



Wootey Infant School

Happiness, Respect, Creativity



The only place in Alton with specialist staff at Nursery, Infant and Junior working together in one location.

Welcome to Wootey Infant School



Ella Parker, Headteacher, says:

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

We are delighted to share with you some of the things which make Wootey Infant School such as special place. In our school we uphold three core values:

- **Happiness**
- **Respect**
- **Creativity**

Everyone in our school community makes sure that these Core Values underpin everything that we do.

Personalised learning: enquire, investigate and discover

Children are given lots of opportunities to make choices about their learning.

Our highly skilled staff support each child to enquire, investigate and discover through stimulating topics and to delight in sharing their new learning with others. Each topic is supported by visitors to the school or educational visits, for example, visiting London for our 'Fire-Fire' topic, or a seaside visit to make sure that children experience learning first-hand whenever possible.

All children have individual learning targets for reading, writing and mathematics.

Working together with Wootey Junior School: same site and shared sessions and activities

Wootey Infant School Teachers plan many opportunities for the children to learn alongside children from Wootey Junior School, with which the Infant School shares a site.

Examples are regular sessions with their buddy classes and shared activities e.g. Easter Bonnet Parade, class assemblies, Christmas performances and Christmas and Summer Fayres. These shared activities develop the infant children's confidence and familiarity with the Junior school children, building and staff.

Infant and Junior Schools working together like a primary school

There is very close liaison between the two schools and Year 2 and 3 staff meet regularly in order to achieve a smooth transfer for the children. Joint professional development for staff happens regularly. Children who are 7 years old on or before 31st August transfer to Wootey Junior School in September. In the Summer Term, parents are invited to a meeting with the Headteacher of the Junior School, and the children visit their new classes several times.

A Junior School Prospectus may be obtained from our school office.

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

If you would like to visit our school to see it in action, please contact the school office on 01420 83656.

Sebby, Zachary, Elodie and Imogen all enjoy learning in the beautiful surroundings of Wootey Infant and Junior Schools



Alex and Rebecca live near Wootey with their children, Sebby, aged nine, Zachary, aged six, and twins, Elodie and Imogen, aged three.

Ideal location

Alex and Rebecca love the way their children are all being taught on the same campus in the lovely setting of First Friends Nursery, and Wootey Infant and Junior Schools. Sebby, aged nine, is in the Juniors, Zachary, aged six, is in the Infants, and the twins, Elodie and Imogen, aged three, attend the nursery on the same site. Alex says: "Wootey is a wonderful school and we are lucky it is close to our house and we can drop them all off together at the same place."

Outdoor space

The couple chose Wootey when Sebby was about to start school because they had heard good things about it. Alex says: "It had a nice feeling when we went to look round and the teachers seemed engaged and approachable. We thought the spacious grounds were incredible and liked the fenced off area for Reception children."

Happy at school

Sebby is currently achieving well in the Juniors. "He loves football above everything else, but he is confident with the work, soaks up all the information and is always keen to know more about different subjects," Alex says.

Enthusiastic pupil

"Zachary is motivated by Sebby's success and is also excelling at school, while being encouraged to be his own person. He is in the top group for reading and loves being creative, making things such as paper airplanes, and models out of cereal boxes. He enjoys showing his friends how to make things and sharing his passion."

Enjoying the nursery

Elodie and Imogen love the nursery and being close to their older brothers, Alex says. "Last year when Zachary was in Reception, the girls were often able to see him in the Reception play area and Sebby playing in the fields."

Nurturing teacher

Sebby had attended nursery elsewhere because there wasn't one at Wootey when he was nursery age. Alex says: "After he started in Reception at Wootey, he settled in well and his first year was great but then Covid changed everything. The school sent emails and videos to keep him engaged with learning. His teachers were great, they nurtured him and helped him to settle back into school. His Year 2 teacher then made sure he was well prepared for going into the Juniors."

Approachable staff

Zachary was able to go to the nursery on the Wootey campus



from being three and a half, the year before he went into the Infants. "Zachary settled into school quickly when he started because he had been going in to drop Sebby off and would often talk to the teachers," Alex says.

Family feel

Elodie and Imogen can now have the full Wootey experience, from the nursery until they are 11. "Although the nursery is run by a separate company, nursery children are often involved with the school and will go to dress rehearsals for shows and watch the Infants and Juniors taking part in sports day. Wootey is like one big family," Alex says.

Giving back

"It is great not to have to drive the children to different schools and we can teach them about road safety while walking with them to school. I have now been approved as a Parent Governor. I applied for this role in order to be able to give something back to the school. I am looking forward to being involved, because I want Wootey to continue to be as good as it is now, so my children all get the same positive Wootey experience."

Children say

Sebby says: "I love playing football with my mates. I also love finding out new things and talking about it at home."

Zachary says: "I love play to learn time, and being able to play on the big fields."

School day: settling in



What are our school times?

- Our school day is from 8.55am until 3.15pm.

Wraparound

Many children from the Infant and Junior school enjoy the 'Breakfast' Club run on site from 7.45am onwards, with supervised fun activities. When school ends at 3.15pm, a wonderful range of activities to suit all tastes is then available at the school-run After School Club until 6.00pm.

Uniform

Although we prefer it to be worn, Wootey Infant School uniform is not compulsory.

We encourage children to wear a royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with or without a school logo. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

Food in school

Education Catering provide our healthy hot dinners and packed lunches in the Summer Term. The children can choose their lunch on a daily basis in the classroom, with whoever brings them into school or a member of staff. The hot dinners have a three weekly rolling menu.

Meals are prepared using fresh, nutritious ingredients, with an emphasis on no 'junk' food.

Children may bring a packed lunch to school if they wish. In accordance with our healthy eating policy, we do not allow sweets, fizzy drinks etc, and are strictly a nut-free school. Children are seated with their class and there is no segregation of children eating a packed lunch or hot dinners. The children are supervised throughout the lunch break by Supervisory Assistants.

Free School Meals

All children at Wootey Infant school are entitled to a free school meal.



Cara, Hollie and Jack have all thrived in the supportive atmosphere of Wootey Infant and Junior Schools



Jess lives in Alton with her children, Cara, aged 13, Hollie, aged ten, and Jack, aged seven.

Individual attention

Jess loves the nurturing atmosphere of Wootey Infant School where her children have received individual attention from the kind staff. She chose Wootey Infants for her eldest daughter, Cara, because she was made to feel welcome when she first looked round the school. Jess says: "Even though it is close to where we live, I had considered other schools, but I liked the feel of Wootey and was impressed with its wonderful grounds, where the children can do lots of activities."

Friendly staff

The teachers provided good settling in sessions for Cara and liaised well with her nursery and Cara took to the school straight away, Jess says. "She had a lot of fun learning to read and write and the teacher and LSA would come out and talk to me in the afternoons about how she was getting on. I was always made to feel that I could talk to them at any time."

Smooth transition

Cara enjoyed being on the pupil council and having extra responsibilities as she moved up the school. She benefited from a careful transition to the Juniors and got to know her new teacher before moving up. She started doing regular homework in Year 3, which extended her learning and prepared her for secondary school, where she is now doing well.

Attentive teachers

Hollie did not want to attend any school, and was upset on her first day at Wootey Infants, but the staff were kind and she soon settled in, Jess says. "Her education was disrupted by Covid when she was in Year 1, but the staff kept in contact to maintain their relationship with her. Afterwards, they noticed she was quiet in certain situations and they would keep an eye on her and tell me in the afternoons if she didn't seem happy that day. It was reassuring to know they were looking out for her."

Small classes

Hollie is in the Juniors and is achieving well academically. Her Mum says: "The staff have recognised her ability and will give her harder work if she asks for it. We think the small class sizes in the Juniors are a big advantage for the children. The teachers arrange plenty of extracurricular activities for them and Hollie enjoys singing in the choir and learning the clarinet at school. They are already preparing her for the transition to secondary school."

Excellent communication

Jack is now flourishing in Wootey Infants. "He didn't settle well to begin with but the staff would ring to let me know how he was getting on for the first few weeks. Communication between school and parents is fantastic in Wootey Infants.

Jack now has a close relationship with his teacher and enjoys being praised. He is achieving well with reading and writing and finds learning fun. He has a lively personality and the teachers are good at finding ways to engage him with the work. He enjoys sports and loves playing football at break with his friends," Jess says.

Good values

Jess has been a Governor for Wootey Infants for five years. "I wanted to help the school and learn more about my children's education by becoming a Governor," she says. "I can reassure families considering the school that all the teachers are kind and patient. Respect is considered important by the school. Children are respected by the staff and are encouraged to respect each other and the staff will take an interest in your whole family. None of our children have ever said that they didn't want to go to school."

Children say

Jack says: "My favourite thing about school is seeing my teachers in the morning and playing football."



Early Years Foundation Stage

In Reception class, the children are taught within the Early Years Foundation Stage. There are seven areas of learning and development that shape the learning in Year R, all of which are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

- These are the prime areas of:
1. Communication and language.
 2. Physical development.
 3. Personal, social and emotional development.
- There are four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. These are:
1. Literacy.
 2. Mathematics.
 3. Understanding the world.
 4. Expressive arts and design.

Key Stage 1

When the children are ready, they follow Programmes of Study in the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1:

- English.
- Maths.
- Science.
- Computing.
- History.
- Geography.
- Art.
- Music.
- Physical Education (PE).
- Design and Technology (DT).
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship (sometimes referred to as Personal Development Learning (PDL).
- Religious Education (RE) is taught according to the Hampshire Guidance..



Trips and visits

We try to incorporate as many trips out of school as possible. Recent trips have included Alton Library, London, Marwell Zoo, Southsea, Pizza Express and Alice Holt Forest for example.

Clubs

A variety of lunchtime clubs are offered each week, for example:

- Computer.
- Rambling.
- Gardening.
- Sports.
- Board Games.
- Maths.

Sport and P.E.

We aim to provide opportunities for the children to experience a wide range of sports, dance and gymnastic activities that help to embed our core values of happiness, respect and creativity.

Healthy outlook

Our curriculum is ambitious and designed to give all learners, particularly the most disadvantaged and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, the knowledge needed to develop a lifelong participation in health whilst still developing as a whole child.

Music

We believe that music plays an integral role in helping children to feel part of a community, therefore we provide opportunities for children to create, play, perform and experience music. We love singing in our class assemblies and performances where we perform to friends and family with gusto, showcasing their talent and understanding of performing. Throughout the school we learn topic related songs for example the Continents Song, Five Oceans and the Great Fire of London songs. Additional opportunities are offered in music, such as the Choir which rehearses regularly and performs in school and at events in the community,

Admissions and getting involved

Admissions

We highly recommend visiting us to discover for yourself what a special learning environment we have to offer your child. Please do not hesitate to contact us to make an appointment or if you would like support in making an application. The Hampshire Local Authority information on applying for a school place is available here:

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions

The Castle

Winchester

SO23 8UJ

childrens.services@hants.gov.uk

Getting involved

PAWS (what does PAWS stand for?)

We believe partnership with parents is essential and invite you to work alongside us to support your child in the classroom and at home. Please let us know if you would like to help in school. We are delighted that our PAWS is a joint organisation with Wootey Junior School and our fantastic PAWS arrange lots of activities such as Fayres, cake sales, coffee afternoons and discos for the Wootey community.

Volunteers

Parents and other family members are welcomed into school to work with the children. Parents can help with reading, play maths games, assist with creative activities or help with administration for the class.

Please see the Office to collect some paperwork and a DBS form and notify your child's class teacher if you are able to help. Mrs Palmer or a senior member of staff will meet with you to share school policies and procedures.

Governors

The Governors at Wootey Infant School are committed to school improvement. We work closely, and in partnership, with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to ensure that every child in the school has the best possible education and skills for life.

We meet once every half term as a Full Board and also meet in committees. The main committees are: Resources which covers Finance and Staffing, and Curriculum and Standards. Once minutes have been approved by the Full Board or relevant Subcommittee at their next meeting, they are available for you to read by asking at the school office.

Our core values:

Happiness, Respect, Creativity

Our Golden Rules make our school a happy and respectful place:

- We are gentle
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are honest
- We work hard
- We look after property.



The only place in Alton with specialist staff at Nursery, Infant and Junior working together in one location.

Together we grow the wonder of learning

Wootey Infant School

Wooteys Way
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 2JA

Tel: 01420 83656

Email: adminoffice@Wootey-inf.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.Wootey-inf.hants.sch.uk