



# Cross Farm Infant School





# Welcome to Cross Farm Infant School



## Foreword: Mrs Jules Langston, Head Teacher, says...

I am very proud to introduce you to our wonderful school.

### Shared vision

Our vision is: Cross Farm is a place where everyone matters, where we all do our very best, all take responsibility and all make the most of every day.

### Igniting an interest in the world

At Cross Farm Infant School, we pride ourselves on being 'a place where learning makes sense'. We encourage all pupils and our staff to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life and are confident that we can provide an outstanding learning journey for your child. We are committed to developing the whole child as our part in helping you prepare them for their whole life.

### Dedicated staff

I am very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to make the most of every day and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

### Teamwork

One of the founding principles of our school is that 'Everyone Matters'. We have a wide range of contributing Teams that collectively make up Cross Farm. Our school is all about harnessing potential and energy.

### Pastoral care

While academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring every child is kept safe, is supported inside school and wherever possible, outside of school.

### Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and families and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here... increasing your understanding and skills and your child's desire to learn.

### Get in touch

We welcome parents to come and visit our wonderful school. To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask us a question, please call the school office on 01252 835847 or email [office@crossfarm.kite.academy](mailto:office@crossfarm.kite.academy)



Our brilliant LSA team

Kitchen Team



Parent Forum Team

MDS Team



Breakfast Club team

Our teaching team



Reading Buddy Team

# Teams at Cross Farm

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit". Harry S Truman

Cross Farm as an organisation, is best understood as a series of inter-connected, highly functioning Teams, all pulling in the same direction.

Happiness and progress for all

### To fulfil their role:

- Staff lead year teams, curriculum teams and the SLT (Senior Leadership Team)
- Parents lead the PTA, Parent Forum, Twitter, Reading buddies, Maths Mates and Pond Pals
- Children lead on School Council, as Monitors and through our Quality Detective Team
- Governors monitor, challenge and support us every step of the way!



## School day: settling in



The school day starts at 8.50am. The school day finishes at 3.10pm.

### Extended school day

Our Toastie Breakfast Club opens at 7.45am and we offer a healthy breakfast of cereals, toast, yoghurts, fruit and a drink. We also provide a variety of play activities and have lots of fun.

Our After School Club 3:10 which is our own after school club from 3.10-6.15pm. Details from the school office are available.

### Uniform

We expect to see all children in a school uniform. Wearing a uniform helps children to feel part of the school and creates a pride in their appearance, their work and their school. Our school uniform consists of grey shorts/trousers/skirts/pinafore dresses, pale blue polo shirts, royal blue school sweatshirts/cardigans, blue gingham dresses, black shoes and PE kit. We are happy to support every child to express themselves through their clothing; please talk to us if this rings bells!

### School meals

Healthy, balanced school dinners are cooked on the premises. Children have a daily choice of three hot meals and access to a self-serve salad bar. Children make their choice at Register time. Any child with a food allergy always wears a white band to alert and remind our Cook and her team. Children are fully involved in serving themselves and putting lunch trays away. Children are encouraged to use knives and forks properly from their first day at school; MDS are always around to support.

### Free school meals

All school lunches are free, so there is no money required at the school.

### Break-time and drinks

All children are offered a piece of fruit to eat during the morning. Sweets, chocolates, crisps and biscuits are not permitted. Milk is available for free to all children until they are 5. Milk is then available at a small cost.



Rae and Duncan Wisbey live in Ash Vale with their three children. Hattie is seven, Otto five and baby Arabella is just a few months old.

## Rae and Duncan know the value of a creative approach to education, and at Cross Farm Infant School their children are getting that – and a great deal more

### An overwhelming impression

With a background and business in the performing arts, it is hardly surprising that Rae and Duncan wanted an education based not solely on academic achievement for their children. Having looked at the various options open to them, it was Cross Farm Infant School which appealed more than any other. "We visited several schools and I have nothing at all bad to say about them but it was Cross Farm that really stood out for us," says Rae. "The overwhelming factor was the ethos of inclusivity, the way that every single child was quite evidently treated as an individual and a feeling that this was absolutely the right environment for Hattie."

every child is unique and learns in different ways. As far as my own children are concerned, their teachers explained that whilst Otto responded brilliantly to the phonics approach to reading, having found phonics difficult, Hattie was perfectly capable of learning through other methods, and that has proved to be the case. That flexibility of attitude means that the literacy levels throughout the school are amazing."

### Changing lives through empathy and understanding

This is something that Rae has seen at first hand as she is a frequent Reading Buddy at the school, as well as serving as a Parent Governor with a special interest in Special Educational Needs. The company she runs with her husband holds children's theatre workshops in schools in and around London and she has seen for herself how the lives of children with additional needs can be transformed, given the right treatment. "Cross Farm makes a huge effort to integrate and encourage SEN children and importantly, to promote empathy and awareness amongst the others. There is no stigma attached to any child who has behavioural issues and they are given so much care and support it is touching and impressive

to see. I know that it has changed some children's lives for the better, and it enables the others to understand, rather than judge."

### Family values

Rae describes Cross Farm as like a family, where everyone cares about each other, learns family and wider values and is welcomed as part of the school community. "Parents and families are equally as important as the children who are pupils, and the policy is one of involvement. There are so many opportunities to contribute to school life, through events such as Grandparent's Day, Mother's/Father's Day, Assemblies, performances, even a Samba Day during the Rio World Cup! There is an active culture of volunteering; Reading Buddies, Maths Mates and Pond Pals are involved in school on a daily basis! Home/school communication is second to none, and as parents we are made to feel a vital part of our children's education. That means a great deal to me."

### New ideas, new rewards

Despite having a great deal of experience in working with children, Rae admits to occasionally running out of ideas on how to support her own children's learning at home and thus has been grateful for the suggestions on how to do so in a fun and effective way.

"At first I was a little uncomfortable with the principle of Home Learning but actually, it opened my eyes to things I'd not thought of," she explains. "I am surprised by how much I have learned myself because of the ideas the school gave me and by how much that one-to-one time at home with your child can be such a rewarding thing to do."

### The Yes factor

There is no doubt that Rae is a passionate supporter of Cross Farm Infant School, one which has given her children as well as their peers the confidence and self-belief they need to go on to a happy and successful life. "The wonderfully creative approach to teaching, the total dedication of the staff and the 'Yes, I can' attitude instilled in every child means that they have the tools and life-skills they need for the future. This school invests everything into making children the very best they can be. And Yes, they will is how it makes them feel!"

### Children say

**Hattie:** "I feel like the school is part of my family and I feel loved by everyone around me."

**Otto:** "I have lots of friends at Cross Farm and learning Maths with my teacher is easy because she is so kind."





Happy learning

At Cross Farm Infant School, our main focus is to ensure that your child will be happy coming to school so that they can learn effectively. The teachers assess your child’s needs and match work to their stage of development.

Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal Social and Emotional Development.
- Communication and Language.
- Mathematics.
- Understanding the World.
- Physical Development.
- Literacy.
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Key Stage I (KS1)

We value the contribution children can make to the planning process. The plans for the half terms across Years 1 and 2 in KS1 represent starting points for staff and the children to make a Learning Map from.

Topics

Each topic will change shape according to the interests of the children and their teachers. Motivation is so important in learning and we try to harness enthusiasm when we inspire it. Staff ensure curriculum coverage by making adjustments across the year and through liaising with the year team below and above.

Learning that makes sense

It is so important that learning makes sense to children – we are not slaves to the plan at Cross Farm! Music, RE, PSE and Maths are taught in separate blocks of lessons across the year and they feature in our teaching plans as natural links that we can harness.



‘My behaviour is my responsibility’

We use the phrase ‘My behaviour is my responsibility’ to promote high standards of courtesy and behaviour with children. The school’s Behaviour Policy can be downloaded from the Policies section within the Key Information area of the school website.

School rules and rewards

We use ‘Good to be Green’ as a school-wide policy. We focus on intrinsic rewards for being a respectful, responsible ‘Cross Farmer’ and encourage children to do their very best every day.

Golden rules

We have ‘Golden Rules’ that are aimed at maintaining good order within our community and ensuring the health and safety of everyone within the school. These are:

- Take care of yourself.
- Take care of others.
- Take care of your things.
- Take care of your school.



# Enriched curriculum: trips and visits



Brooklands Museum



Zoolab visit



Farm visit



Jo and Martin Devitt live in Frimley Green and have two sons. Oli is seven and Harry, five.

## An expert in her own field, Jo recognises the expertise of every staff member at Cross Farm Infant School

### Compassion and commonsense

When the Head Teacher makes you cry it is usually because you have done something wrong and are anticipating some sort of punishment! As far as Cross Farm Infant School is concerned, this could not be further from the truth, as Jo can testify. "When we went to visit Cross Farm before Oli joined, I was so bowled over by the Head Teacher's enthusiasm and passion it moved me to tears. I knew straightaway that her outgoing nature, her compassionate approach and commonsense attitude would be absolutely right for my children, and nothing has changed since that time. The whole teaching and support staff network is the same - with a wonderfully nurturing and caring outlook that greatly benefits every child in the school."

### Bringing lessons to life

Jo has no first-hand experience of other school settings, she instinctively felt that Cross Farm was the best one for Oli and, later, for Harry, too. "What I really love is the way that learning is made fun; the children are thoroughly engaged with their lessons because of how

they are presented in a thematic way so that English, Maths, Science, History and the rest are made to come alive. My children are learning because they enjoy learning, and that is what matters."

### A caring environment

A key feature of Cross Farm is the emphasis put upon reading, and Jo feels this is a vital component of the school's success. "The Head Teacher told me: 'We learn to read at Infant School so we can read to learn at Junior School' and I couldn't agree more. What is more is that the children are taught in a way that makes them want to learn, and each one is supported according to their needs. The more able are encouraged to help those who need a bit of extra help and it's lovely to see them all looking out for each other. The caring ethos spreads throughout the whole school."

### Expert support for Special Educational Needs

Jo has a special reason to appreciate the atmosphere of inclusivity demonstrated at Cross Farm as Oli was diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum during Reception. Even though as a GP she is better placed

than many to understand the condition and get appropriate support for him, she is truly grateful for how he is accommodated at school. "Oli has Asperger's syndrome and although he is very bright he suffers from anxiety and finds it difficult to concentrate, and he can be disruptive," Jo explains. "This means that Oli needs additional support in the classroom but the school and staff have been incredibly engaging, flexible and supportive in the way they have handled the situation and cannot be faulted. The brilliant help he has been given has transformed him and although I am both a doctor and Oli's parent, I consider his teachers the experts."

### Taking education seriously

Jo insists that the Cross Farm model of learning through play and fun in no way detracts from how seriously it takes the education and achievement of the pupils. "The school trips, dressing-up days, charity projects, Forest School and Friday Golden Clubs at which the children choose for themselves the activity they would like to do, may seem informal but they are all organised with a purpose and are educational in design. This holistic, loving and nurturing environment is helping the children

grow in confidence, acceptance of others and, in the Head Teacher's own words, producing tomorrow's adults."

### Turning a negative into a positive

Not so long ago, a minor behavioural indiscretion caused Oli to be summoned to the Head Teacher's office. What could have been a distressing incident was turned into a positive one and was a fun and informative experience, encouraging him to do his very best. For me, that sums up Cross Farm School, of which I can't speak highly enough."

### Children say

Oli and Harry are young men of few words but they know what they like:

**Oli:** "IT, and lunch!"

**Harry:** "Forest school!"

### Trips

Throughout the year, we take the children on educational visits to enhance their curriculum learning. Parents are encouraged to accompany us on these trips and all children should take part in them. Previous trips have included:

- Leeds Castle
- Brooklands Museum
- Marwell Zoo
- The Living Rainforest
- Portsmouth Aquarium
- The Look Out
- RHS Wisley
- National Portrait Gallery.

### School visitors

We arrange for visitors to come into the school and talk to the children about many interesting topics. Some recent visits and topics have included:

- A talk from the charity WaterAid.
- The LIFE BUS - an external classroom for 2 days on site.
- Two doctors coming in to talk about our bodies.
- A science workshop day organised by a parent.
- The Mayor
- Martial Arts Team
- Local Armed Forces for CAMO day every year
- Farm-for-a-day
- Hedgehog and Owl sanctuaries.

School visits "in" and "out" have many extra benefits for children. The learning is not just about the content of the trip. Just look at what else these opportunities bring:

- An opportunity for the children to represent our school and to show people how they have pride in themselves and our school
- An opportunity to think about managing "risks" because teachers will work through our risk assessments with the children beforehand
- Another opportunity to take responsibility for their belongings
- An opportunity to get to know other adults (parent helpers) and possibly grow a new friendship
- An opportunity for children to make connections with school learning and the "real world".





Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Cross Farm is a fully inclusive and supportive infant school and we believe that every child belongs to every adult, and every adult belongs to every child. We aim to give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

All pupils receive a differentiated curriculum delivered through Quality First Teaching. Class teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including any pupils receiving additional support. Children who we feel are vulnerable to not achieving ARE ( Age Related Expectations) are initially identified by class teachers and

where appropriate they might be assessed by the SENco (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator); parents are always involved fully in this process.

Access

Our school is fully accessible to pupils with disabilities. It is a single storey building with access ramps.

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 challenged to broaden and deepen their thinking and extend their knowledge and skills within lessons.



Supporting the learning experience

We are fortunate to have some excellent facilities to benefit our children, supporting their learning and overall school experience. We have a woodland zone for our Forest School and our playground is large and zoned to accommodate a variety of sports and games. Children have access to a kitchen for cooking and Learn Pads, PC and Beebots for IT. We have a library and a school hall and a Studio for Drama, Music and clubs.

Outdoor learning

Our school has a wonderful wildlife area. Our youngest children have an environmental pond area, a garden, a campsite and climbing equipment, and our KS1 children have access to outdoor learning through their class doors.





## Wide range

We offer a range of lunchtime and after school clubs for children to enjoy and we are always striving to introduce more to suit the requirements of our pupils. Recent clubs include:

- Cheerleading & Freestyle Dance
- Drama • Football • Theatre • Gymnastics



## Sport

We are committed to supporting all pupils to have access to a full Physical Education programme. We try to encourage all the children to "be physical" every day; ensuring fitness and well-being.

## Happy and healthy

We strive to provide new and varied physical activities for children before, during and after the school day. We believe that PE and sport enhances academic learning and leads to healthier, happier and more productive lives. We have outdoor climbing equipment for children and provide after-school sports clubs, including Football club, Cheerleading club and Gymnastics club.

## Music

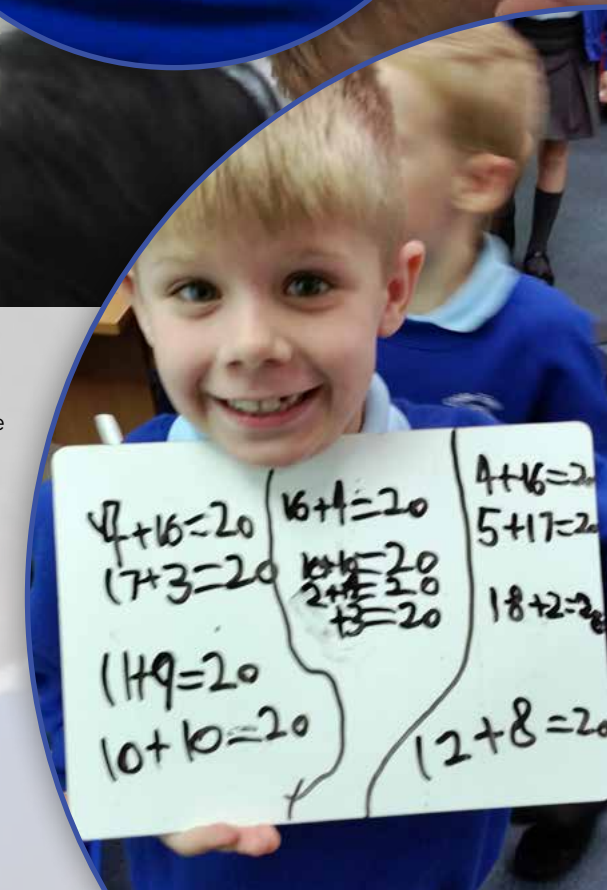
We are passionate about music and performance and have specialist music and dance teachers. Our Year 2 children learn to play the ukulele and we have a Choir.



## Rocksteady Music School

The Rocksteady Music School comes in once a week to run music sessions and give the children the chance to rehearse in a band together, perform songs they love and learn life skills along the way.

# Your child's achievements



## Ongoing assessments

Teachers make ongoing assessments of all children in order to help them better plan the next unit of work. A 'teacher assessment' at the end of KS1 in Reading; Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar; Writing; and Maths. Standardised Assessment Tasks (SATs) form part of the teacher's judgement.

## Phonic Screening Check

The skills and knowledge of Year 1 children in phonics are assessed in the PAC (Phonics Assessment Check) in June every year. This is a national "test" that all children in England take part in.

## School reports

Parent Consultation meetings are arranged for the Autumn and Spring terms when parents will be invited to discuss their child's progress

during an conference with their child's teacher. Year 2 pupils attend these conferences.

At the end of each full term (ie in December, March and July) parents receive a "developing" report which keeps them "in touch" throughout the year. This format means parents are never more that 6-8 weeks away from the next update (verbal or written). The July report in each of the year groups, is the final one of the academic year and it tells parents whether their child has exceeded, met or is working towards the age related expectations for their year group; GLD (Good Level of Development) for Reception and ARE for KS1 classes.

## Discussing concerns

At other times of the academic year, teachers are usually available at the end of the school day to discuss concerns. It is also possible to make an appointment to speak to the teacher more fully at a mutually convenient time.



# Admissions



## Admission into our school

If you are considering Cross Farm Infant School for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit to the school. Please call the office on 01252 835847 or email [office@crossfarm.kite.academy](mailto:office@crossfarm.kite.academy) to arrange an appointment. We will be very happy to show you around.

## Applications

There is an online application process to complete on the Surrey County Council website.

Tel: 0300 200 1004

Email: [contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk)

Web: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions>

# Getting involved



## Parental involvement

We aim to keep you informed and involve you in the education of your child through weekly newsletters and information on our website: [www.cross-farm.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.cross-farm.surrey.sch.uk)

## Friends of Cross Farm

Friends of Cross Farm is the name for the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Parents automatically become a member of this very active and friendly association which runs many social and fundraising events and

develops school projects. The monies raised enable us to enhance the children's time at Cross Farm by providing extra educational resources as well as activities and enriching experiences around the school.

You will be very welcome at any of the meetings whether you would like to join the committee or simply share ideas and get to know other parents.

## Voluntary helpers

We value the contribution of parents and family and we actively encourage your help during

the school day. Parents and family help with a variety of activities which include supporting Reading and Maths progress, leading the library and running clubs in our Golden Club hour on Friday afternoons. They are also greatly appreciated as an extra pair of hands on trips.

## Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body which is made up of nine Governors: four Co-opted Governors, two Parent Governors, two Staff Governors (including the Head Teacher) and one Local Authority Governor. The key role

of the Governing Body is to raise standards: to drive up both school and pupil performance and ensure that resources are used well to give every child the best possible education.

## Do you want to be a Governor?

Our parent governors work collaboratively with the Leadership Team to ensure the continued success of our school. Vacancies are advertised as they arise with new Parent Governors being elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please contact the school.







# Our values

## Vision

Cross Farm Infant School aspires to be a place where every child in our care achieves a set of academic and life skills that will enable them to move into KS2 and forward in their lives with the confidence to have a go at all the wonderful opportunities life has to offer; no fear of failure, no holding back and an 'I can' attitude to the future.

## Mission

We will use the following core strategies to achieve our vision:

-  **1.** A constant focus on the highest quality teaching and learning.
-  **2.** A constant drive to understand where each child is in their learning in core aspects of the curriculum; a commitment to promoting high achievement for all.
-  **3.** A constant attention to understanding our school's strengths and weaknesses at any one time - a 'what's working/what's not?' approach.
-  **4.** A consistent and constant attention to the well-being and safety of our pupils, our staff and our families - how can we help, what else can we do?

-  **5.** A dedication to promoting the message that everyone at Cross Farm matters; everyone's contribution is respected; it might have the 'magic' we need.
-  **6.** A commitment to ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum; all children should have the chance to shine and share their talents and passions.
-  **7.** A constant and consistent promotion of our Values and behaviour expectations; always placing Cross Farm values in the context of being brought up in Britain.
-  **8.** An atmosphere across the school that encourages and supports all learners to 'have a go', to learn from mistakes and to approach new experiences with confidence.
-  **9.** A commitment to the Arts; Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art will all retain their space in our curriculum.
-  **10.** A commitment to maintaining the 'family' atmosphere of our school; siblings will always be welcomed, families will feel connected and our pupils will have many opportunities to work together across the age ranges to strengthen friendships and confidence.

Cross Farm Infant School  
Gresham Way, Frimley Green,  
Camberley  
Surrey, GU16 6LZ

Tel: 01252 835847  
Email: [office@crossfarm.kite.academy](mailto:office@crossfarm.kite.academy)  
Web: [www.cross-farm.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.cross-farm.surrey.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs J Langston  
Deputy Head Teacher, SENco: Mrs K Lewis  
Office Manager: Mrs T Willing, School Business Manager

