



Respect, Responsibility, Hope, Courage





'We will deliver inspirational teaching within a creative curriculum with high academic standards and will build strength of character through our core Christian values'.

Having proudly served the local community of Brabourne in Kent since the 19th century, we aspire to bring out the best in every child. We recognise that preparing a child for a happy and successful life is not just about giving them a great academic grounding but also about supporting them as they learn about themselves, their motivations, their ability to interact with others and so many other key life skills.

Every child is different and every school is different. When you choose a school, you want to find the right fit for your children. In this prospectus, we've tried to give you the best picture of what makes Brabourne special so you can decide whether we're right for you and your family.

We're a small rural school, able to treat every child as an individual and bring out the best in them. We're proud of an excellent record of academic results with more than half our school leavers going on to grammar schools. But we know there's more to a good education than academic results. We want every child to discover the joy of learning for the sake of learning, the confidence that comes from discovering their own strengths, the resilience that builds on overcoming set-backs, the creativity that leads from space to problem solve and the ability to work with others. As a Church of England school, we recognise the importance of challenging each child to develop their own set of beliefs and values as well as developing an understanding of those of other people and religions.

We're proud of an extremely strong teaching team ably led by headteacher Vincent Chan and including 'Kent Primary School Teacher of the Year 2015' Andrew Stapley. Our 2016 parent survey showed that 100% of parents agreed that their children were well looked after, well taught and felt safe at school. All parents also agreed that the school responds well to any concerns they raise and every respondent would recommend the school to other parents. The overwhelming love parents feel for the school came through from comments such as 'The complete nurture of the pupil and child is evident' and 'The atmosphere is friendly and like a family. All children are valued and the school teaches a broad range of subjects in interesting and engaging ways. The teachers are friendly and always willing to listen and help'.

We also care what pupils think so we conduct a pupil survey yearly. In 2016 100% of pupils agreed the school helped them improve their learning whilst 97% agreed that they usually enjoyed school, found lessons interesting, were treated fairly and felt safe. One of our 2016 house captains said:







'I have only been at Brabourne for just over a year, but ever since I joined, I have gained so much confidence thanks to the teachers. At my old school I got bullied and lost my confidence - I couldn't concentrate properly because I was worried. When I first came to Brabourne, I didn't know anyone, but now I have lots of friends. We do many fun activities at Brabourne and have great school trips. The teachers here are very supportive and always listen to you. They always have fun, creative ideas that you can learn from. I think coming to Brabourne was the best decision I could have made.'

It's not only teachers, parents and pupils who recognise the value of the school. Ofsted inspectors have consistently rated the school as good and the last inspection included quotes such as:

<sup>66</sup>Pupils, including the most able, make good progress in mathematics because they are given many opportunities to explore different solutions Leaders, including governors, have high ambitions for pupils achieving well and mentor the quality of teaching regularly... Pupils are very polite and caring. Throughout the school, there is a very

inclusive environment where older pupils

look after the younger ones.

I feel so lucky to have moved to Brabourne and discovered this gem of a school. My children, like all the pupils, are challenged and stimulated. I hear daily tales of activities and discussions from school just this year my six year old has helped a real life police officer investigate a fairy tale crime scene, my eight year old has been supported in writing to Lego with a project design proposal and my ten year old has returned home explaining the history of apartheid, the benefits of Fair Trade products and with plans to join the first mission to Mars in 2027. I am proud to be the current Chair of Governors and will continue to support and challenge the school in every way I can.

Set in the heart of the countryside, our rural location means we have a very wide catchment area so wherever you live, we're worth considering – we currently have pupils from as far afield as Ashford, Hythe and Canterbury. If you're interested in finding out more about Brabourne School after reading this prospectus please contact us – we'd love to meet you and let you find out more about the school we value so much.





Hester Fenwick Chair of Governors



We want our children to be happy, to feel safe, to make friends, to enjoy each day and essentially, we want them to learn.

Academic success is important to us. Every child is different with different abilities and different needs but we aim to help all children reach their potential

To do so, we expect all our teachers to be excellent and our support staff of teaching assistants and ancillary staff to be of similarly high calibre, and all to be dedicated to bringing out the best in our children.

We are proud of the results our children achieve at the end of each year. We have high expectations and we regularly attain well above nationally expected levels and, on average, half of our Year Six pupils move onto grammar schools which is twice the 25% allocated by the local authority.

We make learning stimulating and engaging. I have walked into a classroom that has been transformed into Narnia (with snow on the ground) during a literacy lesson; or a classroom that has been cordoned off with police tape by a (real) police officer where it has become a crime scene investigation for the science lesson. Sometimes, I find a classroom empty because the whole class is outside learning from the beautiful local environment. Yet there are also times when I can hear a pin drop as children are at their desks, heads down and concentrating on their studies.







### 2015 performance:

#### 2015 Key Stage 2 results – Level 4+

	Brabourne School	National average
Reading	100%	89%
Writing	100%	87%
Maths	93%	87%
Combined RWM	93%	80%



We cater for all pupils' individual needs and in a mixed year class; children are able to work with others either in the same year group or the younger/older year group to support those who need it and challenge those who are excelling.

You can be assured that no matter what level your child is academically, we will use all our professional expertise to support and challenge them to reach their full potential, and in a small school like ours, where everyone knows each other so well, your child's individual needs and abilities will not be missed.

Vincent Chan Headteacher





They are warmly welcomed into a class size of just 15 and have a full time teacher and teaching assistant to support them in their learning. This small class size means that group sizes can be smaller and children have more opportunity for one to one learning.

Brabourne follows the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) curriculum which holds at its heart the principle that young children need to learn through play. We will ensure that your child will have fun-filled days in which they can make friends and to begin to learn and understand about the world around them. All children are curious and we strive to fuel this curiosity and help children along their own personal road through wonder and amazement to reach their discovery.

To do this effectively children will play and learn creatively across the seven areas of the EYFS curriculum:

- Personal, social & emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematical development
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We have a wonderful classroom, just for us, which is bursting with an array of resources to choose and explore. We are also extremely fortunate to have our own exciting outdoor learning space, complete with canopy for use in all weathers. Both learning environments provide ample opportunities daily for children to develop their understanding and independence in each of the above seven areas, from playing co-operatively inside in the role play castle to understanding the science behind water flow outside with the drain pipes, and from reading a story in the rainforest to exploring the texture and feel of superhero slime outside. Each and every child's interests are catered for.

The majority of the day in our EYFS promotes play based learning but carefully interspersed between these sessions are well structured adult-led activities which focus on the teaching of skills, promote the communication between one another and enable children to think together and critically. These sessions will develop children's key skills in Maths and Literacy amongst others, through close interaction







between adults and children in fun and engaging activities. Children are well supported to ensure that they are able to make use of their new learning within play.

We understand that the teaching of reading is vital, it unlocks pathways to a whole new world. So the children have a daily phonics session where reading skills are discretely taught through fun games and activities from sorting the pirates' treasure, popping phoneme bubbles on iPads, or playing as detectives and hunting for the sounds of the week outside. Our children really do love these sessions and enjoy putting what they have learnt into practice throughout the day and testing out their new skills in our one-to-one reading sessions.

There are opportunities throughout the week to develop physical skills in PE – climbing and travelling over the apparatus as well as exploring balance and movement. They will also use small equipment to develop their handling skills such as throwing and catching. We offer children in Reception contemporary technologies including laptops, iPads and an interactive whiteboard.

In Venus class we like to capture children's interests, so topics may change from year to year. Recently we discovered all about our bodies in the topic Ourselves, we have travelled to South Africa and learned about animals living there in our topic The Wonderful World Around Me, and we gained special powers, snazzy costumes and believed anything is possible in our topic Make Believe.

We are very lucky to be able to enjoy a range of school trips, we have learnt about nature in Brockhill Park, met the inhabitants of Port Lympne Zoo and Wingham Wildlife Park and even visited Father Christmas and his reindeer! Experiences inside the school can be just as exciting as outside

visits - every spring we hatch our own eggs within the class and the whole school - pupils, teachers and parents included, eagerly await the arrival of our fluffy friends. Festivals always offer lots of enjoyment and throughout the year we of course get ready for our first short performance for Harvest, learn our songs and actions for our magnificent Nativity Christmas production and celebrate a range of other festivities such as Easter and Mother's Day. We strongly believe in promoting cultural awareness and join in celebrating festivals of others. A light party to celebrate Diwali is a pretty sight and a musical parade followed by a delicious Chinese New Year feast is always a success.

> Susie Winchester Venus Class teacher (Early Years Foundation Stage)

### Our day in Venus Class

Time	Routine
8.40–9.00	Children arrive at school and register
9.05–10.00	Session 1 – Adult directed session and activities
10.00–10.15	Fruit and milk snack
10.15–10.30	Assembly
10.30–10.50	Playtime
10.50–11.05	Session 2 – Phonics
11.05–11.55	Child initiated learning
11.55–12.30	Wash hands and have lunch
12.30–1.15	Lunchtime play
1.15–1.30	Session 3 – Adult directed session
1.30–2.45	Child Initiated Learning (can be a split session with P.E. etc)
2.45–3.05	Story, singing, games
3.05-3.15	Collect things and home time





Children in Mars class are welcomed into a warm, caring environment that supports the learning of each individual child within the class.





As a mixed year group the children are immersed into an exciting curriculum, where they have the rare luxury of having the same teacher and same work space for two years. This unique aspect is a really positive element of being in a mixed year group class.

In September the Year Ones enjoy a transitional period where they regularly visit Venus class for sessions in the afternoon for some child initiated learning. This enables the children to gradually adapt to the new curriculum and the expectations of Year One. Since we share the outside space with Venus class, children in Mars class get to enjoy playing and working in the outside environment, in all weathers!

The children are given indoor and outdoor practical challenges to choose from in the first term, where the Year Ones and Twos can really get to know each other in mixed groups. The open-ended tasks that they fulfil allow them to be creative and show their expertise

in certain areas. ipads are used though out the day for distinct tasks or as a tool for skill practice in Numeracy and Literacy.

Throughout the week the children enjoy a rich and varied combination of lessons. They are organised into ability groups for both Literacy and Numeracy, which means that the more confident in those subjects are challenged and those who need support are given that support. All subjects are approached in a practical way, carefully planned for the year group and following the National Curriculum. We are very mindful to use a creative input which allows for interests of young children and gets a real 'hook' of interest into them.



As well as the core subjects, our Key Stage 1 children get many chances to make music, create artwork and crafts, perform in plays, learn about science, build their PE skills and extend their knowledge of themselves and the world through termly topics. The children work in mixed ability groups too across all subjects, enabling some of the older Year Twos to mentor the Year Ones. This helps both year groups grow in confidence.

The children will be nurtured throughout Key Stage 1 and their progress, both academic and pastoral, will be carefully monitored and encouraged so that by the time they leave us, they will have the confidence and independence to flourish in Key Stage 2.

Lizzy D'Anna Mars Class teacher (Years One and Two)









Over four years, our curriculum builds progressively on our pupils' knowledge and skills, encouraging them to be independent learners with a life-long passion for learning.

Pupils begin their transition to Key Stage 2 in Neptune Class. We believe that a child will learn most successfully through engagement and enjoyment. Our termly topics allow us to tailor our teaching to the pupils' interests and involve them in their learning journey. We aim to immerse our pupils in engaging topics through classroom displays, sensory stimuli, fun and engaging learning activities, trips, visiting speakers and theme days and weeks. Pupils have entered the world of the Pharaohs, reenacted a World War Two evacuation and been transported to Narnia, all without leaving their classrooms!

Our learning activities are carefully planned to engage all children and we endeavour to ensure that pupils are challenged at all levels. Teaching is adapted to the individual pupil's needs: through the use of our teaching staff and teaching assistants, we are able to provide a personalised style of learning. Pupils often work in small groups with an adult, allowing a very focused learning experience.

In Key Stage 2 pupils begin to learn French formally; building on from the exposure they have had to the language in Key Stage 1. Pupils begin to learn more about the structure and grammar of the language, whilst being immersed in the cultures of the countries where it is spoken. Through a rich curriculum, pupils are taught about the importance of their own local community and heritage, whilst at the same time gaining an international perspective and global awareness.

Children in Key Stage 2 enjoy the same level of pastoral care as they do throughout the school. We pride ourselves in providing the children with a happy, caring learning environment where the children can be successful. Good manners, caring for friends and high standards of behaviour are encouraged and rewarded and the older pupils show great care and support to the younger children.



As pupils reach Jupiter Class their learning continues to provide a balance between academic rigour and creative and engaging learning. Skills such as independence and team work are encouraged at all times. Pupils are given increasing responsibility around the school in roles such as House Captain, Sports Captain, taking on day to day school duties and organising sports and whole school events. We encourage all of our pupils to show leadership and pupils are actively encouraged to take the initiative, in tasks such as producing their own school newspaper or fundraising for charity. Pupils in Year Six participate in a residential trip to build on their independence and team building skills.

In Year Six pupils sit the Kent Test in September and SATS examinations in May. As pupils work towards these important examinations, parents are fully supported and advised throughout, through consultation evenings, parents' evenings and interim reports. Our pupils continue, year on year, to exceed the national percentage of children who gain a grammar school place.

We aim to provide all of our pupils with the opportunity to shine and gain new skills. Through sporting and maths competitions, Christmas and leaver's concerts, musical festivals, trips and visits, whole school assemblies, clubs and termly theme weeks, to name but a few, we encourage our pupils to gain confidence and self-esteem at all stages of their learning journey.

By the end of their time at Brabourne School, our goal is to ensure that our pupils leave having fulfilled their potential in all areas of the curriculum; preparing them for the next steps in their lives. It gives us great pleasure to see how far our pupils have travelled in their journey with us, both academically and personally. We endeavour to ensure our pupils leave us with all of the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their future lives and, most importantly, a passion for learning.

Andrew Stapley
Jupiter Class teacher
(Years Five and Six)





# Sports and exercise



Sport and exercise is an important part of the school curriculum and, although winning is a bonus, the priority for Brabourne School is that we are inclusive and that every child at the school is given the opportunity to participate in competitive sport.

Almost all junior pupils have competed against other schools in at least one sport and even some of our infants have taken part in competitions with other schools. The school football and netball teams have regular fixtures against other schools as well as participating in Ashford Small Schools tournaments.

The School has a great track record of success in interschool competitions, punching way above its weight for such a small school. In the past three years we have won and been runners-up in the Ashford Small Schools football and netball tournaments.

Although we are justifiably proud of our achievements in terms of trophies, sport at Brabourne School is not just about

'mainstream' sport. During the last academic year, pupils have had a chance to participate in athletics, swimming, Quicksticks hockey, dodge ball, tennis, cycling, handball and many others.

We are lucky to have a dedicated field next to the school and the highlight of a dry lunchtime is when all pupils can go and play on the grass in acres of space. Pupils are given every opportunity to leave Brabourne School with a love of sport and exercise, which they can take through to Secondary School and onwards into adult life, having learnt to keep healthy, work as a team and, most importantly, having had fun.







All pupils have class music lessons each week led by Richard Dray, a professional musician, in which a variety of instruments are used to show children how to make different sounds, work as a team and learn how music can make them feel and move differently. Lessons also include lots of singing with older pupils able to hold lines of harmony with beautiful results.

Each year all pupils showcase their talents in the class Christmas performances. The shows are fantastically popular and encourage them to show their families their hard-practised singing and acting skills. Each class puts on their own show from a twist on the traditional Nativity from the youngest pupils to a full-on pantomime from the oldest. The Year Six leavers also put on a final performance each year – working together to produce a show of the highest quality to leave the audience in awe of their achievements and regretful of their imminent departure.

A variety of music and performing clubs are offered throughout the year, including recorder, singing and dance clubs. The school also offers private tuition in a variety of instruments including piano, guitar and violin. Over half the pupils have had music lessons in at least one instrument with quite a few playing more than one.

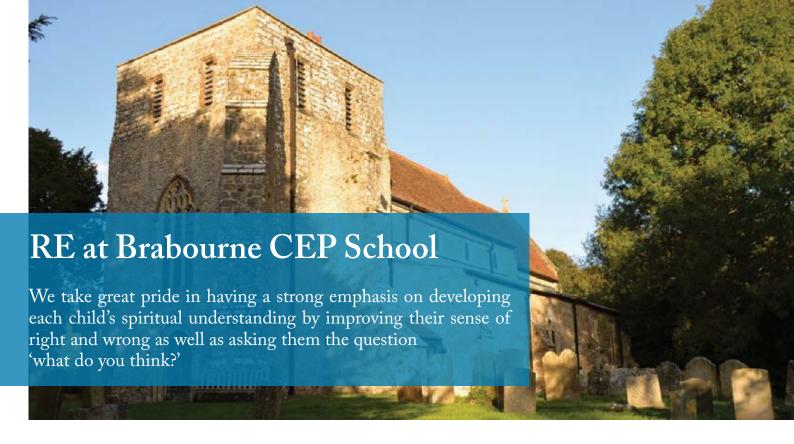
Pupils are encouraged to perform in school assemblies, special end of term services and at the school summer fayre. The school also encourages pupils by holding events such as poetry recital competitions giving all pupils a chance to stand up and perform in front of a supportive audience.

Musicians and performers are also brought in from outside school to allow the children to experience a wider variety of arts. Over that last couple of years children have had workshops in steel drumming, street dance, samba and have had the chance to listen to a variety of professional musicians demonstrate their instruments.

We know that many of our pupils go on to participate actively in school performances at their respective secondary schools and are proud to realise how strong their grounding has been at Brabourne.







As a Church of England Primary School we love having the close links with our local church that develop the children's spiritual journey and help guide them in further life. Our doors are open to families of all faiths and backgrounds, welcoming them to further enrich the school and the children's understanding of our diverse community.

Brabourne CEP School is very much a family, with a huge level of support from the local rural community especially from people linked with the Church. Following the Christian calendar, we hold services at St Mary's in the village itself covering Harvest, Christmas, Easter and a special fond farewell to our Year Six children.

The school follows the Kent Agreed Syllabus using plans from Canterbury Diocese. This ensures that we cover all of the major World religions with a special attention towards Christianity. Teachers aim to keep lessons creative with opportunities for the children to reflect on their beliefs or actions so they can develop their own point of view.

Having the opportunity to develop their own viewpoint is actively encouraged as we are keen to foster thoughtful, caring and responsible individuals. This is why we have four main values which the children are taught from day one; Hope (to think positively and have faith in God's plan); Courage (not to be afraid and to believe in yourself); Responsibility (to think about helping others and be accountable for your own actions); and Respect (treat others as you want to be treated). These are explained through Bible stories and the actions of Jesus as one of our role models. These values penetrate every aspect of the daily routine. They are celebrated in each classroom where children challenge themselves to demonstrate these values in their everyday life and record them at school.

At Brabourne we aim to awaken the children's moral understanding of the world around them; thus giving them the chance to make informed decisions based on Christian values they have encountered in school that will be carried on beyond Year Six.



Neptune Class teacher and RE co-ordinator (Years Three and Four)











Brabourne School is very fortunate to be located at the foot of the North Downs, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and benefits hugely from its rural location – both in and out of the classroom. Within the school grounds, children have access to a large play area including climbing frames, play houses, the Wobbly Wood (a nature area including obstacle course) and, in the warmer months, the large playing field which adjoins the school. There are external classroom facilities adjoining the playground and also in the school's garden, allowing classes to be run in different surroundings. Children of all ages are encouraged to grow their own flowers and vegetables either within the classroom or in the school garden – with some even opting to do it in their own time during after-school gardening club.

In the immediate vicinity of the school, there are also many opportunities for children to experience and learn about nature and the environment. The school has access to wildlife areas on the adjoining farmland for nature trails, with pond dipping being a real favourite amongst the children. At a short walk away, a local farm gives children first-hand experience of poultry breeding, bee keeping, crop management and gives them further opportunities to observe wildlife. In fact, in spring, Reception children become the envy of the school (and parents!) as their class hosts hatching chicks and ducklings from the farm. With the church also being a short walk away, children are led through the fields to attend Harvest Festivals and other services (weather dependent!).



Throughout a child's time at Brabourne School, he/she will benefit from the rural nature of the school on a daily basis both within the classroom and beyond. Brabourne children develop a good understanding of the value, and of the complexities, of our precious environment. They experience first hand the changes in the seasons and the effect that this has on the surrounding flora and fauna. This learning is integral, ensuring that, during their time at the school, Brabourne children develop into well-rounded, responsible individuals.

Emma Keating
Parent Governor







Being a small school Brabourne has an extended family feel to it. The Head, Mr Chan, gives gentle reminders about being a buddy not a bully and the children listen. The older children take pride and responsibility in making sure the reception children settle in comfortably and even adopt one each as their 'mini me'. The little ones know they can approach any of the older children if they feel upset or they've scraped their knee or just to play a game.

When it was time for my other two children to join the school they could not wait! On their first day they bolted through the gates like lightning. I often chat to parents at the gate and we all agree that watching the children hurry into school excitedly is the best feeling. They're safe, cared for and happy.

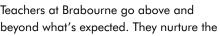
It's not only the children who make friends easily, it's also the parents. We too are like a family and welcome new members with open arms. We want the best for our children, for all the children at Brabourne, as does the Parents Teachers Association. Fund raising events are a chance to have fun and the money the PTA raises is always used in ways which will benefit the children most. Teachers also get involved in PTA events, often offering themselves up for humiliating games at the school fair, much to the children's delight.

Teachers at Brabourne go above and beyond what's expected. They nurture the

children, not only to bring out the best in them academically but socially too. My middle daughter has learning difficulties and the school has done everything in their power to help her grow and improve. She was clearly struggling and instead of pushing her to one side they lifted her up, using information and tools at their disposal to discover what was holding her back. She's now progressing well and is confident, happy and enjoying lessons. At the other end of the spectrum my eldest was encouraged to push harder as she was capable of achieving more. The school works across the board to make sure all academic subjects are being understood, along with being fun to learn and without sacrificing art, creativity and sport.

Brabourne is also a great place to learn about animals and horticulture. Members of the community have opened their micro farms and organised walks to see the lambing. The school visits the local church and children enjoy performing in the services, with Reverend Richard adding a little comedy to his words of wisdom, which always gets a giggle.

I cannot praise Brabourne School enough. It is an outstanding school. I hope you'll join us.







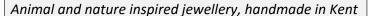
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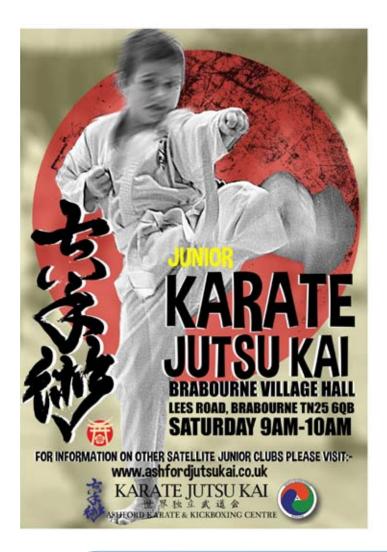
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Happy to be official Brabourne Prospectus photographer





#### **TEAMTHEME KENT**

Teamtheme is a sports education organisation that is passionate about encouraging and increasing children's participation in sporting activities. We run school sports coaching and holiday clubs across Kent.

We are sincere in our belief that an involvement in sporting activities presents an opportunity for all for personal and physical growth.

Aiding our team of brilliant coaching staff is our mascot Titch the Teamtheme Tortoise who, along with his fitness friends Tom and Tilly, help promote and advocate our core sporting principles as well as the benefits of healthy living.



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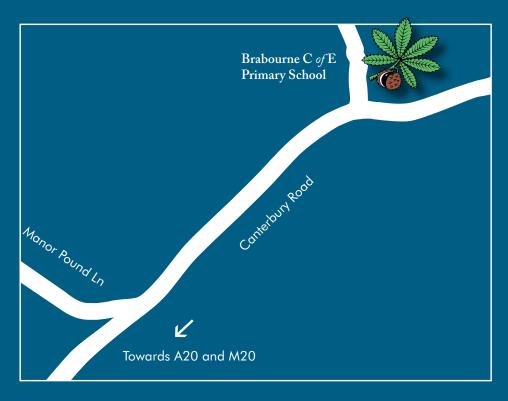
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