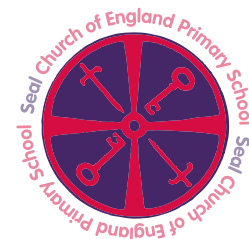




Seal Church of England Primary School

**At Seal we feel we matter and are valued.
Together we achieve and succeed.**



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Church of England
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Welcome to Seal Church of England Primary School

A vision for Seal: At Seal we are committed to working together as a team, persevering to achieve our highest aspirations. Compassion and respect is shown for ourselves, others and the world around us. An enriched and creative curriculum that promotes independence, is enjoyed both in the classroom and outdoors. Through the dedication of the children, parents, staff and governors, we make a difference.

Foreword: Liz Mitchell, Headteacher

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our truly marvellous school.

Caring and nurturing

We are a caring and nurturing school, and make sure that everyone counts and has a voice. Our highly dedicated teachers and support staff work hard to ensure that everyone is valued... and enjoys learning!

At Seal we feel we matter and are valued. Together we achieve and succeed.

Our motto, 'At Seal we feel we matter and are valued. Together we achieve and succeed,' sums up our belief that learning:

- is the responsibility of the whole team
- should be fun
- is for life!

Celebrating difference

As a church school we also offer an inclusive and spiritual education to all our pupils. We support family values, celebrating differences and have strong links within the community.



Parent partnership

Another important part of our school is you, the parent! You will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, that you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here. Through the enrichment of the curriculum, we increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our wonderful school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff that listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. I know that you will be impressed by the quality of education we can offer your child.

To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask me a question, please e-mail the school on: headteacher@seal.kent.sch.uk or call on 01732 762388.

Kate has happy memories of Seal C of E School and is delighted that her children love it too

Simply the best

As an ex-student of Seal C of E School, Kate enjoyed her time and was keen to send her own children. "We had a choice of several schools, and I chose Seal because it is the best," says Kate. "I have lovely memories and wanted the same for my own children. It's very friendly and welcoming."

Caring and polite

Kate is also impressed by the behaviour of children at Seal. "The school operates a strict but fair behaviour policy and pupils are very polite and friendly," she explains. "For example when you visit the children will open the door for you but it feels very natural, as they are encouraged to treat each other nicely."

Out and about

Students can learn lots about nature through the school's excellent outdoor facilities.

"The children are very lucky because there is a brilliant nature trail, playground and outdoor equipment," says Kate. "My children love going to the woodland area and making camps and looking at the bug hotel."

Fantastic rapport

Kate is delighted that her children are enjoying their time at Seal School just as much as she did. "My children absolutely love going there every day," she says. "The twins are in a class of about 18-20 children, and they love all the teachers and classroom assistants, who have built a great rapport with them. My children are very lucky and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Seal School to anyone."

Children say

Freya says: "I love coming to school for lots of reasons but my friends are one of them. If one of the class is struggling or someone is feeling lonely at lunch play we all look after each other! I love the sports day and all the tournaments we do! They are great fun".

Ruby says: "I love reading and playing with my friends. We get to do lots of fun craft things in 'make, do and review'"

James says: "I like playing football with my friends, making camps in the wooded bit and I like junk modelling and making big rockets out of old boxes!"



Kate and Andy Logan live in Sevenoaks with Freya, 9 and twins James and Ruby, 6.

School day



School hours

School starts at 8.55am, and finishes at 3.15pm.

Breakfast Club runs from 8.00am, and children can attend the After School Club when school finishes.

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.

Transition

Children transferring from pre-schools start visiting the school for 'taster afternoons' from May.

We also hold three 'taster afternoons' for all new starters, and in the summer holidays we hold a picnic lunch at school. During the picnic lunch, we have run mask making, clay modelling and bug hunts.

School Meals and snacks

Hot, nutritious school meals are cooked on site, and children can also bring in a packed lunch. All Reception and Key Stage 1 children receive free school meals.

Break-time

At morning break-time, there is free fruit for children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Healthy snacks are also provided for children to buy at playtime.



Lucy believes that the freedom of Seal C of E School is perfect for children moving from London

Very lucky

Lucy now describes the allocation of Seal School as a real stroke of luck. Class sizes are all different, and Rocco had a small class size. "Rocco is now in Year 1 and I think all the other parents in his class feel very lucky that our children attend Seal," says Lucy. "It proved to be a real silver lining because the class sizes are small, the children are lovely, and the teachers are excellent. With only 18 children in the class they get twice as much attention, and can experience the freedom of playing outside all the time."

Ideal for commuters

Seal School has a breakfast and afterschool club, which are ideal for working parents.

"The afterschool and breakfast clubs are very good, and I think anyone moving from London into the Sevenoaks area will love this school," says Lucy. "Rocco goes to the afterschool club and some of his friends go as well now, simply because it's such good fun. They can play in the woodland area and love it."

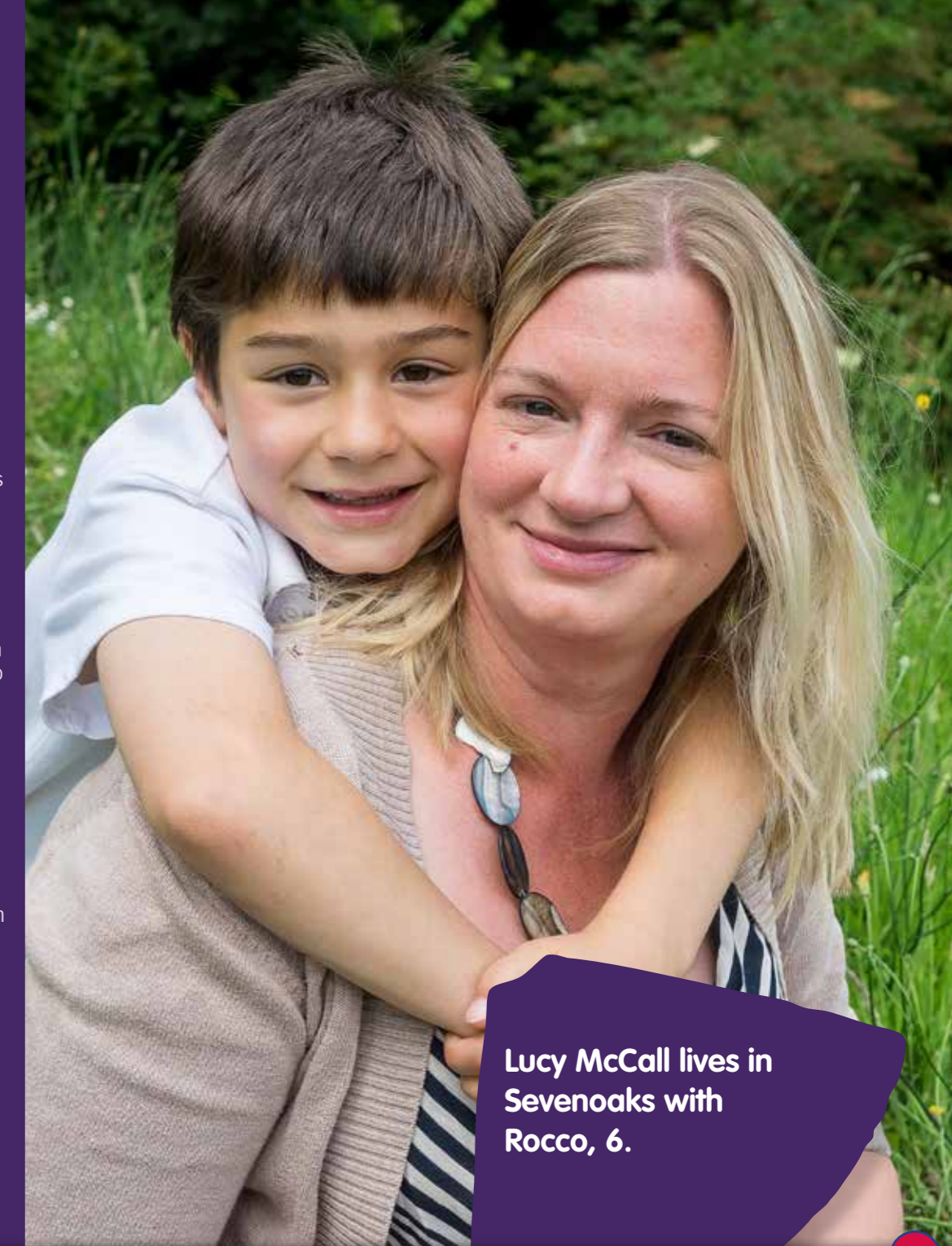
Small and friendly

Seal School encourages a caring and nurturing environment, which immediately benefitted Rocco.

"The school is small, and very friendly and Rocco settled immediately," says Lucy. "The teachers are very down to earth and approachable and there doesn't appear to be any bullying. Everyone knows everyone's names and the children all look after each other, which gives them a lot of confidence. They really enjoy their time at the school and at the end of the day they don't want to go home!"

Children say

Rocco says: "I like breakfast club because we have lots of stuff to eat! I like the Christmas plays because we go up onto the stage and do lots of singing. Literacy is my favourite subject and in 'plan, do, review', we make whatever we want. I design and make lots of models. I like Forest School as we get to climb trees."



Lucy McCall lives in Sevenoaks with Rocco, 6.

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 4-5

Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7

Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Every child in Foundation Stage receives one full afternoon per week of Forest School teaching and Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 receive one hour per week.

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.

For curriculum coverage and policies please visit our website at www.sealprimary.com



Let's make lighthouses!

Talk For Writing

Talk For Writing (TFW) is where children orally rehearse what they are going to write. All staff are trained in TFW, and it is embedded in literacy teaching across the school. Such an approach helps increase confidence in writing and linguistic ability.

Let's make towers!





Extended curriculum: trips and visits

To extend the curriculum and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips, workshops and activities. For example, we have recently run workshops in music, drama, sports, and science. We also run themed weeks: Book Week, Science Week, Safety Week and Sports Week.

Residential trips

Year 5 has an activity week in the summer term which will consist of a series of day trips and a short residential stay. Year 6 leavers have a residential stay for five days on the Isle of Wight.

Communicating with parents

We hold parent evenings in the autumn and spring terms, and parents receive a full report in July. A monthly Parent Forum is held, where parents are invited to attend to discuss issues relating to school. We also have a Parent Support Advisor who is able to provide additional support to our children and families.

Forest School and outdoor learning

Forest School is about embracing the outside world and encouraging children to get out there, enjoy it, and learn outside! Our children have weekly Forest school activities.

Outdoor learning

School learning is linked to the outdoors as much as possible. Our active PTA funded a new 'Nature Hide' for science classes and in the woods we go on a 'Bear Hunt' during literacy.



Lucy's views about Seal C of E Primary School changed very quickly when she saw how happy the children were...

From devastated to delighted

"We live in Kemsing and I'd put the village school down as my first choice for Amy, with Seal School as the second choice," explains Lucy. "I was convinced she would get in and devastated when she didn't. I thought Seal School looked really nice, but I'd heard negative reports and was apprehensive."

Working well together

After a successful taster day Amy started attending Seal School in September and by the first half term holiday Lucy could not imagine her being happier anywhere else.

"I saw how well the children and teachers worked together and how much they enjoyed school. This is a result of the hard work that the teachers put in, which gains the respect and hard work of the children," says Lucy. "I was really pleased and within half a term realised I'd never change Amy to another school, even if I was offered a place at my first choice school."

Superb staff

"Mrs Mitchell the headteacher is great, and as she is a family person has a great understanding of where parents are coming from," explains Lucy. "The staff are incredibly helpful and this is not just a nine to five job for them. If you have a problem they bend over backwards to help. I once went to a parents' evening and Amy's teacher spent 40 minutes teaching me how to do a maths technique so that I could understand it!"

High praise

Lucy is full of praise for Seal School and very happy with the progress her children have made. "I'm so happy that Amy goes to Seal School," says Lucy. "When the time came for her brother to go to school there was no question of him going anywhere else, I only wanted Thomas to go to Seal."

"When he first started Thomas had very poor speech, but the staff did so much to help him, bringing in a private therapist and really encouraging him. His speech has improved so much and I'm delighted with Amy's progress too. There is never a dull moment at Seal School – it's fantastic!"



Lucy and Stuart Gladdish live in Kemsing with Amy, 10 and Thomas, 5.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Educational Needs

We are totally committed to providing high quality provision and support for pupils who have special needs of any kind. We modify the curriculum where needed to ensure that all child can access education. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged. Children may be added to the Special Education Needs Register, and an Individual Education Plan written to help them reach their potential. Above all, we want to raise the self-esteem of all our children and give them the skills to enjoy life in and out of school.

Access

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

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.



Seal C of E School provides fantastic support to help Josh with his dyslexia and Trevor and Karen couldn't be happier

Making the move

Trevor and Karen transferred their son Josh, who suffers with dyslexia, to Seal C of E School a year ago and are delighted with the support he receives.

"We decided to move Josh because we felt he wasn't getting the support he needed at his old school," recalls Trevor. "We looked at several schools that claimed to be dyslexia friendly, but we weren't convinced by the support they provided. However, at Seal School the headteacher was really pleased to show us around and by the time we'd finished our visit the SENCO teacher had read Josh's report from the educational psychologist and created an action plan. We were very impressed."

Seamless transition

"From day one the move for Josh was a really easy, seamless transition," says Trevor. "The kids and teachers gave him all the help he needed to make him feel comfortable and there was never a problem. Josh absolutely loves Seal School and is very happy."

One-to-one support

"Josh has come on in leaps and bounds," says Karen. "When he first started he could hardly read but the school provided a lot of one-to-one sessions and after just six weeks we noticed a big improvement in his maths, reading and writing. Even better, he is now very keen to learn."

Catering for special needs

Finding a school that could provide support for children with special needs was important to Trevor and Karen, but the school is also very supportive of children that are gifted and talented.

"When we were looking for a school we were obviously keen to find one that could cater for a child with dyslexia," says Karen. "From the moment Josh started the staff just couldn't do enough for us, but we also know that they provide extra support for children that are gifted and talented and want to take the eleven plus."

Children say

When asked what he likes best about Seal School, Josh says: "It's a really friendly school. The teachers and kids all helped me to fit in and be happy. If you struggle and need help everyone is behind you and helps you to do well."



Trevor and Karen Shaw live in Addington with Josh, 10.



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

- Dance
- Athletics
- Mountain Biking
- Swimming
- Bug Club (Reading)
- Homework Club
- Friendship Bracelets
- Science Club
- Computer Club
- Karate
- Story Club
- Cricket
- Guitar
- Choir
- Football.

Seal C of E School was not the first choice for Pip and Tyron, but has proved to be first class for their daughters

Happy and settled

“When we moved here we applied for another school, primarily because it was nearer to home,” recalls Pip. “We didn’t get in and our appeal was unsuccessful and so Anna started at Seal C of E School in reception class. At Christmas we were offered a place at our first choice school, but Anna was happy and settled and we decided to keep her here. Three years later Rebecca started and they’ve both done very well and been happy at the school.”

Going green

Students enjoy fantastic outdoor areas, and classrooms provide views of trees and grassy fields.

“Where we lived before the school had no grass areas,” says Pip. “Seal School is very green and there’s a lovely nature area where the children can play and the staff take them cycling for off road experience. There is also an outside classroom and a pond area. It’s a really natural learning environment.”

Passport to success

The school uses a range of innovative techniques to help motivate students.

“Rebecca particularly enjoys Passport Maths,” says Pip. “Passport cards are issued with targets to help them move continents as they progress and Rebecca has responded really well to this. She also loves the experience days and events that the school organises. There are lots of afterschool clubs, which change every term so the children get to try different things.”

High expectations

“I work in the NHS and have very high expectations of good communication and the importance of feeling valued,” she says. “Teaching standards are good and there are lots of great facilities. In addition, the after school child care is really useful and they are very flexible about when your child attends. I sometimes have to work shifts and this flexibility is very useful. I am more than happy to recommend this school.”

Children say

Anna says: “I had fun at Seal School and learnt a lot,” whilst Rebecca says: “I like the school as there are lots of things outside to play on. Sometimes they make you work hard but sometimes they give prizes and marbles as rewards, which makes you persevere.”



Pip and Tyron Stalberg live in Kemsing with daughters Anna, 12 and Rebecca, 9.

Admissions



Getting used to school

Prior to admission, parents and children are invited to spend time in school.

Applications

The Local Authority Admissions Office deals with all new Year R admissions. For casual in year admissions contact the school direct. Contact details for Local Authority Admissions are:

Tel: 3000 41 21 21
Email: kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Web: www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places

Getting involved



PTA

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been very successful in raising funds, but could always do with more help. If you feel you could contribute in any way, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

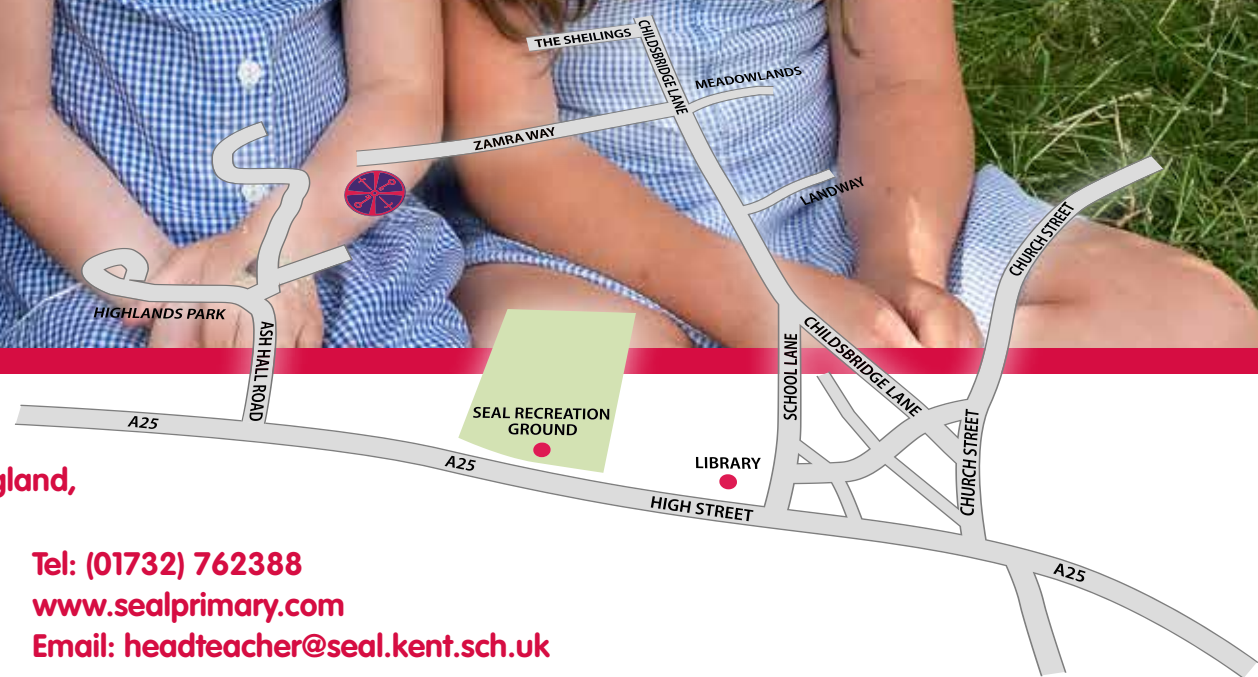
Governorship

The Governing Body consists of representatives of parents, teachers and the Local Education Authority. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments.

Do you want to be a Governor?

If you want to be a school governor, please contact the school office.

How to find us



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