



# Wootey Junior School

Always Seek the Challenge



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



# Welcome to Wootey Junior School

## Mr Tim O'Brien, Headteacher, says:

Everyone at Wootey Junior School is very proud of our school.

Our key aim is for all our children to develop a positive and dedicated attitude to their learning where they strive to improve on their personal best. We are always ambitious for the children, and this is conveyed in our school slogan, 'Always seek the challenge'.

### Nurture, Challenge and Innovate

The school's ambition statement defines the school's aims under three key words. These are: Nurture, Challenge and Innovate.

### Caring, skilled staff

Our caring and skilled staff offer an inclusive education for all the children. We aim to nurture them to be independent, responsible and resilient. We also want our children to extend friendship, respect and kindness to all who they meet. The school's strong behaviour policy and simple golden rules of 'Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful' help us to achieve this.

### Aspiration

Everyone at the school works hard to ensure that all the children are challenged to have the skills needed to read, write, calculate with numbers and to use computer technology. We want to develop our children to consistently aspire to improve and to be committed, productive and willing to try new experiences when they learn.

### Aspire to achieve

Wootey Juniors is alive with excitement and enthusiastic learners. There is a great atmosphere of hard work and energy for learning each day. We believe that our aims are evident in all that we do and aspire to achieve.

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

Wootey Junior School Teachers plan many opportunities for the children to learn alongside children from Wootey Infant School, with which the Junior School shares a site. Examples are regular sessions with their buddy classes and shared activities e.g. Easter Bonnet Parade, Christmas performances and Christmas and Summer Fayres. Children in Year 2 also do cooking and phonics lessons. These shared activities develop the infant children's confidence and familiarity with our 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.

### Parent partnership

We strongly believe that education is a shared partnership between school and home. We encourage parents to become fully involved in their children's learning. An extensive transition programme has been designed to support and settle children joining us in Year 3.

Teachers are available every day after school at the school gate. We encourage parents to speak with their class teacher regularly. On request, staff can also phone parents after the school day finishes.



## Jensen and Elsie have been encouraged to fulfil their potential at Wootey Infant and Junior Schools



Nicola and Todd live near Wootey with their children, Nicola's daughter, Elsie, aged 21, Jensen, aged 9, and Elsie, aged 7.

### Happy at school

Nicola and Todd regularly recommend Wootey Infant and Junior Schools to other families because they are so pleased with the experiences their younger two children are currently having in the Juniors. Nicola says: "Wootey is a fantastic school with a lovely outdoor play area set in beautiful grounds and both Jensen and Elsie are always happy to go there every day."

### Good choice

Nicola herself attended Wootey Infant and Wootey Juniors, and her husband, Todd, attended the Juniors, after moving to live in the area. Older sister Ellie, attended both the Infants and the Juniors and went on to do very well at secondary school. Nicola says: "I always knew Wootey was a good school because of our own experiences. There are plenty of other schools in this area we could have chosen. But we wanted Jensen to go to Wootey Infant because it is in a lovely setting and we knew there was plenty of open space for him to play in, which would suit him."

### Fun outdoors

Jensen started in Reception when he was four years old. "He settled in and adapted to the school well, even though he had attended a nursery elsewhere because Wootey didn't have a nursery at the time, Nicola says. "The Reception area is fantastic for young children because it is separate from the rest of the school and has its own playground, although the children can play on the fields as well.

Jensen had a smooth transition into school and loved playing and learning outdoors."

### Supportive staff

By Year 1, it had been identified that Jensen was behind with his reading and had additional needs. "Because he was an August baby, he was young in the year, but the staff in the Infants were great and recognised that he needed support and he was given additional help with his reading."

### Caring SENCO

Jensen has now been diagnosed with dyspraxia, which is also known as developmental coordination disorder. Nicola says: "In the Juniors, the teachers quickly realised he was behind with his learning and organised extra help for him. The SENCO was incredible and got on with it quickly and Jensen noticeably benefited from extra support. We are very grateful for all the care he has received."

### Reading time

"The teachers arranged for Jensen to be taught as one of a small group and for him to have more one-to-one reading time. The staff also helped him with his emotional wellbeing and his sensory needs. They just seem to 'get him' as a person and have worked with us as a team to help him," Nicola says.

### Next step

"Jensen tries very hard at everything and won't give in and he has done fantastically well in Wootey Juniors," she says. "Now he is in Year 5, he is looking forward to going to a mainstream secondary school. We are confident he will get plenty of help from staff at Wootey with his transition, and we are grateful the staff have also been supportive to us."

### Enjoying art

Elsie is currently thriving in Wootey Juniors, having also had a lovely experience in the Infants, Nicola says. "She is now doing well at everything and particularly loves arts and crafts at school. Elsie has made lots of friends and enjoys singing in the school choir and playing football at school. I am pleased my nephew is going to keep up the family tradition by starting in the nursery soon, so that he can also have lovely experiences in the Infant and Junior schools."

### Children say

Jensen says: "I love all the different topics we learn about."

Elsie says: "I just love everything about school."



# School day: settling in

## What are our school times?

The school doors open at 8:45am in the morning. Our school day is from 8.50am until 3.15pm.

## Breakfast Club

The 'Early Bird' Breakfast club is at the Junior School each morning from 7.45am to 8.50am at a cost of £3.75 per session.

The club is open to Infant and Junior children. The club provides children with the opportunity to socialise, play and eat together. Breakfast choices are cereals, toast and fruit with a drink.

If your child needs after school care, the Infant school provide an after school club from 3:15pm to 6:00pm at a cost £13.50 a session. Staff at the Junior school will take children to the club when the school day finishes so that they arrive safely.

## Uniform

We strongly believe that wearing school uniform helps children feel a sense of pride, identity and community spirit. Our school colour is navy blue.

## Food in school

Education Catering provide our healthy hot dinners. 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 friends 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

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if the family is in receipt of certain benefits. Please ask at the school office for advice.



# Henry, William and Alexander are all flourishing in the caring environment of Wootey Infant and Junior Schools



Lisa and Richard live near Wootey with their sons, Henry, aged 10, William, aged 7, and Alexander, aged 4.

## Making progress

Lisa and Richard are delighted their three sons are all thriving and happy at Wootey Infant and Junior schools. Lisa says: "Henry is excelling in the Juniors having been given a great start with his education by Wootey Infants, and William and Alexander are both progressing well in the Infants."

## United schools

Lisa says they chose Wootey Infant School for Henry because they liked the Infant and Junior schools being on the same site and the two schools having a close relationship. "The schools are very united and do a lot of things together, which is great for the children."

## Kind staff

The couple loved the open space behind the school, which they thought was fantastic for the children to be able to run around and learn in, and were impressed when they went to look round and found everyone friendly and welcoming. "The staff were lovely and spent time talking to Henry in both schools, because they obviously thought it was important to get to know him," Lisa says.

## Good start

Great care was taken with Henry's transition to school by the staff. "They visited Henry both at home and at his nursery to get to know him and read him a story when they came to our house. With the settling in sessions as well, the whole process was flawless and Henry settled brilliantly," she says.

## Moving up

"Henry enjoyed being outside in the school grounds, both playing and learning outdoors. He liked the variety of topics they studied and made good academic progress. The school's communication with parents was excellent. We could contact them if we had concerns and they would get in touch if they wanted to tell us anything. Both schools put in a lot of effort when Henry made the transition to the Juniors, where he continues to flourish. The transition from Infant to Junior can be daunting, but the Juniors ensured the children felt happy and were ready to start, by putting in place an extensive transition programme."

## Engaging interest

Lisa says William was given the same careful help with making the transition from his nursery to Wootey Infant School. "He was a very different child from Henry and the staff made the effort to get to know him and find out what he liked and what would engage him. Throughout his time in the Infants, the staff have been aware he enjoys hands on learning and being outdoors. They have taken time to speak to us about his interests and have adapted his learning accordingly to ensure it engages him. William has always enjoyed being outside and has benefited from the school's excellent grounds. What they did for him has worked well and he is now doing brilliantly in Year 2."

## Loving learning

Alexander is now having a great time in Reception, Lisa says. "He is amazing us with the progress he is making. He loves going to Wootey Infants and talks enthusiastically about school when he comes home. He enjoys Maths and is fascinated with numbers and phonics. He is always counting at home and applying it to everything in his daily life."

## Making friends

Lisa and Richard are pleased Wootey Infants and Juniors are diverse and welcoming communities. Lisa says: "All our children love learning and enjoy school. Henry has a group of close friends in the Juniors, William loves being around his friends and looks forward to playing with them at playtimes, and Alexander comes home talking enthusiastically about the other children in his class."

## Children say

Henry says: "I love the nice teachers and the clubs we can do."

William says: "I love playing with my friends and using the iPads."

Alexander says: "I love everything!"



# Curriculum: ‘always seek the challenge’

## A step beyond

The national curriculum provides children with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens. The national curriculum, however, is just one element in the education of every child in our school. There is time and space in the school day and in each week, term and year to reach beyond the national curriculum specifications.

### Focus on the child and the community

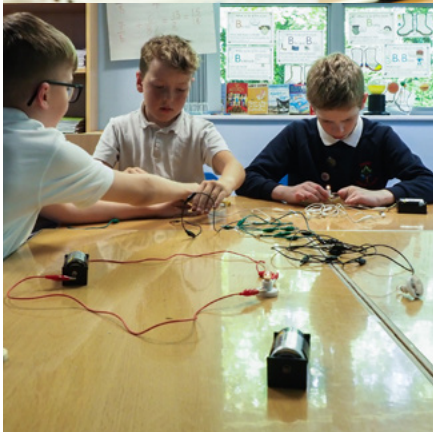
Our curriculum reflects what our children and community need, and we have designed our curriculum to focus on these needs. We are always ambitious for our children, and this is conveyed in our school slogan; ‘Always seek the challenge’.

## Communication and Reading is the Key

Everyone at the school works hard to ensure that all our children are challenged to have the age-related skills and knowledge needed to read, write and calculate with numbers. Developing rich vocabulary throughout the curriculum gives children the words they need to appreciate and participate in the world around them. A love of Reading is also essential. The school follows the Read, Write Inc programme. This is also used at Wootey Infant School so many of our children can seamlessly continue their phonics journey with familiar resources and teaching approaches. Throughout the year we also encourage children to love books through our Love Library events, library competitions, visiting authors and World Book day celebrations.

## SEND

Great care is taken to identify and support children who have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age. We cater for a wide range of Special Educational Needs and abilities, communicating with parents and health care professionals to ensure children are fully supported. We have an experienced SENCO and highly skilled staff who are confident in facilitating learning for children with autism, dyslexia, speech and language difficulty and social emotional mental health. There are small rooms and bespoke spaces for children who need to learn adjacent to their classroom. The Butterfly room is also a peaceful space at the heart of our school for children to talk to our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). Many of our staff are trained in cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) for children. The school also has a Play Therapist and Art Therapist.



# Enrichment

## Challenge

There are some children who are capable of learning knowledge and concepts at greater depth. The school has a proud track record of challenging children to higher standards. This is achieved in every lesson through our tailored lesson success criteria. Children, who are capable, are always encouraged to extend and apply their learning through a range of extended tasks. Teachers can facilitate children to start tasks earlier than others so that they can develop independence. Teachers also provide small group guidance and bespoke homework to enhance learning.

## Outdoor learning

As a school we are very passionate about children learning outdoors. Our children take part in ‘Trailblazer’ lessons which is a local authority scheme aimed at encouraging children to learn more about their local environment and how to preserve it. Where possible, we try to teach lessons from across the curriculum in meaningful ways outdoors. We believe this enhances children's learning experience and improves their health. Many of our lessons are taught in our beautiful outdoor classroom and extensive woodland grounds.

## Wider Curriculum

There are activities, places and events that we strongly believe all children should have experienced by the time they leave primary school. Children need experiences that enable them to understand key cultural references and to feel part of the broader narrative of living in this country. These experiences are also fundamental to the emotional and spiritual development of the child. All our children will visit these locations which are within 50 miles of Alton:

- London Houses of Parliament
- Winchester Cathedral
- Butser Farm
- West Wittering Beach

Each year group also plans separate educational visits linked to our curriculum. These sometimes include visits to our two local secondary schools, Amery Hill and Eggars.

## Clubs

We are proud to offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities every day (before, during and after school). We have been awarded the Sainsburys Gold Kite mark for our games provision. The clubs we offer are extensive and include:

- Multi-Sports.
- Cricket.
- Football.
- Choir.
- Gardening.
- Homework.

### Experience

Our curriculum has ‘Big Ideas’ that go beyond the content of the national curriculum. For example, we believe children need to learn about saving our planet, changes to technology such artificial intelligence (AI) and developing interpersonal skills to work with different people. These many ideas translate into exciting projects and experiences for our children such as nature walking, coding design and team building days.

## Daily Mile

All our children are encouraged to run for 15 minutes a day as part of a challenge called the ‘Daily Mile’. There are huge health and well-being benefits to children exercising regularly outside in the fresh air. On one day a week each year group is given additional time after the morning break to run laps around the outside of our large playground. The laps are then recorded and prizes are awarded at the end of the term for children with the most laps or for those who have improved. We also have a special end of term fun run around the outside of the Wootey campus.

## Sport and P.E.

Our aim is for children to participate regularly in physical activity and competitive sport. Through sport we want them to understand teamwork, fairness and respect. We aim for children to develop physical confidence and know the value of exercise as a benefit to their health. Our curriculum for physical education aims to ensure that all children:

- Develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities.
- Are physically active for sustained periods of time.
- Engage in competitive sports and activities.
- Lead healthy lives.

The school works with CM Sports who are a local sports coaching company. Their specialist sports coaches help us to deliver our P.E. curriculum and after school club provision.

## Music

Our curriculum for Music aims to ensure all children listen to and perform a range of musical instruments. These include percussion, recorder, ukulele, glockenspiel and xylophone. Our children have a singing assembly every week and all participate in end of year productions to showcase their talents. The school's choir is extremely popular and they perform at different events including this year at the O2 in London.

Our school can facilitate the specific tuition of a musical instrument through visiting peripatetic teachers. These lessons are optional and are paid for by parents. Lessons can be organised and taught by Hampshire Music Service or if a child wishes to learn more contemporary music, we can organise lessons with Irock. They teach children guitar, drums and keyboards for the purpose of playing in a band.



# 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](http://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions)

The Castle

Winchester

SO23 8UJ

## Getting involved

### Parents at Wootey Schools (PAWS)

Wootey Infant and Junior Schools have a proud tradition of successful fund-raising carried out by the hard work of parents who form the Parent Teacher Association. Over the years these volunteers have devoted much of their spare time to raise funds for the school through a series of fun activities and events that have involved the whole community, including discos, fairs and cake sales.

If you have a skill to contribute or a little time to spare, even if it is only occasionally, please get in touch via the school office. PAWS would love to hear from you.

### Volunteer Readers

Parents and other family members are welcomed into school to listen to the children reading. This is tremendously rewarding. Please contact the school office to discuss the opportunities and training we can provide. All volunteers are also asked to complete an application form and DBS check.

### Governors

The Governors at Wootey Junior School are committed to school improvement. They 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. The governing body are always eagerly seeking new governors to help the school drive forward in the future. You do not need to have a knowledge or experience of education as full training is provided. All that is required is an interest and passion to help our school, staff and children succeed. If you are interested or would like more information about the role, please contact the school office to arrange an informal chat with Kelly Worthington-Mahmood, Chairs of Governors.



**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 Junior School

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