matilda says: "I love learning and I love my teachers."

Oscar says: "I love seeing my friends at school."

OUR WOODLANDS CURRICULUM

The curriculum represents the totality of the experience of our pupils within schooling. It is anything that is planned and designed to sequentially improve pupils' knowledge and skills. At Woodlands, pupils have access to an enriched educational experience.

The Best Version of Ourselves

Our aim is to create happy, kind people, who show resilience in the face of challenge and who strive to be the best version of themselves. Wrapped around our aim are three broad aspects of our curriculum: Personal Development, The National Curriculum and Extra-Curricular.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL AND ACTIVE

Personal Development is consistently promoted at Woodlands. We want our pupils to grow into responsible, respectful and active people who are able to play their part and become involved in public life as adults. We also aim to help develop pupils' confidence, resilience and knowledge so that they can keep themselves mentally healthy. Every interaction we have with pupils helps them on this journey, but there are a number of deliberately planned strategies, which are central to Personal Development. These include (amongst others) the integration of our two big ideas: Diversity and Culture, and through our Jigsaw PSHE programme (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and the exploration of our core values in assemblies and lessons.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Every National Curriculum subject is valued and taught consistently across the school to provide the very best education. Reading is at the heart of all we do and it features across our curriculum. The school libraries and classroom book areas are full of a wide range of rich texts for all tastes. English and mathematics are the bedrock of primary education, and we prioritise the acquisition of key knowledge in these subjects. However, we are determined that our pupils experience a rich and varied educational experience encompassing all subjects, which provides them with sufficient time for deep learning to occur. Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Reading
- Writing
- Science
- Design Technology
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- French
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Personal, and Social, Health and Economic Education.



DIVERSE ACTIVITIES

There is also a diverse extra-curricular menu of activities in place that strengthens our offer. Pupils have access to a wide, rich set of experiences and opportunities to develop their talents and interests. There is a strong take-up by pupils of the opportunities provided. Examples include a range of after-school clubs, visits from writers, actors and musicians, Forest School and performances to parents. Homework is set at an age-appropriate level, allowing for additional learning on top of this for those who choose it.

EXTENSIVE GROUNDS

Woodlands is a stunning site with a vast outdoor area, in which children take part in Forest School and other activities. Children enjoy a large playing field and playgrounds, wildlife area with a pond, a wellbeing garden and an outdoor stage. We encourage children to keep fit by utilising the field, MUGA (multi-use games area), climbing apparatus and playgrounds at break times.

SCHOOL TRIPS

We undertake a range of trips to places of interest each year, and recently these have included:

- Bedgebury Arboretum
- Hastings
- The Science Museum
- Kent Life Museum
- Local secondary schools for sports, art and DT.

In Years 5 and 6, the children go on residential visits to learn team work and determination and to celebrate their journey together at Woodlands.



INCLUSION: AN EDUCATION FOR ALL

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

All children are valued, respected and welcomed to the school whatever their additional educational need. We will support their learning and ensure they are fully included in all school activities as far as possible, making full use of externally provided facilities and advice where appropriate.

At Woodlands , we provide for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need, including those without a formal diagnosis. Examples of this are dyslexia, developmental coordination disorder (which includes dyspraxia), speech and language needs, autism spectrum condition, learning difficulties, and social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

We meet needs through high quality teaching in the first instance, with additional resources utilised where appropriate. We aim for children to learn in the classroom environment whenever possible.

Decisions on the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan are made by the Local Authority in consultation with school.

Nurture and pastoral support are key parts of our inclusive practice. We have an Inclusion Team, including Ralfie the dog, who support pupils and families in many ways.

Full details of our SEND provision can be found on our website under About/Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.



BEA AND MONTY ARE ENJOYING THEIR LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN THE LOVELY SETTING OF WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



NAOMI AND FREDDIE LIVE IN TONBRIDGE WITH THEIR CHILDREN, BEA, AGED 7, AND MONTY, AGED 5.

Enthusiastic pupils

Naomi and Freddie are delighted their children are happy and doing well educationally in the lovely surroundings of Woodlands Primary School. Naomi says: "Bea, who is in Year 2, loves reading and writing stories and talks to us about what she is learning. Monty is thriving in Reception and loves writing and spelling and learning outdoors."

Good reputation

The family live close to Woodlands Primary and the children went to preschool on the site so Naomi and Freddie always knew it was a well-regarded school. Naomi says: "When Bea started in Reception, she was happy to go each day but, unfortunately, she became poorly with tonsillitis and had to miss a lot of time at school."

Academic progress

Naomi says after Bea had her tonsils and adenoids out, she felt much better, but she had a lot of catching up to do. "It is only now she is flourishing academically. She was always happy to go to school, but now she is up to speed and achieving well."

Kind teacher

Bea loves art and her vivid imagination helps with artwork and story writing. "Thanks to support from her teacher, she has been encouraged to stand up in front of the class and present a topic and has become more confident, which is lovely to see," Naomi says.

Confidence boosted

"If Bea does some art or crafts at home, she will now take it into school and stand up in front of the other children and talk about it. She hasn't always been confident enough to do that," Naomi says. "Bea also enjoys doing PE each week and has made some lovely friendships at school. She never has anything negative to say about the school and we can tell she enjoys the routine."

Flying start

Freddie says when Monty started in Reception at Woodlands Primary last September, he loved going right from the start. "He was more than ready because he had been at his preschool for a long time. He is confident about everything and thriving academically. He likes exploring and making things and is always excited about bringing a reading book home."

Fun outdoors

Monty loves learning outside in his wellies and wetsuit and is keen on the climbing frame at the school, Naomi says. "He has had his eye on it for a long time and couldn't wait to go on it. He started at Woodlands Primary with a group of friends from preschool and settled in well. He is enjoying reading and phonics and loves it when he is allowed to choose an activity to do."

Surrounded by nature

Freddie and Naomi likes the setting of Woodland Primary because it is close to open woodland. Freddie says: "It is a nice environment for the children to learn in as they are surrounded by greenery. Both Bea and Monty have had the benefit of good teaching and the staff are all lovely people. We find communicating with the school works well via email and that the school always reply promptly and answer all our questions."

Happy community

The couple like the sociable atmosphere at Woodlands Primary because all the families get on well together. Naomi says: "It is very useful that there is a What's App group for every class and you always get a positive vibe from the other parents. There is plenty of chat and helpful information sharing."

Children say

Bea says: "I like science, because you learn about stuff that is interesting."

Monty says: "I love learning. I liked learning about Africa and playing on the drums. Mrs G said they are louder if you hold them in your knees because there is a hole in the bottom."

CLUBS

At Woodlands, we have over 30 clubs running across the year. There is a range of sporting, artistic and musical clubs, as well as focused educational catch-up clubs, run by school staff and outside agencies. Examples include:

- Computing • Art • Football • Cricket • Board games • Chess • Choir • Band • ...and many more!

MUSIC

Woodlands is a musical school which offers a rich and inviting music curriculum in music lessons in all three key stages, as well as in the wider curriculum. We value singing, composing, performing and musical appreciation with a clear progression using a variety of resources. Pupils have many opportunities to perform to an audience, including participation in the annual Young Voices event at the O2 arena.

Right from the start

At Woodlands, music is incorporated in our learning from Reception. We love to chant, sing and listen to music throughout the day. From Year 1 to Year 6, children have a weekly music lesson from a specialist music teacher. As part of this, for at least one term, children receive whole class instrumental teaching. We love to make links between topics and the music they are studying. At times, pupils have the joy of a visit from a professional musician who runs a workshop. Children in Key Stage 2 have had Body Beats, Djembe and much more to enjoy!

In our wider curriculum, we showcase our fantastic talents in a variety of ways. Each year group puts on a musical production. These are always keenly looked forward to and never fail to disappoint! On top of this, there is often a musical element to Class Assemblies which are produced throughout the year by our older children.

SPORT

At Woodlands, we believe that PE and sport should be competitive, challenging and inclusive. We want all of our children to thrive both as part of a team and as an individual, while also equipping them with the essential strategies needed to demonstrate great sportsmanship.

Children in Reception are very active every day – both inside and out. See them climbing and whizzing down the fireperson's pole! Additionally, they take part in sports on a regular basis. All children in KS1 and KS2 are provided with 2 hours of curriculum PE time a week, plus opportunities to engage in extra-curricular PE and sport. In addition to this, we encourage active playtimes and lunchtimes to ensure every child is getting their recommended 60 minutes of activity per day.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Woodlands PTA is a charity fundraising committee run by parents and staff. Our aim is to raise money to supplement the school's funding and provide much needed resources and activities. Past projects include the EYFS outside area, the KS1 climbing apparatus and the KS2 library. Every parent of a child at the school is automatically a member and we value any contribution they may wish to make, however large or small. We have arranged many activities to raise money and offer support to school to help enrich the children's time at Woodlands, including:

- Family Bingo
- Summer and Christmas fairs
- Quiz night
- School discos

VOLUNTEERING

We welcome parents and grandparents into school as volunteers to listen to the children read, support with subjects in which they have a specialism, and with gardening in our school grounds.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Applications for a place should be made through Kent County Council (www.kent.gov.uk/education-andchildren/schools/school-places/admissions-criteria).

We are an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities from ages 4 to 11. The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. Our pupil admission number is 90 (or 60 in years with a low birth rate). Please enquire to clarify this ahead of the admissions process.

GOVERNORSHIP

"Welcome to the Woodlands community - you are joining an energetic and vibrant school. As governors, we are passionate about supporting the Headteacher and all staff to provide pupils with the very best across the whole spectrum of school life. The governing body is very ambitious for the school and supports the school team to set and reach targets that strive for excellence, not just in academic performance. We monitor and drive school development through the school improvement plan and regular school visits. The governing body welcome parental contributions at any time, but also carry out a parental survey once a year to obtain vital feedback." *The Governing Body of Woodland Primary School*

If you would like to become a governor, please ask at the school office.



Woodlands Primary School

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Our Vision

At Woodlands, we provide a rich and creative environment which inspires our pupils to learn. Academic success is underpinned by our focus on happiness and confidence. Our nurturing approach prepares children for the future: building foundations for them to become kind, resilient and valuable members of society.

**We are a strong community.
We thrive together.**