



Stedham Primary School
Equipping today; empowering tomorrow



Welcome to Stedham Primary School



Mr Malcolm Meaby, Headteacher, says...

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

A proud history

At Stedham Primary School, we are immensely proud of our rich history within the Stedham community. There has been a school on the site for over 140 years and during this time it has become an increasingly important part of the village of Stedham. We are nestled in the Rother Valley in the heart of the South Downs National Park and feel honoured to be continuing the long tradition of educating pupils from Stedham and the surrounding villages.

Family matters

We like to think we are the small school of choice in our area. With our location in the centre of the village and our small size, we are uniquely able to get to know you well as one of the 'family'. Indeed, children and their families choose us because of our friendly ethos.

Community counts!

Our close links with our local church, Stedham Pavilion with its wonderful facilities, as well as other local projects, gives our children many wonderful opportunities to play a part in the life of this lovely community, and to make a valuable contribution to the place in which they live. The School Council chooses charities to support and helps with the foodbank donations. All of this ensures that our school is an important asset to the village as well as to the children we teach.

Our facilities

In addition to our four classrooms, we have a large outside area for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children to use for outdoor learning and play. There is a good amount of hard-surfaced play space and common land for the children to use in dry weather and, about five minutes' walk from the school, is a superb sports ground in the village that we are able to use for sports day, and other sporting events.

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 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

In order to fully appreciate what we can offer your child, a visit to our school is a must! Come and see us at work and play by making an appointment. Contact us on 01730 813522 or office@stedham.w-sussex.sch.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.



Arthur and Beatrix are making rapid progress thanks to the attentive staff at Stedham Primary School

Hannah and Michael live in Stedham with their twins, Arthur, and Beatrix, aged six.

Keen readers

Hannah and Michael are very pleased with the pace at which their children are learning in the cosy surrounding of Stedham Primary School. Hannah says: "Arthur and Beatrix have told me they are doing much more reading and writing this year now they are in Year 1. My daughter is keen to read words she sees when we are out that she has never encountered before in her books, and my son is also doing very well academically."

Small classes

Hannah thinks the twins are reaping the benefits of receiving plenty of attention because they are in a small class where there is a teacher and a teaching assistant for 13 children. She says: "Stedham have a teacher to pupil ratio that is better than some private schools. Reception and Year 1 children are taught together and so the twins have the same teacher as last year. The continuity has been good for them, as children can sometimes struggle with the move from Reception to Year 1. They are still with the same brilliant teacher and it hasn't seemed a big jump."

Fun school

Although Hannah's husband, and other members of his family, had attended Stedham, the couple did consider other schools when Arthur and Beatrix were due to start their education. "Stedham is literally at the end of our driveway, but I did go to look at a larger school before we made up our minds, and I found it impersonal and dull." When they went to look round Stedham, they felt the school had the right feeling and would suit the twins. "The classrooms were bright and colourful and the children were having fun and chatting to each other. Arthur and Beatrix went for a taster morning and when they came back, they talked enthusiastically about the school," Hannah says.

Supportive staff

The twins started in Reception just before their fifth birthdays and settled in well. "Although, they are both very articulate, Arthur is now being helped to correct a slight stammer and Beatrix with the way she pronounces certain words. We

are pleased this has been picked up early. They both have separate one-to-one chats with a member of staff once a week. They are made to feel it is just two people talking about nice things, but it is helping their speech," Hannah says.

Good values

"We think the overall atmosphere in the school is very supportive and like the way Stedham pupils are encouraged to stick together and look out for each other. There is no bullying at the school, however competitiveness is encouraged, and the children are taught to be good winners and good losers," she says.

Parent involvement

"Stedham has an enthusiastic community of parents with many mums and dads happy to play their part in helping the school. Recently, parents were asked to help with overhauling the school library and plenty of people came forward. The PTA have regular quiz nights and other events to raise money for the school, which are good fun and always well attended," Hannah says.

Caring community

"Stedham is a small village and the residents like to be involved with the school which is very helpful and makes a big difference. The school have the use of the woodland next to the school for forest school, and they can use the Memorial Hall for Armistice Day and the church for the harvest festival and nativity play."

Children say

Beatrix says: "My favourite thing about school is going into the woods where there are lots of toys to play with."

Arthur says: "I like the lunch breaks, when you can either bring in a lunch box or have a hot dinner."

School day: settling in



What are our school times?

The school day begins at 8.45am and ends at 3.30pm.

Wraparound

To help support working families, we run an Early Morning Club from 8.00am until 8.45am when the classrooms open, and after-school activities until 4.30pm. Working with partners, we are looking to extend after-school provision until 5.30pm from September 2025.

Uniform

The school policy is that we expect pupils to wear the correct uniform. If children are not in the correct uniform for any reason, we would ask that parents/ carers notify the school of the situation and we will work with the family to try to resolve any issues.

Where to obtain uniform

Sweatshirts, sweat cardigans, royal blue PE t-shirts with the school logo, royal blue PE fleeces with the school logo, royal blue polo shirts with the school logo, bookbags and PE bags with the school logo can be ordered online from our uniform suppliers: www.brigade.uk.com/parents/

Food in school

Our school meals are provided by Chartwells, who serve a hot lunch each day. All food is nutritionally balanced and there is always a range to choose from, including a vegetarian option. Special diets are easily catered for by arrangement.

Packed lunches

Alternatively, children may bring their own packed lunch with a drink in an unbreakable container, and we request that the contents of lunchboxes are kept in line with our healthy eating policy.

Drinks and snacks

Fresh milk is supplied by a company called 'Cool Milk' for the children to drink during their mid-morning break. This is provided free of charge for children in Reception until they reach their fifth birthday. The Daily Fruit/Vegetable Initiative is a government initiative to encourage children to eat more fruit, and each day children in Reception to Year 2 are supplied with a fresh fruit or vegetable. Older children are invited to bring their own from home.

There is fresh water available at all times. We do not allow sweets in school and have a strict No Nuts policy.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a school dinner every day. Older children may also be eligible for free meals. If you think this applies to you, please ask in confidence for an application form from the school office.



Isla and Elise have both flourished in the friendly atmosphere of Stedham Primary School

Mike and Sarah live in Stedham in West Sussex with their daughters, Isla, aged 11, and Elise, aged eight.

Excellent education

Sarah and Mike are delighted with the high quality of teaching and individual attention their daughters have received at Stedham Primary School. Sarah says: "Isla received a bespoke education that gave her an excellent start for secondary school, and Elise is very happy at the school and embraces all the opportunities that come her way."

Top choice

The couple considered other schools when Isla was due to start her education but chose Stedham above them all. Sarah says: "The advantages of being able to attend the school in our village, which is part of the community and has very good facilities, outweighed what was offered by any of the larger schools some distance away. Isla started in Reception when she was four and loved the school immediately."

Learning to mix

Sarah and Mike quickly discovered the benefits of Isla attending a school where the teachers knew every child by name. "There are small class sizes for every year and the staff are aware of all the children's capabilities and teach them accordingly. Isla now looks back on the way she was encouraged to mix with other children as one of the highlights of her time at Stedham. She enjoyed being in the choir and in school plays, and loved doing forest school in the woodland next to the school," she says.

Confident speakers

Stedham Primary teaches pupils to be independent, articulate, and confident when speaking to adults, as well as to be able to speak in public, Sarah says. "Isla is now thriving at her new school, which has a grammar stream. She was assessed and put in the grammar stream thanks to the good teaching she enjoyed at Stedham. There are 220 in her year and she was in the top 30 children chosen."

Forging friendships

Elise who is now in Year 4, is also having a wonderful experience at Stedham, Sarah says. "She is doing well in English and Maths, and

enjoys learning French. She has also loved being in school plays and doing forest school. Elise has made lots of friends and enjoys mixing with everyone. Even though it is a small school, there is a good range of nationalities represented by the children and, at the recent harvest festival, the traditions of all their different countries were featured."

Variety of activities

Stedham is a friendly school and all the age groups play together in the playground. "There is a good range of after school clubs, and a morning club, starting at eight am, which helps working parents. Pupils are given lots of opportunities, which helps build their confidence. In Year Six, they can visit their secondary school every month to take part in sports activities, which is good preparation for moving up. Large primary schools are not able to give their pupils so many opportunities," Sarah says.

Heart of the community

"Stedham Primary is an important part of the village and there is a lovely family feel to it. Former pupils and local people regularly come into the school to read with the children and talk to them. The school has the use of the village sports hall and cricket field, and the memorial hall, and there are strong links with the village's centuries old church, where the children perform their nativity play. Some parents from Midhurst already choose to send their children to Stedham because of the quality of education offered. We would recommend the school to families from further afield because of the way the teaching is tailored to each child and the excellent opportunities pupils are given."

Children say

Elise says: "I love doing Forest School and being with my friends and I am looking forward to starting the new netball club."

Curriculum: creative, ambitious, wide ranging, values-led



Every child an individual

At Stedham we are immensely proud of being a village school. With a small number of children in each class, we are able to cater for every individual need - of every individual child - that steps through our doors. Stedham Primary School has three classes, named after the three most common animals that live in the woods surrounding our school, which are Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Foxes.

Life skills

We are very ambitious for pupils, educating them today and empowering them for tomorrow. Our creative and broad curriculum, which is supported by key knowledge, learning, life skills and experiences, equips our children to excel at Stedham and beyond.

Above and beyond

The curriculum is underpinned by our vision and values of Consideration, Courtesy, Challenge, Commitment, Collaboration and Creativity. The curriculum is designed and implemented to maximise the children's education across a two-year cycle and goes beyond the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum expectations.

Stages of the curriculum

Early Years (Reception)

Our Early Years provision, rated Good by Ofsted, concentrates on learning through play with regular sessions for phonics, reading, role play and play indoors and outdoors. In Early Years, staff focus on communication and language and create a magical learning environment.

Children in Reception are delighted and inspired by the stories, rhymes and creative approaches that help to drive learning forwards.

In Reception, staff and children have exceptionally positive relationships that help all children to thrive and be ready for their next stage of learning.

Years 1 and 2

In Years 1 and 2, the school's curriculum broadly follows the requirements set out in the National Curriculum. Whilst doing this we seek to provide an enriched educational experience beyond that which is expected.

Years 3 to 6

In Years 3 to 6 pupils are taught by their class teachers for most subjects with specialist support being provided for Music, Forest School sessions and one of the PE lessons each week.

All the elements of the National Curriculum are covered with particular emphasis on core subjects. In year 6 we work closely with our local secondary schools to support pupils transition from primary to senior school at the right moment.

All year groups have discrete lessons in literacy and numeracy but science and humanities subjects are sometimes integrated into topics as we often find this works well.

Keeping you informed

Pupils' learning is carefully monitored by teachers, subject leaders and the Headteacher. There are twice-yearly parents' meetings (Autumn and Spring terms) and an annual report in the Summer term, but parents are encouraged to discuss their child's work at any time in the school year.

Rewards and house points

The school is divided into four houses each named after local hills. House points provide a highly motivating reward system for the pupils. Rewards are given for effort as well as achievement, 'living our values' and for non-educational success or for children representing Stedham in an out of school event.



Heidi, Merry and Henry are all thriving in the beautiful village setting of Stedham Primary School

Danielle and Richard live in Midhurst with their children, Heidi, aged 10, Merry, aged five, and Henry, aged four.

Valued pupils

Danielle and Richard like the way staff at Stedham Primary make all the children feel valued and confident. Danielle says: "The teachers encourage children to embrace their individuality and so they are comfortable about going into any environment."

Individual attention

Now Heidi is in Year 5 at Stedham, Danielle is not worried about her leaving a small school to move up to a bigger secondary school. Danielle says: "I have seen several Year 6 cohorts from Stedham make the transition, and they have all seemed very well-adjusted and self-assured young people. I think it is likely that the time and individual attention they get from teachers and teaching assistants contributes to this."

Great start

When Danielle and Richard moved to Midhurst three years ago, they were living near a primary school, but the school did not have space for Heidi and so they had to look elsewhere. "Fortunately, we were able to send her to Stedham Primary, which is only a few minutes' drive away, and Heidi joined Year 2 part of the way through the year. I had been concerned about Heidi changing schools, but she was comfortable there from the first day."

Making friends

Danielle says the staff were welcoming and it felt like one big family. "Heidi felt at home and it was great for me to know she was happy there. She made some lovely friends because the children at Stedham all get on well together and she enjoyed the lessons. She also liked the extra things they do, such as the fun run and the annual cricket match, which she played in this year."

Varied activities

Heidi has attended dance festivals with her classmates, taking part alongside other local schools, and enjoyed trips to the theatre and London Zoo. Danielle says. "She is now doing well in Year 5. She loves English and Art and joins in with everything. I like the way the teachers give up their time to put on after school clubs for the children."

Mixing well

Merry also loved Stedham from the moment she started, Danielle says. "She made some lovely friends and plays with children of all different ages. Although she is in Year 1, she comes home talking about having played with children in Year 6, because the older children always have time for the younger ones."

Inspiring teaching

Merry is doing well with reading and Maths and enjoys taking part in the Harvest Festival and nativity play. She is very enthusiastic about what she has been doing and will come home and gets her pens and art material out because she has been given ideas at school and wants to carry on at home," Danielle says.

Lovely surroundings

"Henry has just started in Reception and is also very comfortable at Stedham. He enjoys active play and unstructured time, where he is free to explore the classroom and outdoor space. I have helped at school on occasion, and enjoyed seeing him doing a role play where he was a restaurant manager taking orders from customers on the phone. The early years children have an amazing outside space to play in, which helps to keep them engaged. I love dropping my children off every morning at Stedham because of its lovely setting, surrounded by woodland."

Children say

Heidi says: "I love that we do Forest School at Stedham. We build fires and have hot chocolate in the woods. It's great!"

Merry says: "I love going to school because there are so many things to do there, with all my friends. Art and craft club is my favourite!"

Henry says: "My favourite things to do at Stedham are playing with all the dinosaurs and running around in the playground."

Enrichment: trips, visitors and clubs



Cultural capital: trips and visitors

In order to further enrich our curriculum, we offer a wide range of experiences for children in all years. These are not just educational but a fun addition to their learning. Examples include:

- Annual pantomime trip to the local theatre.
- Forest School sessions.
- Peripatetic music lessons through West Sussex Music Service.
- Residential trip in Year 6 (e.g. camping, Cobnor watersports).
- Locality sporting enrichment programme.
- Educational visits to a variety of different places.
- Harvest Festival at the local church with donations to the local food bank.
- Nativity at our local church.
- Armistice Day celebrations at Stedham Memorial Hall.
- Sports Days and sporting events at Stedham Sports Pavilion.
- Arts festivals held locally.

Visitors

Visitors into school include representatives from the Fire Service and local police amongst others.

Clubs

After-school, children may take part in one or more of our clubs which currently include:

- Drawing and colouring.
- Aspire sports.
- Cricket.
- Lego or games.
- Arts and crafts.
- Dance.
- Netball.

Working with other schools

We have links with our local secondary school, Midhurst Rother College, so pupils develop a relationship with older pupils and a secondary school they are likely to attend in the future. The children attend and take part in events such as:

- Science days.
- Sporting activities.
- Singing and performing.



Scarlet has grown in confidence and is now thriving in the supportive surroundings of Stedham Primary School

Angela lives in the next village to Stedham with her daughter, Scarlet, aged 10.

Mixing well

Angela is thrilled with the way Scarlet has made lots of friends and become more confident at Stedham Primary. Angela says: “Scarlet struggled to make friends at her previous school because her medical needs often caused her to be absent and when she returned to school the other children would have made new friends. But she has learnt to mix well now and is much happier at Stedham.”

Impressive school

After Angela moved to live in the area, she looked for a good school for Scarlet. “I was considering another school, but when I visited Stedham, I was very impressed with it. I had been driving through the village and seen the school, so I stopped and took down the number and made an appointment to visit. I was looking round it about an hour later and talking to the teachers and I immediately realised it was much better and felt more comfortable than the other school.”

Helpful teachers

Scarlett has had complex medical needs because she was very premature. “The staff at Stedham were completely understanding about this and have gone above and beyond for her. She has got better as she has got older, thankfully, but to begin with she often had to have time off school. They would always do everything they possibly could to help her when she returned to school,” Angela says.

Settling in

“I had timed our move to the area so Scarlet’s education wasn’t disrupted and she started in Year 1 at the beginning of the academic year. To build Scarlet’s confidence, the staff encouraged her to join in with small groups of children in the playground. They gently helped her to play with the other pupils and now Scarlet mixes well with everyone,” she says.

Enjoying reading

“Scarlet has some good friends at Stedham now and she is doing well academically in Year 5,” Angela says. “This year, Years 4 and 5 are in one classroom and the children work at tables together. They form a bond and the older ones help the younger ones. Scarlet loves English and enjoys reading, writing and literature. She has been chosen as a school librarian, along with a boy from her class who is also good at English, as the staff give them jobs based on their strengths.”

Caring community

At Stedham everybody knows everybody and each class has a WhatsApp group for parents. “Everyone helps each other by picking up other children if someone has difficulties. It is a very supportive community and the teachers are part of it. If I couldn’t take Scarlet to school, I know another parent or teacher would come and pick her up so she didn’t have to miss school. The staff are less remote than at other schools. The teachers come to Quiz night and take part in the annual cricket match, where the teams are made up of pupils, parents, and teachers,” Angela says.

Celebrating diversity

“The school has a diverse community considering it is in a small village. At the harvest festival the children showed us how different countries celebrate at harvest time and they didn’t just get the information from a book, but from the other pupils and their parents. I would tell any parents considering Stedham to make an appointment to visit the school to see how good it is. Even parents from outside the catchment area are willing to travel to bring their children to Stedham because it is such a good school.”

Children say

Scarlet says: “I absolutely love my teacher. She makes everything fun to learn (except homework) and I also love that we can play with the little kids at break time.”

Music, Sport and PE



Sport and P.E.

We believe that physical education, experienced in a safe and supportive environment, is a vital and unique contributor to a pupil's physical and emotional health, development and wellbeing. We aim to provide a balance of individual and team, cooperative and competitive activities that cater for each pupil's abilities and preferences.

Cricket

Set in a quintessential village, it comes as no surprise that we are very passionate about cricket at Stedham. We are very fortunate to have recently purchased a selection of new resources including new helmets, training wickets, pads in order to give our children an even more valuable experience with this traditional sport. We are very lucky to have the common just opposite the school in order to play our summer games and, just down the road, we have use of the Stedham Pavilion, which has a full-sized cricket ground, complete with full facilities, for our more serious, cup final games.

Activities

There are a wide variety of sport and P.E. activities that children can take part in, including:

- Netball
- Football
- Multisports
- Aspire Sports Club – provided by our local sports club partner

We also take part in a sports enrichment programme supported by our local secondary school. This provides opportunities to collaborate with and play against teams from other local schools in a number of sports.

Music

At Stedham Primary School, we value music because it is a powerful and unique form of communication that can be a positive influence on the way pupils feel, think and act. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment.

Children regularly take part in music lessons provided by specialist teachers as well as weekly singing assemblies with some song suggestions from teachers and from the classes. Opportunities are available for one-to-one music lessons too, should parents wish to have this organised for their child (for a fee).



Inclusion: an education for all



Equality: extra time and support

At Stedham Primary School we understand that some of our students may need a little more time and support to get to their desired destination. Some may have disabilities that prevent or hinder them from making use of all of the facilities provided for our pupils.

Specialist provision

As a school, we are dedicated to giving these children individual consideration and will make special provision for them, working in partnership with outside support agencies where necessary (e.g. speech and language therapy services or the Learning and Behaviour Team), in order to allow them to fully access the curriculum and make full use of the facilities available to all of our pupils.

Working with parents

Our teachers and teaching assistants work with individuals and small groups of children on intervention programmes for speech and language, reading, literacy and maths, to support them in reaching their full potential. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress at SEND parent consultation meetings.

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. Opportunities are sought for such pupils to meet and work with similarly gifted pupils in the area.



Admissions and getting involved

Admissions

If you are interested in a place for your child at Stedham Primary School, we are more than happy to welcome you at one of our open mornings or arrange a bespoke tour at a mutually convenient time: please make an appointment through our school office. Once you have decided to apply for a place, the next steps are set out below.

Application process

Schools in West Sussex are categorised as community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided. Community and voluntary controlled schools serve catchment areas and voluntary aided schools serve wider areas. Stedham Primary is a community school. Under the Education Act parents can express a preference for any school but they do not have a right to choose a school. West Sussex Education Authority does however make every effort to meet parental preference where possible.

Applying for a place

- The County Admissions Office advertises to parents of children eligible to start school in the following year during the Autumn term preceding the September in which children will start school through schools, pre-school settings, libraries, children and family centres and the local press.
- Parents are asked to go online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions to download and read the *Information for Parents* booklet. You can also find out the names of the catchment schools on this site.

- It is West Sussex policy for pupils to start school in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents have the right to choose whether their child attends full or part time, subject to the caveat that children are receiving full time education in the term following their fifth birthday. The school is able to offer advice to parents should they need it, to assist in the making of the decision.
- Once this information has been read and a decision made, parents are invited to apply online, expressing a preference for up to three schools. You are then notified of the outcome in April.

Admissions during Years 1 to 6

It's also possible to join our school at any point, if there are places available. If you'd like to do this and apply for a place at Stedham Primary School outside of the usual age of admission you should contact the Worthing (South) Pupil Admissions Office.

Telephone: 033 301 42903

Email: admissions.south@westsussex.gov.uk

Further information about how places are allocated is available online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Getting involved

FOSS

Friends of Stedham School (FOSS) is our extremely active Parent-Teacher Association. It works hard to provide support and resources for our school.

As with any organisation, its success depends upon active membership. All Stedham parents automatically belong to FOSS. An organising committee is formed each year to co-ordinate the planned programme of activities. The school enjoys many events, both fund raising and social, through the year. FOSS has contributed towards the transport costs for educational visits and items such as classroom equipment as well as organising successful summer fayres and the annual Halloween disco.

Volunteers

We welcome volunteers at Stedham Primary School, and we aim to match the needs of the school with the skills and interests of the volunteer. To support this, we encourage members of the school community such as parents, carers and local residents to volunteer and spend time in our school. If you think you can spare us even just an hour a week and wish to volunteer, please let us know. All volunteers are of course DBS checked before starting to help in school.

Governors

Our team of experienced, committed and knowledgeable volunteer governors work closely with the Headteacher and senior leadership team to oversee the strategic development of the school. Volunteer governors have been elected, nominated or co-opted from several stakeholder groups including school staff, parents and carers, the local authority and the wider community. If you would like to know more about the governors, or you would like to put yourself forward for a parent governor role, please contact the Headteacher via the school office.



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Email: office@stedham.w-sussex.sch.uk

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Our Vision and values

Our Mission

To be the small school of choice enabling children to be the best they can be.

Our Core Values underpin everything we do:

Consideration, Courtesy, Challenge, Commitment, Collaboration and Creativity.