



# Oakfield Community Primary School

*Where learning, laughter, challenge and community responsibility are encouraged and celebrated!*





# Welcome to Oakfield Community Primary School

## Foreword:

**Garry Ratcliffe, Executive Headteacher, says...**

I am incredibly proud to be the Executive Head of Oakfield, having been here since the newly amalgamated school opened in September 2008. Since then, we have grown together and gone from strength to strength, federating with Temple Hill Community Primary School in September 2012 to form The Galaxy Federation. With state of the art facilities, dedicated leadership and amazingly talented teachers, I am confident that any and every child would thrive in our school.

## Parent and Carer Partnership

As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. The Galaxy Federation is currently working towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA), which is a national award that aims for outstanding parental partnership. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

## Get in touch

The staff and governors of Oakfield Community Primary School are very proud of our children and our school. We hope that you will enjoy exploring the school website, but nothing will be as good as paying us a visit! Please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to see how wonderful our school is. To make an appointment please email: [office@oakfield.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@oakfield.kent.sch.uk) or call 01322 220831.



Robert and Rebecca are both **thriving** in the **comfortable environment** of Oakfield Community Primary School

**Lisa and Arlind Cana live in west Dartford with their ten-year-old twins, Robert and Rebecca.**

## Welcoming atmosphere

"I thought Oakfield was a brilliant school from day one," says Lisa. "It wasn't the nearest school to our home but we had come back to live in Britain after being abroad and had to take what we were offered," Lisa says. "I had a good feeling about the school as soon as we went in during the summer holidays to familiarise the children with it. The head teacher and a lot of the staff were there that day and were really welcoming."

## Enjoying learning

Lisa says Oakfield encourage the children to enjoy learning by providing a nice mix of written work with fun activities and trips to reinforce what they have been taught. "The staff have recognised that Rebecca is good at Literacy and have given Robert support in areas where he needs it and so they both like going to school. Robert recently said to me: 'The school week goes by so quickly.' That means he is focusing, engaged and interested in what he is doing. The twins are also interested in the different topics they study each term. Topic work gives the school chance to teach in different ways, with some written work, some practical tasks and some trips out."

## Varied activities

Oakfield help working parents by putting on a breakfast club and an after school club at a very reasonable cost which wrap around the school day. They also put on a range of activities for children to participate in after school, such as sports, chess and dancing. "The school is a modern, bright environment for the children to work in and the teachers make the classrooms look attractive by putting plenty of work on the walls," Lisa says.

## Talents spotted

Rebecca's talent as a dancer has been recognised and encouraged by the school and she was invited to take part in a gifted and talented dance programme. Robert is keen on sport and was invited to participate in a gifted and talented event for football. "I am pleased the school take the time to find out what the children are good at," Lisa says.

## Caring staff

"All the teachers, TAs and office staff can't do enough for either the children or the parents," Lisa says. "Robert recently went on a trip and was apprehensive about staying away from home but we encouraged him to go because we thought he would enjoy it. The staff did everything they could to make him feel comfortable while he was away and also texted us with updates which was reassuring."

## Staying in touch

The school are good at communicating with parents and the staff are very accessible. Lisa says: "If you have any concerns you can talk to someone straight away or email them if you can't go into school. They will also communicate everything parents need to know by either parentmail, facebook, email or texting. They ask how you would like to be communicated with to make it as straight forward as possible for you to be kept up to date."

## Children say

Robert says: "I like it that the school has a football team."

Rebecca says: "The teachers are really nice and make learning fun as well as educational."



# School day



## School day

School and nursery are open from 8.30am to 3.30pm.

### Wraparound care

Breakfast club operates during term time between 7.30am and 8.30am. Children are able to enjoy some quiet time and a healthy breakfast before the school day begins.

Run by school staff, The Hideout is an after-school care club, which runs from 3:15pm to 6pm every day. Children can have a healthy light meal before they leave.

### Uniform

A simple 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 can be obtained by contacting the school office or by consulting our Parent Handbook.

### School meals and snacks

Principals Catering provides hot and healthy meals for the school, with vegetarian options. Children may bring a packed lunch if they wish. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

### Break-time and drinks

A range of options are available for all pupils to receive free or paid for milk and fruit, depending on the age of the child. The office will be pleased to provide further information. Fresh drinking water is available all day at school and pupils are encouraged to purchase a water bottle to keep in school for use during the day.



After **seven successful years** Sue and Andy are **delighted** how well their four sons have done at Oakfield Community Primary School

**Sue and Andy Nicklin live just outside Dartford with their four sons, Jamie, aged 12, Adam, aged 11, Scott, aged eight and Ryan, aged four.**

### Starting school

Sue and Andy enjoy telling other parents how satisfied they have been with Oakfield and what a good job the school has done with their boys. Sue says: "I admit I wasn't happy when Jamie was allocated a place there seven years ago but I am delighted to have been proved wrong. I think it was the best thing that could have happened and I know he has had the best primary education possible."

### Good experience

Jamie is now doing well in Year Seven at Dartford Grammar School. Sue says: "He started in reception and went on to have an amazing seven years at Oakfield where he learnt so much. He met authors, famous sportsmen, an astronaut, went on trips and had brilliant teachers, who got him interested in subjects he wasn't keen on initially, such as history and art. Oakfield encourage children to work hard and give them experience of a variety of sports and extra curricular activities. Jamie went on to become head boy and school football captain."

### Sporting chances

Adam, who is now 11, is in Year Six. Sue says: "He has also had an amazing time at the school and we are sad it is coming to an end but he is looking forward to starting at Dartford Grammar School in September. He is very sporty and has taken part in netball, cricket, rugby, football, athletics and cross country. Oakfield follow the international primary curriculum which suits the boys and Adam is enthusiastic about learning and inspired by the teachers. He enjoys all areas of school life and is proud to be a prefect."

### Football training

Scott, aged eight, is now in Year Three. Sue says: "He is very academic, strong minded and knows what he likes. He particularly loves

Maths and football. Oakfield have allowed him and one of his friends to train with the school football team. It has made him feel great to be able to train with the older boys. He really enjoys going to school and you never see Scott without a smile on his face."

### Nursery preparation

Ryan, aged four, is in the nursery and goes into the reception class in September. Sue says: "I have been very impressed with the nursery and wished my other children could have gone there. The staff are fantastic and really understand the children. I like the discipline because they teach the children the difference between right and wrong. It's a wonderful setting for the children and the best start to school life."

### Excellent staff

"Oakfield have supported my sons in everything they have done. It is the staff that make the school so fantastic, not just the teachers, but the leadership team and admin staff as well. You can speak to any of them if you are worried about anything. Even though Jamie has left, people still ask how he is getting on, including teachers that never taught him," Sue says.

### Children say

Jamie says: "I had a great time at Oakfield. I miss the school and the teachers."

Adam says: "I will be sorry to leave Oakfield, it has been good fun and I've learnt lots."

Scott says: "I love going to Oakfield and training with the football team."

Ryan says: "I enjoy going to nursery and playing with my teachers and friends."



# Curriculum



## Curriculum

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 and 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

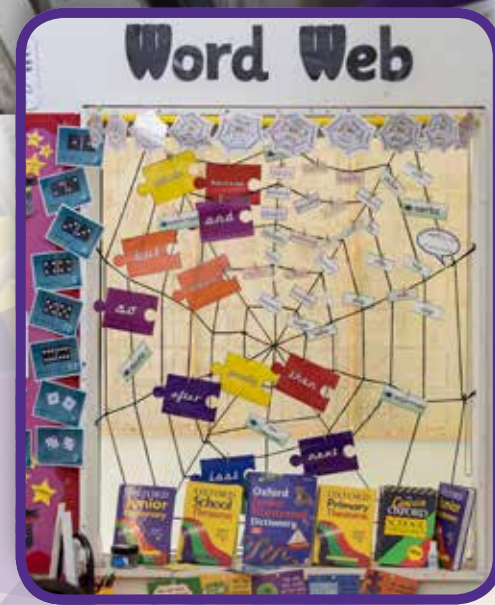
Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Design Technology
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Latin
- Art
- Music

- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- British Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.

### Outdoor Learning

We have a dedicated Outdoor Learning teacher (Forest School Qualified) who works across the school to promote alternative ways of learning for all pupils. Additionally, the teacher focuses on specific pupils who find conventional classroom learning a challenge. You will often see a group of enthusiastic pupils learning in our school teepee or in the surrounding outside area.



# Extended curriculum: trips and visitors



## Extended curriculum: trips and visitors

### Trips

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities. Recent educational trips have included:

- Houses of Parliament
- A trip to Barcelona
- The Royal Observatory
- Dartford Council Chamber
- Godstone Farm
- Kent Life.

### Visitors

We aim to provide an "experience" - that being a school trip or an in-school visitor for every child, every term (6 times per year). Each July, we also plan a full and varied curriculum enrichment week for the whole school based around one topic. Previous years have seen the school take part in Carnival, World Cup and Music Festival weeks.





# Behaviour and Self Development



## Behaviour and Self Development

### Beyond the classroom

At Oakfield Community Primary School children will not only learn to read, write and use numbers, but they will be encouraged to develop interests that go beyond the classroom. They will learn to solve problems and work independently and collaboratively. It is our aim for every child that leaves Oakfield to be fully equipped to access secondary education and beyond.

### Green To Go Behaviour Strategy

Staff are committed to creating a safe, happy and secure learning environment for all pupils, who follow our Green To Go Behaviour Strategy, which includes:

- Speaking politely
- Keeping hands and feet to yourself
- Taking turns and sharing
- Doing as they have been asked straight way
- Being kind and friendly to others
- Using equipment appropriately and carefully



### School News

There are plenty of ways we help parents and carers to keep up to date with school news. A regularly added-to website, Facebook page, as well as a weekly online and paper newsletter are some of the main ways we share school news with parents, carers and the wider community.

### Communicating with parents

#### Your child's achievements

Parent consultation meetings are held regularly, but we hope that parents will feel free to visit the school at any time to discuss their child's progress. If teachers are unavailable when parents call, they will always make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

- Moving carefully around the school
- Always trying their best
- Listening to others.



Leigh and Daniel are **delighted** with the way their two daughters are **progressing** at Oakfield Community Primary School

**Leigh and Daniel Santamaria live at New Ash Green with their daughters, Carmen, aged six, and Stella, aged four.**

### Supportive staff

Carmen and Stella have both made rapid progress since joining Oakfield Community Primary School last November. Leigh says: "Staff at the school have given both girls excellent support. Carmen is now reading and writing well and Stella has learnt her alphabet, whereas at their previous school they weren't learning very quickly."

### Specialist provision

Carmen has autism and is now in the ASD unit at Oakfield. Leigh said: "She had been a friendly, happy child but while she was at her previous school she became withdrawn. When I picked her up in the afternoons she would be staring vacantly and not communicating and she wasn't able to tell me what was wrong."

### Change of school

Eventually she came home from school one day and became distraught. Leigh said: "She finally managed to articulate what was wrong and told us that she tried hard at school but couldn't learn because she kept forgetting things." Leigh and Daniel tried to get Carmen into a school with a special ASD unit but found it was oversubscribed. Then they heard Oakfield were going to open an ASD unit and rang to put Carmen's name on the waiting list. Leigh said: "We were told it was up and running and had two children already in there and that they could take her. I went to look round the school and from the moment I saw it I knew it was the right place for the girls. We contacted the council immediately to say we wanted places for both children. It was the best thing we have ever done."

### Building confidence

Now happily settled at Oakfield, Carmen is much more confident in her ability to learn. Leigh says: "She tries hard and is doing very

well. After just one month I went to pick her up and she said she was enjoying herself so much she didn't want to go home. From just writing squiggles she is now writing well and she has made quick progress with her reading from not being able to read at all. By the time she had been at the school four months she was getting full marks for her spelling tests."

### Careful planning

Leigh thinks Oakfield have been successful with Carmen because they have drawn up a detailed plan for her education. "They have mapped out all the areas where she struggles and needs one to one help. They have scheduled times for her to go into her link class to integrate her with other children in the school and they are trying to improve her social skills. A specialist speech and language therapist has observed Carmen with her teachers and has said they are doing everything they should be doing with her so we are confident that she is now in the right hands."

### Learning quickly

Carmen's younger sister Stella has an August birthday and is one of the youngest in the year. Leigh says: "She was not doing well at her old school and when she started at Oakfield she knew only a few letters in the alphabet. But after she joined the school her new teacher assessed her and has given her the right support. She has been quickly brought up to speed. Within six weeks she knew the entire alphabet. We are amazed by how quickly she is learning."

### Children say

Carmen says: "I love my new school."

Stella says: "I like seeing my friends at Oakfield."



# Inclusion: a curriculum for all



## Inclusion

### Inclusion manager

The school has an Inclusion Manager and an Inclusion Assistant who coordinate the provision for those children in school with special educational needs. In liaison with a range of outside professionals, parents and teachers the Inclusion Manager ensures that children receive the support they require to make progress and achieve their best.

### Access

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

### 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.



Nicholas has grown in **confidence** in the **friendly atmosphere** of Oakfield Community Primary School

**Nicholas Grey, who is in Year Six, lives with his parents just outside Dartford.**

### Helpful staff

The Grey family are full of admiration for the staff at Oakfield who have gone out of their way to accommodate Nicholas's specific requirements. Mr Grey says: "They have all been absolutely incredible and have made an amazing amount of adaptations to the school routine to help him since he started at Oakfield at the age of seven."

### Ensuring inclusion

Nicholas has special needs as a consequence of a genetic condition. His father says: "As a result of this he has had to have a below knee amputation of his right leg and now gets around in a wheelchair. This has obviously caused the school to have to make adjustments and they have done lots of things to enable him to be included in the everyday life of the school."

### School trips

Staff at Oakfield have adapted the curriculum so that Nicholas can be included in everything. "For example, in PE his class play rounders and they ensure that Nicholas can take part in his power wheelchair," Mr Grey says. "They have also done a lot to enable him to go on school trips. At one point they were considering transporting him separately but then they managed to find a coach that he was able to access so that he could travel with the other children and did not feel left out."

### Polite pupils

Nicholas enjoys mixing with the other children and has made a lot of friends. Mr Grey says: "I have been very impressed with the behaviour of the other children at the school towards Nicholas. They are a polite and courteous bunch of children who see Nicholas as just another pupil and don't want to leave him out of anything. He has made some good friends at the school."

### Enjoying learning

Nicholas's parents feel there is a good balance between the academic and pastoral side at Oakfield. "Although Nicholas has had to miss school a lot because of his medical needs he is doing well academically. He is at least average in most subjects and above average in some. He is very keen on Science and is looking forward to doing more science in secondary school. He likes topic work because they do some really good projects and make the work interesting for the children. He enjoys building models for his topic work," Mr Grey says.

### Coping well

Mr and Mrs Grey admire the way staff at Oakfield take everything in their stride "We've noticed that the staff are good at coping with things. They show they are confident about what they do and they keep calm. They have always been certain that they can cope with Nicholas and the teaching assistants who look after Nicholas are really good with him. It is reassuring for us to know that he is in safe hands and that nothing is too much trouble for the staff," Mr Grey says.

### Highly recommended

The Greys would definitely recommend Oakfield to other parents. "Nicholas has had a great experience during his time there. The school want the best for all the children who go there so other parents can be confident that the staff will do their utmost to cater for their child's needs," Mr Grey says.

### Children say

Nicholas says: "I like being at school with all my friends."



# Clubs



## Clubs

### Advanced Status

At Oakfield Community Primary School we are very proud to have been awarded "Advanced Status" for Extended Services, as we are one of only a handful of schools that have achieved this award across the county. We offer an extensive range of out of school learning opportunities across the week. Clubs may include:

- Environment
- Football

- Performing arts
- Photography
- Homework club
- Construction
- Film club

### Sport

As well as following the Physical Education programme of work as set out in the National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for your children to enjoy extracurricular sport and team games.

### Competitive sport

We take part in a range of competitions and we especially encourage all pupils to experience competition at a school, federation, town or district level.



Julia has progressed in **leaps and bounds** with the help of the **excellent teaching** at Oakfield Community Primary School

**Anna Kasprzak and her partner, Robert, live with Anna's daughter Julia Wlizio, aged eight.**

### Starting school life

Julia has made rapid progress since she started at Oakfield thanks to all the help and attention she has received from staff at the school. Her Mum, Anna, says: "Julia started in Year Two at Oakfield after we had just moved to England and it was her first experience of school. In the area of Poland where we had been living the children used to start school much later than they do in England so she had not experienced school life before. But she has now had almost two years at the school and likes going there very much."

### Communication problems

Anna remembers Julia was nervous about starting school but that she settled in remarkably quickly. "It was difficult for her to begin with as she did not speak any English and so she was scared of going at first. But from the very first day she liked the school even though she had not experienced going to school before and couldn't communicate with anyone," she says.

### Individual attention

Julia was not as advanced as most of the other children even though she had joined in Year Two. "She had to start right from the beginning educationally. She didn't know how to read and write and she didn't know how to count. She started with no English at all but she began to learn it really quickly. I was pleased that everyone was very kind to her. I was surprised how good the school was and how kind and helpful the teachers were to her. They gave her individual attention which I know helped her a lot. She has liked all her teachers so far and I was pleased that they did everything they could for her," Anna says.

### Enjoying activities

"Julia's progress has been quite amazing, she has come on tremendously well since starting at Oakfield. Her English is still not perfect but she has come a long way in the last two years. She particularly enjoys English and Maths lessons and likes going to the after school clubs. She really liked the film club and the dancing class. She starts a new club each term and I can tell that she enjoys trying out new things. She also likes her PE lessons and going swimming and she has made friends with lots of the other children at the school," Anna says.

### Happy at school

"I am pleased that the teachers think Julia is achieving well now and that she obviously likes going to school and spending time there. The buildings are modern and smart and the school has excellent facilities. It is a wonderful environment for the children to learn in. The children are encouraged to spend plenty of time outdoors, not just to play but to learn things as well," Anna says.

### Open door for parents

"The atmosphere at the school is very friendly and the staff are always welcoming to the parents. You are made to feel you can go in and discuss things with the staff if you need to and that they are prepared to listen to what you say," Anna says.

### Children say

Julia says: "I love my school, I think it is just perfect!"



## Admissions

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our nursery or school are invited to visit and look around at any time. Children start Oakfield Community Primary School in the autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

## Applications

Applications for school places in Years One to Six as well as Nursery can be made directly to the school by calling 01322 220831 or by emailing [office@oakfield.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@oakfield.kent.sch.uk). For a Reception class place, admissions are coordinated by Kent County Council. Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) for further details.



## Getting involved

### Parental Involvement

Parents play a vital role in raising much needed funds for the pupils through the Oakfield Parent Association (OPA). Having recently been re-established, a small group of parents, big on enthusiasm and commitment run a series of events throughout the year which provide another source of fun for our Oakfield families.

#### *Do you want to join the OPA?*

If you are interested in joining the Oakfield Parent Association please contact the school office for further information or email: [oakfieldpa@gmail.com](mailto:oakfieldpa@gmail.com)

### Voluntary helpers

Many parents give practical help in school, working with a particular teacher and class, performing a variety of jobs such as listening to the children read or helping them with craft work etc. If you would like to help in school then please get in touch with the class teacher or the school office in order for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS – formerly known as CRB) check to be completed.

### Governorship

The role of the governing body is central to the effectiveness of a school. School governors want to make a positive contribution to children's education and provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools.

#### *Do you want to be a Governor?*

Parent governors must have a child at the school at the time they are elected. When vacancies arise all parents are invited to express an interest in standing and an election will be held in which all parents of pupils in the school have a vote.





