



# West Kidlington Primary & Nursery School

"Making our best even better"

## Prospectus 2019



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## West Kidlington Primary & Nursery School are proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust

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The White Horse Federation (TWHF) is a high performing Multi-Academy Trust, which supports primary, secondary, special and teaching schools across Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Swindon, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. At its heart is a belief that we want to develop the type of schools that we would be proud to send our own children to. We do this with a relentless drive for academic excellence blended with a shared moral purpose and shared values but also with an awful lot of fun and happiness in our schools.

With a track record of improvement in standards and attainment, TWHF believes that every child should achieve all that they are capable of and more, regardless of background, culture, heritage or ability. We genuinely believe that partnership working with our schools, students and their parents, as well as the wider community, helps create the best possible outcomes for all our young people.

**Dr Nicholas Capstick OBE**  
CEO and Board Member







# A Warm Welcome

I would like to welcome you to West Kidlington Primary School and Nursery. Please do take time to look at the website; it will give you an insight into life at West Kidlington. I would strongly encourage that you organise a visit to the school. The feeling you get when you are in the building is very different to reading our online story!

Our main expectations for the children, staff and families is very simple – be kind and give your best. If these two simple things are followed, then children will be happy and successful. The school's effort over the last two years is now being reflected in significantly improved outcomes as we await to be inspected for the first time since becoming part of The White Horse Federation. We have overseen major changes to our curriculum and approaches to Teaching and Learning – here we are continuously reflecting on our ability to provide quality feedback, ask incisive questions and model to a very high standard.

Our school building has been updated and provides a progressive feel to moving through the school. Our new outdoor area is a great feature in our two Reception classrooms and our state of the art Upper Key Stage 2 building provides children with a grown up education. We want our children so motivated and inspired that they create their own personal learning when they arrive home. When families ask what they learnt today – we want children highly engaged in conversation!



Yours sincerely,  
Simon Isherwood  
Principal





# Our Vision and Values

At West Kidlington, we ask that all members of the school community adhere to our Values PACT. We created a concise version of our Values PACT in September 2018 with an aim to make it even more effective

## Peace

Keep Calm and keep the peace

## Unity

Work together, help each other

## Responsibility

Be responsible for actions, belonging and your school.

## Respect

Be polite and listen to people.



Be Kind,  
Give your  
Best



# Early Years Foundation Stage

Here at West Kidlington Primary and Nursery School our Reception Classes run as a unit, meaning that although at times your child will work in their own class (Orang-utan and Lemur), for the majority of the day they will be learning through play with the rest of their peers.

The phonics program that we deliver at West Kidlington is 'Read, Write Inc.' (RWI). Reception is where a more formal RWI approach begins. Children will be formally taught at tables and will write every session. During RWI sessions your child will work alongside children in their year group that are a similar ability. As the year progresses your child will bring home reading books that they have been learning during their RWI sessions to read and share with you.

We believe that 'children are born ready to learn but development is not a natural process'. We are here to guide your child through their learning journey and ensure that they meet challenges and ask questions to help them develop, grow and widen their experiences. All of our children are valued individuals which is why we 'plan in the moment' ensuring that your child's interests are at the heart of their learning. We capture their learning on a platform called Tapestry. Here you are able to see what your child is learning in school and also share what they are learning at home with us. We hope that the way we run our unit helps your child to become excited about learning and teaches them to always 'be kind and give their best'.

The EYFS curriculum is divided into the Prime areas (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development) and the Specific area (Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design) which are fundamental parts of our day. Our children are able to cover these areas through play, exploration, active learning, creating and thinking critically, which helps them to be eager and excited learners. Our children further develop by forming strong, positive relationships with the adults working in our unit, which is vital for their social and emotional development.

 As a parent I found the support and care they provide to be outstanding. It is a big transition starting school full-time but the teaching methods used are fantastic, with still a large variety of learning through play both inside and outside the classroom. 

# Our Curriculum



West Kidlington Primary School and Nursery is committed to enabling every member of its community to become a successful lifelong learner. Our ambition is that every individual feels valued, is happy and secure, has high aspirations for themselves and takes their learning beyond the school day.

Our school aims to send

**Respectful,  
Responsible,  
Collaborative  
Compassionate**

people into the modern world.

Our Curriculum is our plan of all of the exciting and purposeful learning that we intend should take place. Although it is planned it is not set in stone; it is flexible and children and teaching staff have the freedom to change direction when it is appropriate. We want the children at West Kidlington to be talking about their learning, even before anyone asks the "what did you do today question?"

Our children are hungry and topics are engaging and question rich. We have invested in asking the children what they want to learn and how they prefer learning. We plan to engage children at the beginning with something memorable and we aim to produce something as an outcome at the end of each of our topics.

Our Learning Powers develop key skills within the school and are supported through our Learning Yetis. They are four characters that were named by the children! They encourage: reciprocity (working together), resourcefulness (making great links), reflectiveness (revising, editing and improving) and resilience (taking on new learning).

This is our Creative Curriculum. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also the numerous extra-curricular activities that the School organises in order to enrich the children's experience. It also includes the 'hidden curriculum' - what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave. At West Kidlington Primary School and Nursery we want children to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and co-operate with others, while at the same time developing their knowledge and skills, in order to achieve their true potential.

We set the highest standards of attainment for all our children. We also value the breadth of the curriculum that we provide. We foster creativity in our children, and help them become independent learners. Above all we believe in making learning enjoyable, motivating, fun and **PURPOSEFUL!**



# Celebrating Success

At West Kidlington Primary School we are rewarded in many ways.

- For example we receive certificates in our Friday achievement assembly, for showing our values and improving our work. The person taking on the assembly will present our certificate and shake our hands. This is a proud moment for everyone.
- At lunch time if we show respect or we are kind we could be awarded a raffle ticket. This raffle ticket will go in a special jar and at the end of term tickets are pulled out – children could win exciting (family-based) prizes.
- If you are following the Values Pact you could be awarded with college points – these are placed in a tube. This encourages us to work in a team and when the first college fills their tube the college will get an exciting prize.
- In class if all the children are well behaved they will get marbles in a jar. If we fill it up we will play team building games which improves our cooperation.
- If the teachers are proud of us they will complement our work and suggest how we can improve it.

6 I love how we get rewards it makes me feel great about myself and makes me want to improve. 9







# Parent Partnerships

We recognise and value the role of parents and carers as partners in their child's education, and we are continually looking to find ways of extending and developing this partnership. We endeavour to support parents in a number of ways:

We are delighted that the school offers a number of school visits from Nursery through to Year 6 to both enhance the curriculum as well as build life skills such as confidence, team work, sense of community and curiosity beyond the school gates. The culmination of this is a residential trip for the Year 6 students to ready them for the next stage of their school life.

As well as educational visits, the school ensures there is a wide range of after school clubs and activities to give each child the chance to experience different interests and stretch themselves beyond academic learning. The school has a range of sports and special interest clubs and most recently has started a 'School of Rock' club! The clubs are very popular with the children and provide further opportunity for them to interact across year groups to enhance the schools' positive and friendly interactions.

## Governing Body & Friends of the School

West Kidlington Primary School and Nursery is an academy managed by The White Horse Federation. Each school within The White Horse Federation is managed by a Local Board of Governors and the senior leadership team of the school.

*"As the two parent governors we work with the other members of the Local Governing Body to oversee the educational performance of the school. Other aspects of school management like buildings, budgets and IT are supported by the White Horse Federation, which is great and means that the Local Governing Body can focus on making sure the school achieves outstanding learning for all the*

*pupils. We aim to provide appropriate support and challenge for the leadership team of the school, using our experience gained from our own jobs. We were elected by the parents so we provide a route for families to contribute to the running of the school, and to inform families about what the Local Governing Body is working on."* Mairi Gibbs, School Governor

Working in partnership with the School Principal and staff, governors ensure high standards of achievement for the children in the school. They focus on strategy and school improvement; set priorities and monitor progress to realise these aims. They have three core strategic functions delegated to them by The White Horse Federation Board:

- Setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school, within the context of The White Horse Federation
- Holding the Principal and senior staff to account for the educational performance of the school and its children
- Ensuring the school remains within the budget delegated by The White Horse Federation and making sure the money is well spent

If you have any questions for the Local Board of Governors you are welcome to contact them via the Clerk to Governors, or leave a note, for the attention of the clerk, at the school office.

*"The Local Governing Body at West Kidlington acts as a 'critical friend', exacting continual improvement and development. Drawing on its members' knowledge and experience, it effectively provides the Principal and staff with support, advice and guidance. I believe that our well trained, committed, enthusiastic Local Governors help to make a positive difference to the life chances of our children."*

*Alison Cook, Clerk to the Governors.*



## Onto Secondary School

At West Kidlington Primary School and Nursery, we pride ourselves on the level of support we offer children and families throughout the entire transition process. We work tirelessly to ensure that every Year 6 is confident and 'secondary ready' before they leave us. Our commitment is that every child feels valued, is happy and secure, has high aspirations for themselves and takes a love of learning and West Kidlington values into whichever school they choose.

We have strong links with many local state and independent secondary schools, namely Gosford Hill School, The Marlborough Church of England School and Bartholomew School. Once your child has been offered a place at their secondary school, they will receive a visit from key staff, initially in the comfort of our setting. A programme then follows which is full of transition events, helping them become familiar with secondary school expectations and systems. Having the chance to form positive relationships with their peers and staff in advance is an important part of this process. Transitioning from primary to secondary school can be a new and daunting experience for parents/carers too. Even before your child starts in Year 7, meetings and workshops enable you to understand expectations and ask questions to address any concerns you might have.

We have particularly close links with Gosford Hill School and The Marlborough School. There are a huge range of activities offered to all of our children during their time at West Kidlington to make them feel connected to their prospective and chosen secondary schools. From a very young age, children participate in local sports partnership events and other cultural activities which familiarises them with and helps them to feel like part of the wider family.

Every child has the chance to experience a full day at secondary school in the final term of Year 6 whilst a summer school and additional visits are available for any children who are (or feel) vulnerable about moving on. If needed, other forms of bespoke support are offered to ensure a seamless transition for every child.

## Special Needs & Inclusion

At West Kidlington School we believe that every child has individual and unique needs. However, some children require more support than others. If these children are to achieve their full potential, we must recognise this and plan accordingly.

With parental permission, we may ask external professionals to come in and assess your child. A full list of these external agencies can be found in our SEN Information report on our website. Included in the support offered are intervention programmes. These range from programmes set by external agencies to our own 'keep up, not catch up' interventions which aim to narrow the gaps in learning from children with learning difficulties to their peers. We believe that in order for a child to achieve their full potential we must develop their self-esteem and resilience as this will help build confidence and motivation.



## Joining Our School

Starting school is a very important time for you, your child and the school. We all need to work together to make the transition smooth and rewarding. Pupils are invited into school for visits. This will help your child become familiar with the surroundings and routines of school. During this period, there will be meetings for parents, to discuss our partnership with you and talk about any concerns you might have. We are keen to meet families and give them the very best support in enabling children to become part of our community.

### Admissions

Administration of admission arrangements to County Primary Schools is dealt with centrally by Oxfordshire County Council. A booklet 'Starting School', setting out the F1 admissions procedures and criteria for each school, together with an application (Common Admission Preference Form) is available from the County Council Admissions Team. Completed forms, or online admissions must be returned to the School Admission Team or first preference school by the submission date in the Autumn Term prior to starting.

### Applying for In-Year Admission

For parents and carers of children seeking to join the school in other years, please contact the County Council Admissions Team on 03452412487 or contact the admission team via [www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

West Kidlington Primary School and Nursery welcomes all children regardless of special needs or disability. Pupils with additional needs may have extra visits before starting school and there will be close liaison with parents to ensure that the correct arrangements are in place.

### Admission Arrangements for Children with Special Needs

West Kidlington is an inclusive school, which means that all children are encouraged and enabled to participate in all activities both on and off the school site. When children with disabilities join the school, specific arrangements are put in place to ensure they are suitably supported.

There are meetings with advisors, the school nurse, parents and other appropriate school staff before the child starts school, to ensure systems are in place to achieve a smooth transition into school life. All the school buildings are designed to accommodate children and adults with disabilities.

- We follow Oxfordshire County's Admissions Policy (available from the school office).
- At the time of entry to school, a meeting for new parents and school visits are pre-arranged in order for the transition to run as smoothly as possible.
- If outside agencies are supporting children and families, they will be involved in the early stages to assist in identifying the special requirements and resources.
- Before a child is admitted to school, we aim to ensure that any special educational needs have been identified and discussed, and supporting arrangements put in place. During the assessment period when a child first arrives in Nursery, the Nursery teacher works closely with the SENCO in identifying any child who may need additional support.





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Proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust | [www.twhf.org.uk](http://www.twhf.org.uk)