



The Oaks

Community Primary School

Striving for Excellence

Welcome to The Oaks Community Primary School

Ipswich Primary Academies Trust

We are a member of Ipswich Primary Academies Trust. Initially centred in Ipswich, the Trust is a group of Suffolk schools aiming to make a real difference to education in our local area. Bringing together our skills and expertise, as well as learning from the best practice nationwide, our vision is to create a hub of outstanding practice in teaching and learning, and provide real opportunities for children in Suffolk...that help them to achieve the best outcomes possible!

Foreword:

**Philip Palmer and
Jeremy Pentreath say...**

It is with great pride that we welcome you to our wonderful school. A school where many exciting learning opportunities are awaiting your children.

Friendly atmosphere

Visitors frequently comment on the warm and friendly atmosphere, the superb behaviour and the lovely manners of our children. We are not only a learning environment but a community that works as a team. A team which we hope you and your child will be proud to be a part of.

Innovative curriculum

We want all our children to excel in the subjects they love; to be inspired by our rich and innovative curriculum and take advantage of the wonderful opportunities open to them. To support our children in accomplishing this, we provide specialist teaching in many areas, including PE, IT music and Spanish.

Dedicated staff

We are also very proud of our highly experienced and dedicated staff, who work hard to ensure the highest possible academic standards for your children. By promoting positive attitudes, we can move forward with confidence, preparing our pupils for their future lives in and out of school. They are an integral part of your child's learning journey.

Quality education

Our school is thriving and successful, and we hope that you share our sense of pride as you browse through the pages of this prospectus. By working together we can provide the quality of education that you expect and your child deserves.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! Our vision is to be part of a strong school community where we celebrate the relationships and contributions of staff, parents, governors and children as a whole school community. This is evident through extra-curricular activities, Friends of The Oaks events and our parent partnerships during the school day.

Enjoying learning

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 home to involve you in every step of your child's time here... and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

We would urge you to visit our amazing school. We are truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff that listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask us a question, please email admin@theoaksprimary.co.uk. Or call the school office on 01473 684994.

School day



The school gates open for the start of the school day at 8.30am. School finishes at 2.50pm.

Morning sessions in nursery start at 8.30am and finish at 11.30am and afternoon sessions start at 12.15pm and finish at 3.15pm.



Wraparound clubs

Breakfast Club

We have a Breakfast Club which runs from 7.45am each morning. This facility provides a really good start to the day for those parents who have difficulty in balancing home and work arrangements.

After School Club

Acorns is our After School Club which is run by our existing support staff who all hold current First Aid and Safeguarding certificates. Acorns is open from 2.50pm until 5.45pm.

Uniform

We expect to see all children in a school uniform. This ensures the children look smart, which in turn, encourages them to take pride in their school and approach learning in the right frame of mind. A school uniform helps promote a sense of belonging and community. School uniform, PE kit, swimming hats and book bags can be purchased from the school office.

School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of either a hot nutritious meal from the on-site kitchen,

cold buffet options, or bringing a packed lunch into school. Free school meals are available for Reception and Key Stage 1 children, and to those older children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits.

Break-time and drinks

Under the Fruit in School scheme children are entitled to a piece of fruit each day in KS1 free of charge. This is given as a playtime snack. Water is available throughout the day. Milk is provided to children in Nursery and Reception up to 5 years of age.

Emily believes The Oaks Primary School offers a holistic approach to education in an environment which creates confident children

The Oaks Primary School was not Emily and Adam's catchment school but they chose it for their boys because they liked the whole package. "The Oaks offers a lot of space and the building is new and modern. What really stood out for us was that it was a school that was warm, friendly and welcoming."

Education and more

One of Emily's favourite things about the school is the approach they take with the children. "The teachers make you feel very welcome in school and you get a sense that all of the staff really care about the children, can relate to them and are interested in their whole lives, not just their education. Nothing ever feels too much trouble."

Approachable and understanding staff

Emily had some concerns that Ben may be dyslexic and approached the school for guidance. "We had a good discussion and they were very understanding and helpful with arranging a dyslexia assessment. Ben's reading is above average and his comprehension is very good, but he has more difficulties with spelling. Having the test done was reassuring and Ben's not dyslexic, but I feel the school is supporting him very well with booster sessions and I know he receives lots of encouragement."

Rewarding hard work and achievements

According to Emily, The Oaks are very good at marking children's hard work and achievements. "The children receive awards in weekly assemblies in front of the other pupils for any individual hard work and achievements, which they really enjoy."

"There is also a really good incentive scheme where the children are given raffle tickets for the things they achieve throughout the school day, for example, if they complete a particularly good piece of work or answer a question correctly. At the end of the week a ticket is drawn for a prize. Obviously the more tickets they have in the pot, the more chance they have of winning and I know this works well at motivating the children."

Excellent opportunities

Emily likes how the school offers extracurricular activities and opportunities which cater to so many different individual interests and strengths. "Ben has recently participated in a choral speaking competition at the Sudbury Arts Festival which was a great experience for him. The school is very good at encouraging public speaking performances throughout the different school years, and I think it's a really important life skill for the future. Even though my children are quite different in terms of their personalities, they have both done so much, that public speaking

feels normal to them. I think that can only be a positive thing for their futures."

Enriching experiences

Not only does the school do lots to build confidence in the children, they offer wide ranging activities and trips to enhance learning and confidence outside of the school setting. "A variety of trips take place to encourage learning and to make it more fun and interesting. The Natural History Museum and Dinosaur Land have been particular favourites in our family and I think they're a great way of enhancing the curriculum and the children's learning experience, as well as teaching them to be independent and to feel confident away from home."

"There are also regular opportunities for the children to win tickets to Ipswich Town Football Club, which they think is really exciting."

A school preparing children for their future

Emily adds: "The Oaks Primary School is friendly, warm and welcoming with approachable staff who actively listen to, and value, both children and their parents. We believe The Oaks Primary School is helping our boys grow into confident, self-assured children; and as well as providing a good education, it's also teaching them important life skills in preparation for the next steps in their education."



Children say:

Both Oliver and Ben say, "We really like our school because of how friendly everyone is. The teachers are really nice and we've made some great friends."

Emily Collison lives in Ipswich with her partner Adam Bradshaw and their children, Benjamin, 10 in Year 5 and Oliver, 7 in Year 2.

Curriculum



As a staff, we plan together, to ensure that we are offering a balanced curriculum. Our first objective is to ensure that your child will be happy in coming to school in order to learn effectively. The teachers assess your child's needs and match work to their stage of development.

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

- Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5
- Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7
- Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Nursery/Reception

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

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

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education
- Modern Foreign Languages.

Behaviour and self-development



Confident and independent learners

We have high expectations of the children academically, socially and emotionally. We expect children to behave well and work hard within a supportive framework, which will help them to develop skills at the right level and as a foundation for their future lives.

'Having a go'

We help the children to become confident and independent learners by talking to them about how they learn, creating a culture of 'having a go' and by encouraging their participation in setting their own targets.



School rules and rewards

We have a few school rules, which are made clear to all the children and referred to in class and in assemblies etc. We have a positive behaviour management code and good behaviour is encouraged, recognised and rewarded. Good effort and achievements are rewarded publicly. Our rules are:

- we listen to each other
- we walk in school
- we follow instructions
- we help each other to learn
- we keep our hands and feet to ourselves
- we keep our school clean and tidy
- we treat each other with respect.



Enriched curriculum: trips and visits



Trips

To further enrich our curriculum, all children are offered a range of visits which are connected with work in the classroom. We make visits locally and further afield and invite visitors into school from the wider community. Previous trips have included:

- Natural History Museum
- Colchester Zoo
- Sealife, Great Yarmouth
- Dinosaur Land
- Kidzania, London

Residential

Older children have the opportunity to go on residential trips during the school year. These experiences can help to develop qualities of self-reliance and tolerance of others. Children learn independence and develop confidence. Visits are generally financed through family contributions though many families have been successful in applying for grants from the Northgate Foundation. The cost may be spread over the school year.

Visitors

We arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists, musicians etc

Colin believes The Oaks is providing excellent pastoral care and education as well as teaching children the importance of an active lifestyle

No reason to choose any other school

The Oaks Primary School was the catchment school when it came to choosing a school for Lermæ. It seemed the obvious choice being close to home and convenient. Now that both of Colin's daughters have been through The Oaks, he saw no reason to choose any other school for Jervel. "It's a school that has the best interests of the children at heart. They always look for new ways of teaching and innovative approaches to education and I really like that ethos."

Valuable support

There are many strengths to The Oaks for Colin but he is particularly grateful to them for their ongoing support. His partner, Deborah, sadly passed away in 2009 and Lermæ and Lonarra received support through the school's Sunshine Group, a nurturing group, which Colin feels is a valuable asset. "It offers much needed support for families who have suffered loss or are experiencing difficulties. It gave our girls the opportunity of speaking to someone outside of the family. I think it really helped them to understand how they were feeling and to talk about those emotions."

Promoting sports and an active lifestyle

The support available at The Oaks is definitely a key strength for Colin, but he is also impressed

with the school's renewed focus on healthy living and the way they encourage children to participate in an active lifestyle. "Since becoming an Academy there's a real focus on developing sports. They have a dedicated member of staff who is doing a great job of coordinating and promoting sport. It's very clear the school feels there's a strong connection between an active lifestyle and its ability to assist learning."

Creating an early love of keeping fit

All of Colin's children are enthusiastic about sports and he believes school played a role in igniting their passion. "Jervel gets a lot of enjoyment from the sporting opportunities available. The sports clubs are incredibly popular but the school tries to ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to participate. There's a real variety of sports and other clubs available, so there's something for everyone to enjoy.

"My girls' love of sport certainly started at The Oaks. I think it's a really positive ethos to have within a school and I'm pleased to see a focus on promoting healthy living in children at this young age."

Rewards and incentives for good attendance

to provide an incentive, children are rewarded with a council sports pass for the local sports centres. "The children love receiving rewards and I think this is a great

way of encouraging attendance at school, an active lifestyle and a love of sport."

Creating positive community links

Since becoming an Academy, Colin has also been impressed with how the school has created positive links within the community by introducing a community room. "The after school club is held here but it's also used for different activities and social events involving parents, which is a nice idea. It's good to see a link between school and the community rather than them remaining separate. It's like one big family."



Children say:

Jervel says: "I really like my teachers at The Oaks. They're friendly, approachable and really good at making lessons enjoyable!"

Bringing the best education to children

Colin adds: "I think The Oaks Primary School is an excellent school which is always searching for ways to better the children's educational experiences.

"They've certainly helped to support me and I am extremely proud of my children. They're polite, kind and caring young people - values the school encourages in all of their children. I am very grateful to them for all that they have done for our family."



Lonarra, Suffolk Quadkids Athlete of the Year in 2014

Colin Youngs lives in Ipswich with his three children, Lermæ 16, Lonarra, 13 and Jervel, eight in Year 3.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



At The Oaks we are proud of our diverse community and are committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination and racism. Our school roll includes children with Special Educational Needs.

Special Educational Needs

Many children at some point in their education have a special educational need. This may be temporary due to a bereavement, divorce or illness or longer term with a specific learning difficulty or physical disability. It may also be a behavioural difficulty or a child being withdrawn.

Identification and Assessment

We try to ensure that any special physical, emotional or intellectual needs of the child are identified as early as possible. Children are assessed in a variety of ways when they join the school and can be supported individually or in small groups by support staff. If necessary, professional guidance is sought from other agencies such as Speech Therapy, School Health or an Educational Psychologist. Parents are involved at every stage. Above all, we want to raise the self-esteem of all our children and give them the skills to enjoy life in and out of school.

Family Support and 'Sunshine Group'

Some children require additional support because of other difficulties they may be experiencing, for example, difficulties at home or the loss of a loved one. Our Pupil and Family Support Practitioners are always available to meet with pupils and parents to discuss concerns. Our 'Sunshine Group' supports children who may need additional support.

Access

The school building has no stairs and is fully accessible. Disabled toilet and changing facilities are available.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs. Opportunities are sought for such pupils to meet and work with similarly gifted pupils in the area.

Kharis believes that the dedication, commitment and the support of teachers at The Oaks Primary School is to thank for her son's progress

Supportive of additional needs

Kharis and John Lee chose The Oaks Primary School after moving house in February 2015. "I'd heard a lot of good reviews about the staff and the facilities at the school and I was told that they deal with underlying health problems very well, which was important for me as Tarran has some additional needs with his learning, so they were the key factors in choosing The Oaks Primary School."

An understanding approach

Kharis had noticed that Tarran seemed to be struggling to understand different aspects of his learning and that his speech and language weren't where they should be. "I'd raised my concerns at his old school but never felt supported. The Oaks has taken a very different approach for which we're very grateful. Tarran has been referred for assessments and had speech and language therapy and very good support from his teacher; we've noticed a real difference in Tarran as a result of the support he has received."

Working together

Staff arranged for an Educational Psychologist to visit the school, as well as a speech and language therapist. "Initially, the speech and language therapist felt there was nothing really concerning and discharged Tarran, but teachers at The Oaks pushed for another

assessment, because for us, who see him every day, it's very obvious things aren't right. I've really appreciated the school's support and I've felt it's been about working together."

Dedicated Support

Kharis has been impressed with the level of individual support Tarran has received and the resulting progress he has made. "The school has put in place one-to-one speech therapy a few times a week and an extra teaching assistant in his classroom who works with Tarran, if needed. He's not able to absorb and memorise information aurally and finds it much easier to learn things if he has visual cues, so they've used picture cards within his lessons to support his learning."

Feeling included

Kharis believes this has all helped Tarran to feel included in class and like he can participate, which in turn has helped him socially. "The other children appreciate he has some additional learning needs and don't exclude him because of these. Thanks to the support he is receiving, he feels able to participate in lessons which has been important for growing his self-esteem and confidence."

Each child is an individual

Elissa is one of the youngest in her year group. "She's also immature for her age," explains Kharis, "so she's

finding the transition into school life a little more challenging, but the teachers are very good at nurturing her and managing her emotions. I think one of the key strengths of the school is the ability of the staff to treat each child as an individual. They're very talented at their job and genuinely want the best for each child."

Somewhere children want to be

Nevaeh, according to Kharis, is thriving in The Oaks' environment. "She's always done well at school, but she's very content here. She finds the lessons fun and exciting and has a good social circle. The Oaks is somewhere she wants to be and I think the friendly, welcoming, approachable attitude of the staff really contributes to this."

Children say:

Nevaeh says: "My teachers are great and the work is really interesting."

Tarran says: "I love the school because the teachers are so kind."

Elissa says: "My favourite thing about school is my teacher."

Kharis and John Lee Sheppard live in Ipswich with their children, Myah-Leigh, 12, Nevaeh-Jean, 8 in Year 4, Tarran-John, six, Year 2, Elissa-Karis, five, Year 1 and, Persia-Faith, one.



Clubs



There are a wide variety of lunchtime and afterschool clubs for children to enjoy. Recent examples include:

- Football
- Chess
- Rap Club
- Choir
- Performing Poetry
- Hip Hop
- Computer Club
- Recorder
- Playmaker Award
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Cookery
- Netball
- Robot Programming
- Basketball
- Yoga
- Guitar
- Athletics
- Gardening

Sport

Our aim with PE and sport at The Oaks is to provide opportunities for physical learning for all pupils. We want all of our pupils to be happy and healthy and enjoy physical activity. As a school 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. Equal time is given to the development of gymnastics, games and dance skills.

Music and Performing Arts

We encourage our children to express themselves artistically and have a thriving music and performing arts department.

All pupils have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and are encouraged to participate in choral singing and instructed groups. The school has a good range of high quality musical instruments. Public performance is encouraged, with pupils performing regularly at the Suffolk Festival of Performing Arts and the Sudbury Festival. Pupils also perform in theatrical performances on a regular basis.

Anna believes attending The Oaks Primary School is what makes her children love learning

Anna and Jarek Chmielewski live in Ipswich with their children Roksana, 10 in Year 5, Oliver, 7 in Year 2 and Nathan, one.

A school to love

When Ann and Jarek moved to their house in Ipswich, The Oaks Primary School was their catchment school. "My children have been at The Oaks for over six years now. Roksana started in Nursery and I can honestly say it's a brilliant school! We absolutely love it!"

Many reasons to love The Oaks

For Roksana, there are a number of things that make The Oaks the brilliant school it is, but there are two things that stand out the most; the wonderful, happy learning environment it provides, the children and the excellent teaching team. "It's a friendly school with a really nice, warm, happy atmosphere and the teaching team are brilliant. They value the children and have an ability to make the lessons fun and enjoyable, which means the children enjoy their learning."

Dedicated teachers

The family are from Poland and English is not their first language. When Roksana first started at The Oaks she was not able to speak any English. Anna believes the time teachers dedicated to helping Roksana learn English when she first started in Nursery is what has really helped her to both settle at school and to progress well. "They worked incredibly hard with Roksana and spent a lot of time interacting with her on a one-to-one basis. Within a very short amount of time, we noticed Roksana's English was developing really well. They're a dedicated team who

work very hard with the children and really want them to do the best that they can."

First class teaching

"I think the teaching throughout the school is first class. My children are both progressing very well. We've seen some excellent progress in Maths and English with both Roksana and Oliver and we think the subjects are taught very well at The Oaks; there are also good opportunities for the children to learn other languages, which I really like.

"Roksana in particular, is hungry to learn and I feel the school is very good at feeding that enthusiasm. She receives extra exercises in maths and English to help challenge and stretch her. We certainly feel she is pushed to reach her potential and I believe the regular extra challenges are something she really enjoys. The teaching team seem to be doing a brilliant job of keeping her enthusiasm for learning alive!"

A love of school

When you send your children to school, there is nothing more reassuring than knowing that they are happy and feel safe and secure within their learning environment. "My children really love going to school, which I think says a lot about The Oaks. They speak very positively about their teachers at the end of the day and they have strong relationships with them and with their friends. It's somewhere they wake up on a morning and they want to go! As a mum, that's very reassuring."

I recommend The Oaks

Anna adds: "We think The Oaks Primary School is a brilliant school! I have never heard my children say that they do not want to go to school and that tells me that they are settled, happy and content there. I really can say only positive things about it and I would recommend it to anyone!"



Children say:

Roksana says: "I love The Oaks for many reasons. We have a lot of opportunities to learn, like new methods in class and we get to go on lots of trips. My most favourite thing about school is my teacher and my friends.

Oliver says: "I like school because we have fun challenges. English and Maths are fun and my teacher is amazing!"

Admissions



Admission to nursery

If you would like your child to attend our Nursery please complete an application form available from reception. You may register your child for a place after their second birthday.



14

Admission into reception

Children are admitted into Reception in the September following their fourth birthday. You will need to register and apply for a place for your child. Please note that a place in our nursery does not automatically entitle you to a place in one of our reception classes. You must make a separate application for a place in our reception class.

Admission into other year groups

If you are considering The Oaks for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit to the school. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment where we will be very happy to show around our school.

Applications

Please ask about applications at the school office. Forms can be downloaded via the Suffolk County Council website. Entry to Reception will need to be made directly to the Local Authority.

Tel: 0345 600 0981

Email: admissions@suffolk.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/applying-for-a-school-place/>

Getting involved



Friends of The Oaks (FTO)

We have an active FTO, which raises additional funds for the children. Every parent is automatically a member of Friends of The Oaks, the function of which is to develop closer links between the parents, teachers and local community and to provide financial support towards educational resources and equipment. The events that are organised vary from year to year.

Do you want to join the FTO?

We welcome any ideas for fundraising and encourage parents and carers to share these with us. Information about meetings are shared with parents, and you can find more information on the school website. Please come and share your talents with our school!

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 reading with our children, helping children to choose a library

book, sewing, cooking, and acting as extra pairs of hands on educational visits. We accept all help gratefully. All volunteers must have a DBS check before they commence work in school. The school is able to apply for a DBS for volunteers. Please speak to the office for further information.

Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes parent governors as well as representatives from staff and the local community. The governing body has a range of duties and powers and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to

promoting high standards of educational achievement including setting targets for pupil achievement, managing the school's finances, making sure the curriculum is broadly based, appointing staff and reviewing staff performance and pay.

Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Our Parent Governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office.

15



At The Oaks we are Striving for Excellence...

... in our achievements

So that all children at The Oaks make good or outstanding progress while they are at the school.

... as learners

We are self-motivated, curious and tenacious with the confidence to 'have a go' and never give up.

... as families and a community

We provide a welcoming environment and share responsibility with families to develop and support our community.

... in our relationships with others

We have consistently high expectations of and care for, each other. We are polite, tolerant and respectful at all times.

... as staff and governors

We share collective responsibility for every learner and are united in our enthusiasm for learning.

... in our lives

We have high aspirations for ourselves and others, remaining positive in times of challenge and taking pride in each other's successes. We want to be the best we can be.



Striving for Excellence

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Any member of our office staff is happy to help you with any queries or questions you may have or direct you to the relevant member of staff.

Headteachers:
Mr P Palmer
Mr J Pentreath

Mrs Gentry - School Secretary
Mrs Parker - Headteachers' PA
Mrs Warrie - Business Manager

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