



Colman Junior School



Welcome to Colman Junior School



Tea and cake with the headteacher...such fun!

Foreword: Julie Sandford, Headteacher, says:

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your child to our friendly, happy school. Our school is a special place to be, where each child is valued as an individual and uniqueness is celebrated and nurtured. We are committed to providing the best education possible - challenge and enjoyment are at the heart of everything we do.

Learning

Our engaging curriculum enables us to inspire and develop our children into enquiring learners, cultivating a lifelong love of learning and a curiosity about the world around them. Our many extra-curricular opportunities include a wide variety of clubs, trips and visits to help support learning.

Safe

Our children love coming to school each day. We provide a secure and stimulating environment, where it is safe for children to make mistakes, learn and try again. Here, they will discover they feel secure enough to try new things and secure

enough to ask for help. Good behaviour is the norm in our school and our reward systems give children extra confidence in their efforts and achievements. Our pastoral team is available to support children at times when they need a little extra care and attention.

Vibrant

We are a complete society within our school, where all facets of our rich and vibrant community are represented. We are a fully inclusive school and, as you will see from reading the parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. You will find all our staff

are dedicated, approachable and keen to consult with you as parents.

Getting in Touch

I would encourage you to visit our fantastic school to see for yourself how this welcoming and supportive environment can meet the needs of your child.

To arrange a visit, or to simply ask a question, please call the school office on 01603 508530 or email office@colmanjunior.norfolk.sch.uk.

We would love to hear from you!

Charlotte believes that the friendly, welcoming and dedicated teachers at Colman Junior School are providing the perfect learning environment

Charlotte Widdowson and her partner Daren Capon live in Norwich with their children, Georgina, eleven and Harrison eight, in Year 3.

A good reputation

Harrison joined Colman Junior School from a non-feeder infant school. Charlotte says it was the positive feedback she had heard from other parents about the atmosphere and its academic reputation which left her in no doubt that it was the school she wanted for her son. "I knew the school had a good reputation and although others did too, there was something about Colman Junior School that felt right. And thinking ahead, we felt it complemented our choice of secondary school for Harrison too," says Charlotte.

No looking back

And she has not been disappointed. "It's very welcoming and friendly. The children are well behaved and polite. We felt immediately that Harrison was going to fit in," says Charlotte. Despite some initial reservations from Harrison about starting a new school, he came home from his trial day very happy. "I asked him if he'd made some new friends and Harrison's reply was that the whole class were his friends! There was no looking back after that!"

"Harrison is very happy at Colman Junior School. It's a friendly, welcoming school which is academically high achieving"

Welcoming and focused on learning

For Charlotte, a real strength of the school is its ability to welcome the children into a happy atmosphere that encourages a focus on learning. "There are always smiley faces at Colman Junior School. The staff and the children all look happy to be there and I think that's a real positive when it comes to learning. To know your children are happy in their environment goes a long way to ensuring they want to learn," says Charlotte. "They are a lovely group of teachers, children and parents at Colman Junior School and the Headteacher always has time to say hello to children and to parents, which is really nice to see."

Flourishing academically

Harrison, according to his parents, has always been quietly confident but they have noticed that he is flourishing academically since joining Colman Junior School. "His ability to focus on his writing has improved greatly," says Charlotte. "His teacher has really encouraged him to strive for success and has given him some focused targets to work on in the areas that need developing, so Harrison is clear about what it is he's aiming for. His teacher has taught him to have a real sense of pride in his work," says Charlotte. "When I read with him, I can see some real progress there too. We're very pleased indeed."

"Harrison is very happy at Colman Junior School. It's a friendly, welcoming school which is academically high achieving. We have no regrets in choosing it for Harrison and believe it is providing him with a really positive learning experience. We have no hesitation in recommending it to others."

Children say:

Harrison says: "My favourite thing about school is playing with my friends outside!"



School hours



School hours

School hours	8.50am to 3.10pm
Lunch break	12.15pm to 1.10pm

Uniform

We have a simple uniform with clear rules for our pupils. A 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 and details of where items can be purchased are available on our website www.colmanjunior.norfolk.sch.uk under office/uniform.

School meals

School meals are available to pre-order daily with meat, vegetarian, jacket potato or packed lunch options. Alternatively, children can bring in a packed lunch from home or go home to have lunch.



Silvia believes Colman Junior School has the means to provide her children with a good academic background and the life skills they need for the future.

Stephen Bornemann and Silvia Ferretti live in Norwich with their two children Martina, nine, in Year 5 and Carla, seven, in Year 3.

A natural progression

Both of Silvia and Stephen's children had attended Colman Infant School and had made good social connections there. Class sizes were also smaller than other local schools and Silvia and Stephen felt this was better for their girls. "For us, Colman Junior School was a natural progression," says Silvia.

Excellent leadership

Both parents are enthusiastic about the leadership at Colman Junior School. They feel the school is brimming with positive energy. "During Martina's time at Colman Junior School a new Headteacher has been appointed. She's brought renewed energy and has made some staffing changes which have had a very positive impact," says Silvia.

She adds: "The communication between the staff and parents has improved hugely and is really very good. The website is incredible and we receive regular newsletters, emails and texts."

Effective reward and behaviour policies

"The children know they have done well and I like how achievements are publicly acknowledged," explains Silvia. "It's good for self-confidence. Afternoon tea and cake with the Headteacher as a Friday reward always fills the children with excited anticipation. It's a wonderful way of marking academic achievement and positive behaviour."

Fantastic support and opportunities

"The teachers are really very good at ensuring children are working at the appropriate level. They never give up and will offer booster sessions for those that need it, at both ends of the spectrum."

With some fantastic opportunities available at Colman Junior School there's an extra-curricular activity to suit everyone. "Opportunities include a sailing club, Korfbal, music, drama....The Year 5 children were asked to sing with the BBC Children in Need choir which was a wonderful opportunity. Martina still remembers this as an incredible day!" says Silvia.

Positive attitude

Silvia and Stephen have also noticed some encouraging changes in their daughters' attitudes. "They've become very conscientious. We're sure the praise and the rewards provided by Colman Junior School, and the positive attitude of the teaching staff have significantly contributed to this. The girls are developing the right attitude towards work and have an enjoyment for learning. It's very pleasing to see!"

Silvia adds: "Colman Junior School continues to grow. It's an environment where children can learn a good mix of both academic and social skills. Each child is shown respect as an individual as well as encouraged to respect others. We have no hesitation in recommending it to others."

Children say:

Martina says: "The chance to perform with the BBC Children in Need choir was amazing! That's been my favourite part of school so far, but there have been lots of fun things!"

Carla says: "I've made some nice friends at Colman Junior School and I really like my teachers. They make learning fun!"



"The girls are developing the right attitude towards work and have an enjoyment for learning. It's very pleasing to see!"

Curriculum



We teach Key Stage 2, which covers ages seven to eleven years.

Key Stage 2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Information and Communications Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Design and Technology
- Primary Languages
- Religious Education including collective worship each morning
- Personal, Social and Health Education/Citizenship
- Sex and Relationships Education

School Council: pupils get a say

We value the views of the children and involve them in the life of the school through the School Council. The aim of the Council is to provide children with a voice in how the school can develop.

All classes get involved

Every class has an elected Council Representative who attends regular Council meetings with the Deputy Headteacher, where ideas are discussed and actions agreed. This forum enables the children to have a constructive and active input into the daily life of the school community. This includes being involved in:

- staff recruitment
- improving the school grounds
- organising fundraising activities
- deciding where money raised will be spent
- passing on concerns to staff

Mutual trust

We believe a School Council contributes towards creating a relationship of mutual trust and partnership between staff and children.



A great education and a nurturing community environment - Clare couldn't ask for more than she has found at Colman Junior School

Clare and Gary Beveridge live in Norwich with their children Ardan, eleven, Ellis, nine and Darby, seven. Ardan is in Year 6 and Ellis is in Year 4.

A strong community feel

What really stood out about Colman Junior School for Clare and Gary was the strong community feel. "I really like the varied catchment it has. We moved from London so it was important for us to choose somewhere that was as mixed as possible," explains Clare.

"When we were shown around we got a very nice feel. The children all had very good manners. You want to know that your children are not only going to be very well educated but that they're going to be well-rounded children when they leave."

The whole child is important

Clare feels this desire for well-rounded children leaving in Year 6 is one of the strengths of the school. "They do seem to look at the whole child, not just the child's academic ability. I think that's really important," says Clare. "They value effort and behaviour as well as academic achievement."

Nurturing

"Both Ellis and Ardan are doing very well. Both children have received support through booster groups and we feel the teaching staff cater very well for different needs; they're very good at giving extra support when it's needed and offering extra challenges to ensure children are reaching their full potential."

Pastoral care

Ellis has also benefited from some focused pastoral care from the school. Clare explains: "Ellis worked on a one to one basis with a member of staff where they did activities which Ellis was able to choose. He seemed to enjoy the experience. It feels like a nurturing environment and you do get a strong sense that the staff care about your children."

A chance for all children to shine

"My children's strengths are quite different, but we feel both are equally recognised by staff," says Clare. "They're very good at rewarding all kinds of achievements, not just academic ones, which is fantastic. The opportunities on offer allow all children a chance to shine and for their individual skills to be highlighted."

Clare adds: "Colman Junior School is a very nurturing community school with very good academic and pastoral support. We have a real sense that they care for our children. For us, it achieves just the right balance. It's exactly what we hoped for our children."

Children say:

Ardan says: "The gardening club was great! The teacher was brilliant and being outdoors was fun!"

Ellis says: "I love the outdoor space at Colman Junior School! There's an enormous field!"

"They're very good at rewarding all kinds of achievements, not just academic ones, which is fantastic. The opportunities on offer allow all children a chance to shine and for their individual skills to be highlighted"



Curriculum



Extended curriculum: *trips and visits*

To extend the curriculum and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities, including:

- day visits
- residential trips including trips to Brancaster
- performances at the Central Area Schools Music Association
- performances at the Norfolk County Music Festival
- Children's University including graduation at UEA
- Great School Fun Run.

Communicating with parents

We hold parent/teacher consultation meetings twice a year where we discuss a child's progress. If either teachers or parents have issues that they want to discuss, meetings can happen more frequently.

Appointments

Parents are welcome to make appointments to see any member of staff by contacting the school office.

Reports and newsletters

Reports are sent out towards the end of summer term. We regularly inform parents about what is happening in school through newsletters, emails, texts, letters and updates on the website.



Parent Support Adviser and Pastoral Care

Our Parent Support Adviser provides support with any worries or concerns about your child and helps you tackle any home issues that may be making school life difficult for you and your family. The Parent Support Adviser can also access specialist agencies or support services where required, such as targeted family work, parenting classes and focussed work on attendance and punctuality.

We place considerable emphasis on good manners and caring for both people and property, encouraging consideration, tolerance and sensitivity throughout our school. We go to great lengths to support our children if they encounter emotional and physical changes in their lives.

Dominick thinks Colman Junior School's focus on English as an additional language has been excellent in supporting his children's integration into UK education

Dominick and Akiko Okamoto recently relocated from Tokyo to Norwich with their sons Louis, nine, in Year 5 and Leo, seven in Year 3.

Parental recommendation

Moving to the other side of the world is a big decision when you have children and choosing the right school involves lots of consideration. Living in Tokyo, Dominick and Akiko did much of their research using the internet and Ofsted reports. "Ofsted gave us a good benchmark, but we also used the Mumsnet parenting forum which directed us to Colman Junior School as somewhere that was progressing quickly under a new Headteacher," says Dominick.

English as an additional language

Japanese is the primary language for the Okamoto family so when Dominick contacted the school he was impressed to learn about their focus on English as an additional language (EAL).

When Dominick and Akiko first visited Colman Junior School, it appealed in many ways: "The EAL teacher greeted us with some Japanese she had learned specifically for meeting with us, which was nice. It was very much about welcoming us to the Colman family, which we liked," says Dominick. "The EAL teacher explained how she would help the boys to integrate and what kind of support we could expect Leo and Louis to receive. It was encouraging and just what we were looking for."

Warm and welcoming

As Dominick and Louis arrived in Norwich a little earlier than Akiko and Leo it was straight in at the deep end for Louis. Dominick says: "The teacher had taught the class how to say hello and how to count to ten in Japanese. Louis immediately felt welcome and impressed that people were making an effort."

"At the end of his second week he received a Headteachers' Award for settling in so well, which was a great thing for Louis. Teaching the children some Japanese really helped him and as a result he's made friends far sooner than expected."

Extra thought

To help Leo settle, the Headteacher paired him with another child in his class whose mum is also Japanese. "Leo was apprehensive about starting school, but this was a thoughtful thing to do giving him someone he could immediately identify with," says Dominick.

Both boys were also given a set of picture cards to help them communicate with their teachers which was reassuring for Dominick and Akiko. "Louis suffers with migraines," explains Dominick. "The school developed an extra picture card for him so he could let the teacher know if he had a headache and needed his medication."

Integration into the Colman family

Dominick says, "The teachers always make themselves available. We think Colman Junior School is very welcoming; we certainly feel they've done everything possible to help our boys settle quickly into the Colman family."

Children say:

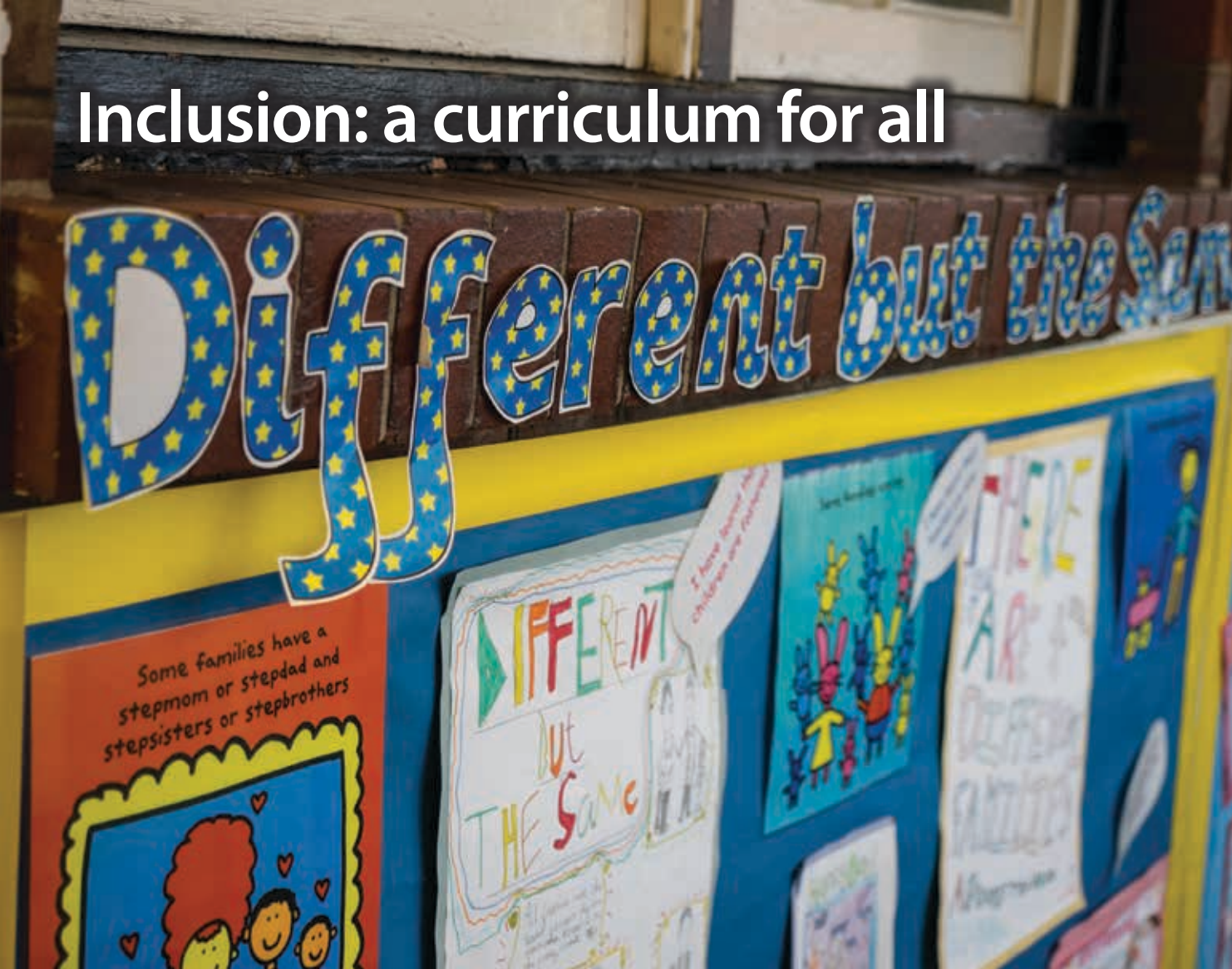
Louis: "I've enjoyed making things as a way of learning."

Leo: "School dinners are really nice at Colman Junior School!"



"Leo was apprehensive about starting school, but this was a thoughtful thing to do giving him someone he could immediately identify with"

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Education Needs

We are fully committed to giving every child the best possible experience at our school, and helping them to reach their full potential. We make every effort to identify where a child has additional needs as soon as possible and discuss what we can do to support them with their parents. Children may be added to the Special Needs Register which means that we can access the full support available, which may include specialist teaching and support.

Access

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

Deaf Resource Base

We are very proud of our provision for Deaf children. We provide daily support from a Teacher of the Deaf and specialist support staff and tailor this support around the individual needs of each child, which

includes British Sign Language and Sign Supported English. Our Deaf children are a much valued part of our school community and all staff and children enjoy and celebrate sign language and Deaf culture, such as singing and signing. We aim to give our Deaf children confidence within our hearing community but equally importantly, encourage pride in their Deaf identity.



Katrien appreciates the way Colman Junior School embraces diversity and truly values each child

Katrien Verbruggen and Ben D'Exelle live in Norwich with their children Oona, 8 in Year 4 and Leon, 11 in Year 6.

When Katrien and Ben moved from Belgium to Norwich four years ago they visited ten schools. Colman Infant School came out as the absolute best for them and they were consequently confident Colman Junior School was the right choice for the next stage of education for their children. They've not been disappointed!

Focus on inclusivity

With English as an additional language (EAL), Katrien speaks from experience when she says she believes it excels at including everybody. She says, "They ensure everyone can participate fully in school life and they value everyone including those with disabilities, different religions and from different ethnic backgrounds. We have felt our children have been made very welcome. The school reflects the reality of society in a very safe way."

English as an additional language

Katrien is very impressed with their focus on developing English as an additional language. "There is dedicated time with a teacher for the children to develop their English," explains Katrien. "We really like the way the children are given the opportunity to show their native language. Oona loved that she was asked to translate a book from Flemish, reading it aloud in English to the class. Developing their English, whilst also including their first language is actively encouraged and we really like that."

Dedicated EAL experience

Working with children whose first language is not English is something Katrien feels comes easily to the staff at Colman Junior School. "You can tell most of the staff have lots of experience in this area. They're not embarrassed by it; it's just one of those things."

Katrien adds: "Whilst Leon was speaking English well by the time he reached junior school, he wasn't reading very well yet. This took a big boost from teaching staff at junior school. It was wonderful to see how it all came together in Year 3."

Friendly and approachable teachers

Katrien's enthusiasm for the school is really clear. "We're very happy with Colman Junior School. The staff are approachable and the Headteacher is very good. We've been very impressed with them all."

Fantastic array of after school clubs

Katrien and Ben believe the after school clubs offer excellent opportunities. "The school attracts a lot of outside providers which is nice. They have Indian dance, cooking, film, sports clubs, music clubs, arts club - there really is something for every child."

Katrien adds: "As a working parent, the opportunity for Leon and Oona to attend these clubs and the enjoyment they get from them is crucial to our family."

Children say:

Louis: "I've enjoyed making things as a way of learning."

Leo: "School dinners are really nice at Colman Junior School!"



"The school attracts a lot of outside providers which is nice. They have Indian dance, cooking, film, sports clubs, music clubs, arts club - there really is something for every child"

Clubs

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

- Art
- Choir
- Computers
- Cookery
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Cycle Training
- Dance
- Film Club
- Football
- Homework Club
- Korfball
- Library
- Maths
- Orchestra
- Recorder
- Sailing
- Short Tennis
- Sign Language
- Wildlife Garde.



David and Caroline believe Colman Junior School is providing a positive learning experience which is encouraging independence and confidence in their children

David and Caroline Houghton live in Norwich with their children Isaac, eleven, in Year 6 and twins Tallulah and Reuben, eight in Year 3.

So many good thing

Colman Junior School is not David and Caroline's local school but they knew parents with children already there and had heard very good things. After visiting they felt reassured it was the right school to support their family. "We saw so many of the good things that we were looking for; a calm, organised atmosphere with a good retention of staff and a positive ethos. We've not been disappointed," says David.

Positive leadership

He adds: "We've been impressed with the leadership. The Headteacher is very genuine and approachable." For David and Caroline, the leadership at Colman Junior School is something they consider a particular strength. "These are qualities you always hope for and we have been very happy to see that they have continued throughout the Head's time in the role."

Developing confidence and pride

"The School has thoroughly supported and respected our wishes about placing the twins in separate classes right from the beginning. We believe this is encouraging a strong sense of autonomy," explains David.

David adds: "Isaac's become a real leader. He's been chosen to show people around the school and act as an ambassador which has been great for his self-esteem. He represents the school in sport and he thrives academically. He's very comfortable at the school and it shows in his confidence."

Rewarding hard work and achievement

"They're very good at praising children. This has definitely helped my children to feel proud of their achievements and it has certainly contributed to Isaac's increased confidence."

To mark individual achievements, children are rewarded with star awards and house points. "Staff will highlight successes in assemblies, which I think really helps to develop a sense of achievement and confidence," adds David.

Time with the Headteacher

A star shaped badge is given to mark children receiving a number of stars and special one off achievements are honoured with a 'superstar award'. Children are then invited for afternoon tea and cake with Mrs Sandford, the Headteacher, for 'Superstar Friday'. "Tallulah and Reuben absolutely loved this experience and felt very grown up! It's a great way of rewarding their efforts but there's also a certain expectation on how to behave in this situation which I think is really good for them."

Children say:

Isaac says: "I like Colman Junior School because the teachers are friendly, the children are very friendly and you feel like you can't fail."

Tallulah says: "When you're in the classroom you feel like you're in a family!"

Reuben says: "My favourite thing about school is the rewards. They give you house points, star awards and Superstar Fridays!"



“Staff will highlight successes in assemblies, which I think really helps to develop a sense of achievement and confidence”

Admissions

At any time during the school year, we are delighted to see parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our school. If you would like to visit us, please contact the school office to arrange this.

Applications

All admissions to our school are dealt with by Norfolk County Council. Further details can be found on their website:

Web: http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Childrens_services/Schools/School_admissions/index.#

Tel: 0344 800 8020

Email: admissions@norfolk.gov.uk



Colman Schools' Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

We are very grateful to have an active PTA who organise a range of fund-raising and social activities. Fund-raising has allowed us to buy ipads, a mini bus and musical instruments that we could not afford from school funds. If you are interested in finding out more about the PTA please check the PTA page on our website or contact the school office.

Volunteers

We welcome parent volunteers to help in school with various activities such as supporting trips and visits. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office.

Governorship

The Governing Body consists of parents, teachers and representatives from the local community and local government. 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 and make a vital contribution to our school and community, please contact the school office.

Jo is a Parent Governor

Jo and Richard Phillips live in Norwich with their three daughters, Eleanor, nine, Lotte, seven and Jess, four. Eleanor is in Year 5 and attended Colman Infant School before starting at Colman Junior School two years ago.

Safe and secure

Choosing Colman Junior School felt like a natural progression for Jo and Richard after Eleanor had such a positive experience at Colman Infant School. However according to Jo, Eleanor initially found the change a struggle, missing the familiarity of her old school and teachers. "Eleanor doesn't always find change easy," says Jo. "She would get quite anxious during that first year at Junior School. There was also a change in Headteacher, which meant more changing faces at school. It was then that I decided to become a Parent Governor and get more involved. It took some time for Eleanor to feel comfortable in her new environment but I am very grateful to the new Headteacher who has definitely been instrumental in helping Eleanor feel more settled and secure and now she is blossoming."

Strong leadership and teamwork

In her role as Parent Governor, Jo has witnessed strong leadership from the Headteacher. "There have been a lot of very positive changes in the last 18 months and all the staff seem to be pulling together to make them work. It's clear how much the staff care about the progress of the school and its pupils," says Jo.

Parental involvement

As a Parent Governor, Jo has enjoyed learning about the 'bigger picture' of how the school works. "It's been very reassuring to see how dedicated the staff and leadership team are and how hard they're working to benefit the children," she says. "For example, there is a now a very strong writing culture in the school and it was interesting to see how that change was brought about and the impact it's having."



Jo is a Parent Governor



All children are STARS at Colman Junior School



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