



Brabourne

CofE Primary School



Respect, Responsibility, Hope, Courage





Brabourne School

'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 well over half our school leavers going on to grammar schools every year (70% in 2017 and 2018). 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 Andrew Stapley who was Kent Primary School Teacher of the year in 2015 and supported by assistant headteacher Colin Taylor who has recently been awarded Kent Primary School Teacher of the year 2018. They were both recognised for their inspirational teaching style as well as their ability to nurture every individual. Our 2018 parent survey showed that 100% of parents agreed that their children were happy, safe, well looked after, made good progress and taught well. All parents also agreed that the school was well led, 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 'I like that the school is small. I like that the Headteacher has a visible presence morning and afternoon to children and parents. I like how my child's teacher engages with the children. Most of all, I like the fact that my child is happy and





runs into school of a morning glad to be there' and 'Brabourne has retained a family atmosphere. You know that every child really matters to the school as a personality not just a set of targets. The teachers are continually working hard to make the curriculum engaging and different. My children often discuss what they have learnt in class and are keen to find out more.'

We also care what pupils think so we conduct a pupil survey yearly. In 2018, 100% of pupils agreed they enjoyed school, found lessons interesting and felt supported by their teachers. Lots commented on their love of outdoor learning and how friendly and fun school was. They have also given us plenty of improvement ideas to make sure we don't become too complacent – we've been challenged to more trips, better puddings and a butterfly as a pet.

It's not only teachers, parents and pupils who recognise the value of the school. Our recent Ofsted inspector (July 2018) commented:

"Great care is taken to support pupils in every aspect of their lives, both in and out of the school. Consequently, they flourish and love coming to the school."

"You are passionately committed to ensuring that every pupil has something they can be proud of and fantastic in. This vision drives

the ethos of the school and creates a happy, harmonious place where pupils thrive."

"Teachers' expectations and pupils' standards are high in reading, writing and mathematics. Pupils attain well, both in relation to the age-related expectations and to the higher standards."

I feel so lucky to have moved to Brabourne and discovered this gem of a school. All of my own children have flourished in their care and two of them are now at grammar school, carrying with them the confidence and independent thought generated within Brabourne. I am proud to be the current Chair of Governors, supported by a very able and diverse governing body, 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 and may not take as long to reach as you might imagine. 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



Academic achievement

Our curriculum is designed to inspire a love of learning which will stay with our pupils forever.

Academic success is important at Brabourne, but we also value the opportunity to provide our pupils with a richly balanced curriculum, so that every child has the opportunity to be the best they can, wherever life takes them.

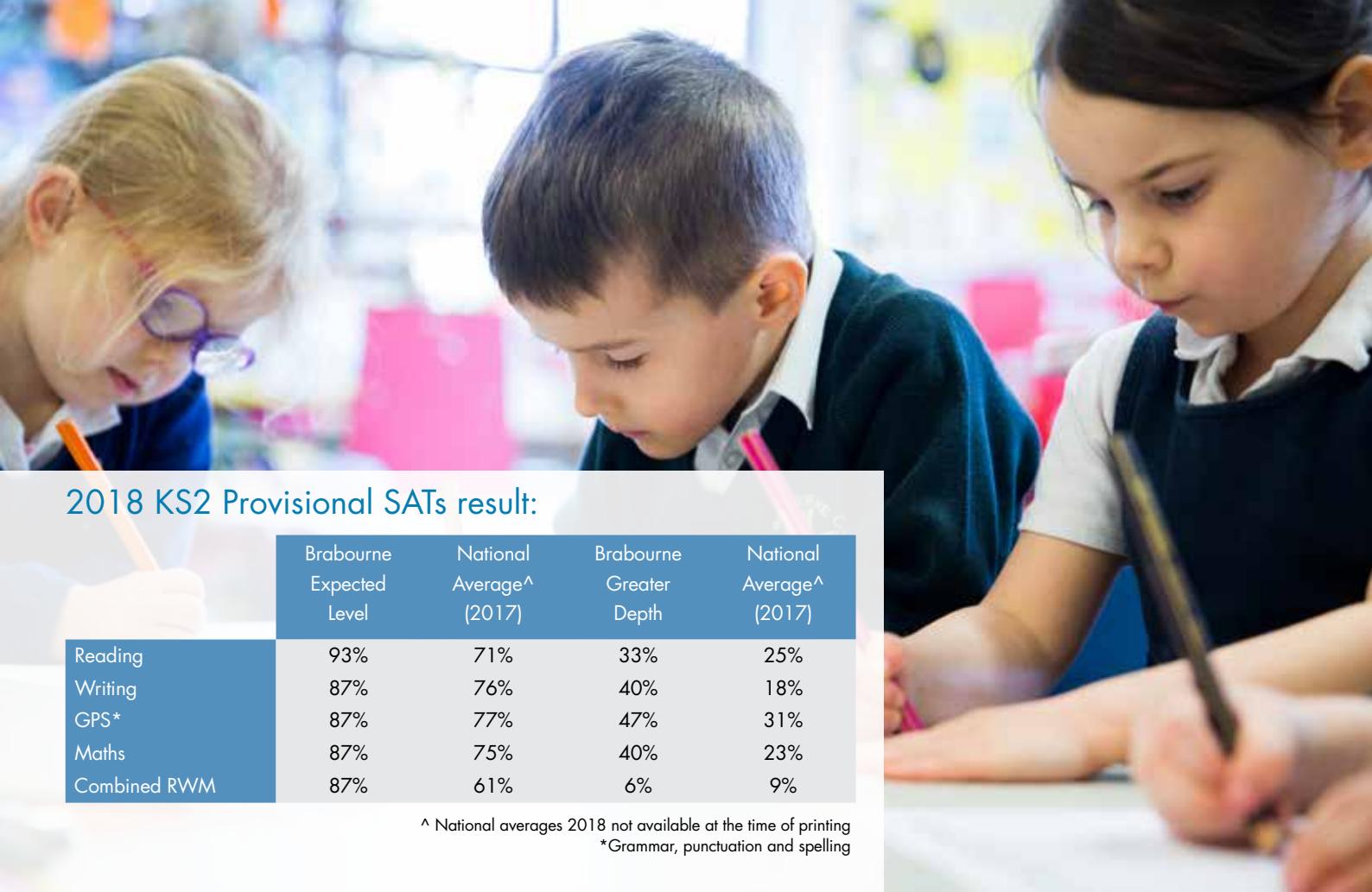
We believe passionately that every pupil should be proud of their talent or skill and that these should be nurtured and celebrated.

Our team of highly qualified and experienced teachers and teaching assistants are dedicated in delivering a vibrant curriculum and providing the highest quality of education. Staff guide and nurture pupils into becoming well-rounded, compassionate individuals

with a strong sense of our school values and help them forge life-long friendships.

We are extremely proud of our pupils' academic success. On average, over half of our Year 6s achieve grammar school places, double the 25% of spaces allocated by the local authority. Our results are regularly above the national and Kent averages and in 2017 our writing results were in the top





2018 KS2 Provisional SATs result:

| | Brabourne Expected Level | National Average [^] (2017) | Brabourne Greater Depth | National Average [^] (2017) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Reading | 93% | 71% | 33% | 25% |
| Writing | 87% | 76% | 40% | 18% |
| GPS* | 87% | 77% | 47% | 31% |
| Maths | 87% | 75% | 40% | 23% |
| Combined RWM | 87% | 61% | 6% | 9% |

[^] National averages 2018 not available at the time of printing

*Grammar, punctuation and spelling

1% of all primary schools in England. Our Year 6 SATS results in 2018 were well above the national average in all subjects at both expected levels and at greater depth – the more challenging standard designed to stretch the most able.

Our broader curriculum is designed to be challenging, creative and inspirational. On a typical day, you will see pupils studiously engaged in their work and barely a sound can be heard. Other times, you will see a hive of activity and feel the buzz and excitement in the air: rocket building, computer programming, video editing, and historical battle re-enactments. Sometimes, the classrooms are empty, everyone is outdoors: pond dipping, foraging for berries, learning about different species of plant and animal, building bivouacs, painting, writing, building obstacle courses. Termly theme days enrich learning potential further and offer the opportunity to gain new skills and meet new people. An exciting

array of trips, after school clubs and extra-curricular activities are a valued part of our school life.

If there's one characteristic that sums up our school, it is our caring ethos. We are small, we know each other very well and look out for one another – like a big family. It also means that we are able to cater for individual needs to bring out the best in every one of our children. Our Reception Class offers a wonderfully personalised foundation to school life, with maximum class size of 15 pupils. Our mixed year classes offer very able pupils the opportunity to work with older children in their class and be challenged further. Pupils who require extra support receive personalised learning, on a one-to-one or group basis.

Our logo is a conker because of the huge horse chestnut tree at the front of the school. It also reminds us of how an insignificant seed can grow as tall as a tree, so too can a young child grow to

become a confident, independent and well-rounded individuals who can fulfil their potential.

We want every one of our pupils to be happy, healthy and enjoy every minute of their time with us.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to Brabourne School.

Andrew Stapley
Headteacher



Early Years Foundation Stage

At Brabourne, Venus class is where children begin their exciting school journey.



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 and unlocks pathways to a whole new world. Therefore the children will always have a daily phonics session whereby the skills for reading are taught discretely through fun games and activities from sorting the pirates' treasure, popping phoneme bubbles on the iPads, or being detectives and hunting for the sounds of the week outside. The 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.

Children will also have opportunities throughout the week to develop their physical skills in P.E. – 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. Children in Reception also have access to a range of technology including laptops, iPads and interactive whiteboard.

In Venus class we like to capture the children's interests and therefore our topics can change from year to year. Recently we have found out all about our bodies in our topic *Ourselves*, we have travelled to South Africa and found out about the animals that live there in our topic *The Wonderful World Around Me*, and we have 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 and 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! Taking the children out can be just as exciting as keeping the children in – 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 also 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 (Reception) teacher
and Early Years subject leader

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 |





Key Stage 1

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



In our mixed Year 1/2 class, we pride ourselves in making the transition from Reception to KS1 a smooth and balanced process.

Moving from Reception to Year 1 can be daunting, but we provide a curriculum which builds on the early years foundation strands leading into the National Curriculum, which makes the transition seamless. Children are not only taught the core subjects, but also have a carefully planned broader curriculum that encompasses various adult and child led activities in the afternoons. We work closely with the Reception teachers to enable this to happen; for example, Year 1s enjoy visiting Reception in small groups in the afternoon in the first term. We also have access to, and share, the outside space with Reception so the children get good use of the outdoor environment and resources, whatever the weather!! Whilst the Year 1s are enjoying more child led activities, the Year 2s are being challenged and are preparing to reach the end of key stage expectations.



Once a week, we have outdoor learning, which the children absolutely thrive on. The lessons link in with what we are learning each week and really enhance their learning experience. For example, we might build life size 3D shapes in Maths, draw clocks and be clock hands, visit the nearby pond or go on bug hunts... the enjoyment is endless!

We aim to deliver the National Curriculum through a creative, cross-curricular approach, whereby ideas are all linked together through one topic. Recently, our topic has been "Down in the Jungle" linking to animals including humans (Science), contrasting places between Ashford and a village in the Amazon (Geography); writing and comprehension based on non fiction and also fiction books such as Rumble in the Jungle, The Jungle Book and the Tiger who came to Tea (Literacy).

All this linked together makes learning more meaningful and in context. Being a mixed year class, we have the luxury of teaching the children for two years. No time is lost in September when the Year 1s move up to Year 2, as we can build on the foundations laid in Year 1 straight away and watch the children grow even more, as well as building on relationships already formed from the previous year.

The children will be nurtured throughout KS1 and their progress, both academic and pastoral, will be carefully monitored and encouraged so that by the time they leave us, they have the confidence and independence to flourish and excel in KS2.

Natasha Miller
Mars Class (Years 1 & 2) Teacher
and Maths Subject Lead





Key Stage 2

At Key Stage 2 we continue to build on the firm foundations laid carefully in the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1



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.

Creativity, enjoyment and engaging topics continue into Key Stage 2. Children are inspired by the curriculum which is tailored to suit their needs and interests. Topics are carefully designed and woven into other areas of the curriculum to help embed children's understanding and give meaning to what they are learning. Pupils have entered the world of Pharaohs, re-enacted a World War Two evacuation and learnt all about the development of chocolate, including making their own, all without leaving the classroom.



Our learning activities are carefully planned to engage all children and 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 had in 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, which includes links to other schools in this country and abroad, 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. They continue to have weekly timetabled outdoor learning as part of the curriculum, recognising the beneficial effects of being outdoors on both mental health and in promoting enjoyment of learning. Skills such as independence, resilience and team working are encouraged at all times.



Older pupils are given increasing responsibility around the school in roles such as House Captains, Sports Captains, school duties and organising events. Year 6 have the chance to attend a residential where they will build on these skills, work as a team and prepare themselves for secondary school.

At the beginning of Year 6, children are able to sit the Kent Test, a process which parents are carefully guided through, along with support in secondary school selection. SATs examinations are in May and, as pupils work towards these important tests, parents are welcomed to attend consultation evenings to ensure they support their child in the best way possible and children are supported so that they feel happy and prepared when the examinations come around.

This approach of carefully balanced academic rigour and creative and engaging learning, enables children in Jupiter Class to gain new skills through a range of broader curriculum subjects. They have the chance to participate in plays, trips, visits, Science week, Sports week, assemblies, clubs and festivals (including those within our local church).

By the end of their time here at Brabourne, children are well equipped to succeed in their next adventure. By encouraging children to develop their opinions, confidence and self-esteem, children blossom as young adults here, which gives us great pleasure.

Kate Burnett

Jupiter Class (Years 5 & 6) Teacher
and English Subject Leader



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.

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, hockey, dodge ball, handball, speed stacking, dancing, cricket and many others. Recent increases in government funding

have allowed us to invest in school facilities and offer a wider range of sports with the aim of finding a sport to suit every pupil.

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.



Our 2018 Sports Captains had these thoughts:

"Since starting at Brabourne School, I have loved sports and have looked up to the sports teams and their captains and now I am one of them. I am now football team captain and often take part in the Julie Rose Athletics Competition. Sport is such a key part in school life at Brabourne.

Competing in competitions is always an honour because you are representing your school and you have a chance to show how amazing your school is. I am very competitive so I always play my best. I have realised through sport that determination pays off and our school value of courage gets you through."

Ed Hill
Football Captain



"At Brabourne School we are included in a range of different sporting activities including netball, football, gymnastics and even trampolining. Since I started here in Year 3, I have taken part in numerous sporting competitions including the Julie Rose Athletics and football and netball tournaments. Since I were young, being a sports captain has been a dream come true and I have been privileged to become Brabourne netball captain. It has been a big responsibility but I have learnt that if you try your hardest, you can achieve your dreams. But you will need to push yourself and work hard."

Rhea James
Netball Captain



Performing arts

Brabourne School is proud of giving every pupil the chance to be involved in music and the performing arts.



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 several 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.





Religious Education

We take great pride in having a strong emphasis on developing each child's spiritual understanding by improving their sense of right and wrong as well as asking them the question 'what do you think?'

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 new 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.

Colin Taylor

Neptune Class (Years 3 & 4) Teacher,
Assistant Headteacher and SENCO



Rural education and nature

In the heart of the countryside, being outside and learning about nature is an important part of education at Brabourne.



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.



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, outdoor learning is timetabled for every class, ensuring that, during their time at the school, Brabourne children develop into well-rounded, responsible individuals who treasure nature and our environment.

Emma Keating
Parent Governor



Community strength



“When we moved to Kent we visited many schools and after each school visit my daughter would shake her head. I was concerned we would never find the right school for her. Then when we entered the warm and welcoming environment at Brabourne and met the smiling teachers, my daughter turned to me and beamed, ‘This school, Mummy. I like this one.’”

Being a small school Brabourne has an extended family feel to it. The Head, Mr Stapley, 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.

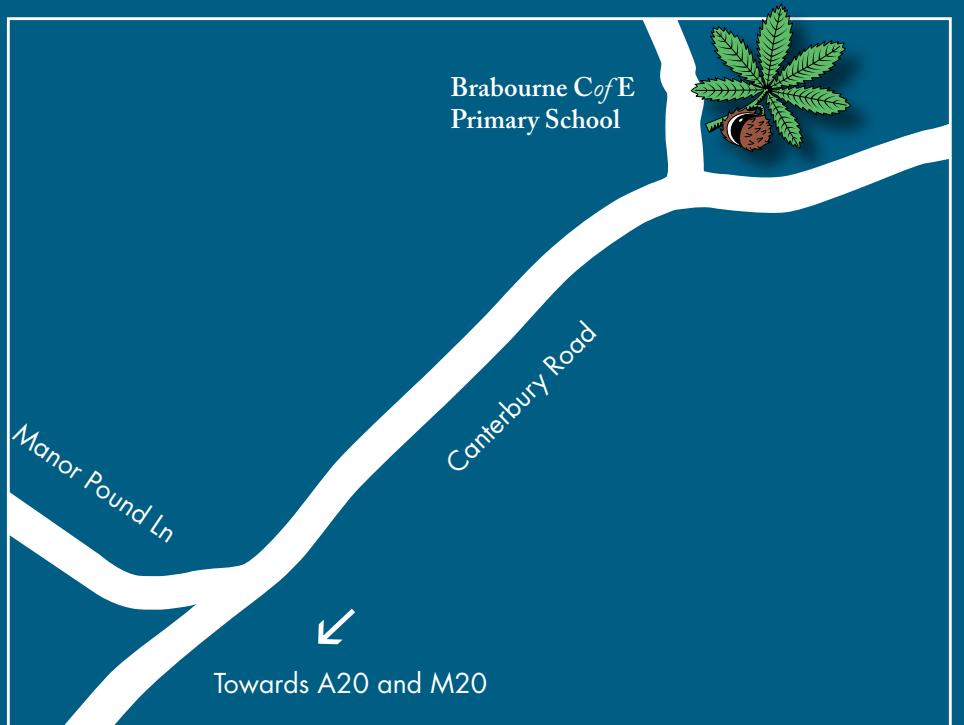
I cannot praise Brabourne School enough. It is an outstanding school. I hope you’ll join us.

Emma Pular
Parent





To arrange to visit our school
please contact us:



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