

Home School Partnership

Communication

All parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children's learning is improved when we work in partnership with their parents or carers, and their wider family. We therefore believe in close co-operation with all families, and in regular consultation between the home and the school.

Information

Each month a detailed newsletter provides information, messages and up to the minute news about what is happening at school.

Home School Agreement

At the start of each academic year parents, carers, pupils and teachers all sign an agreement which clearly sets out what we can expect from each other.

Parents and Carers Meetings

We believe you should be able to speak to your child's teacher when and as often as you need to. To ensure this is possible each Thursday after school teachers allocate time for consultations with parents/carers who have made appointments. Teachers (including the headteacher) can be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.

Attendance

We expect all children on roll to attend promptly every day, when the school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. We do all we can to encourage the children to attend, and to put in place appropriate procedures. We believe that the most important factor in promoting good attendance is the development of positive attitudes towards school.

Parent Forum

A Parents' Forum is led by the head teacher every half term. An agenda is sent to all parents inviting them to the meeting. The outcomes of the forum are then produced in a news letter for all parents/carers to see.

Old Heath School Association (O.H.S.A.)

We value the work of the O.H.S.A. This body of parents and staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school. All parents are warmly invited to attend meetings.

General Information

School Office Opening Hours 8.45am to 3.30pm

The school entrance is located in the centre of the main building. All visitors to the school must report to the school office where they will be greeted by friendly and helpful staff. Any visitors to the school will sign in at the main office and wear a visitor's badge. The school and all the surrounding grounds are a non-smoking zone. Parking near the school is difficult and therefore we encourage pupils and parents wherever possible to walk to school.

Uniform

It is our belief that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our school office. Any uniform required can be purchased from the school office.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are ear-ring studs in pierced ears, small objects of religious significance or any jewellery needed for medical reasons.

School Outings and Visits

We believe that off-site activities supplement and enrich the curriculum of the school by providing experiences which would otherwise be impossible. It is our policy that all children should be able to participate in educational visits. Therefore, no child will be excluded from an activity because of the unwillingness or inability of the parent to make a contribution.



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Take a look inside



where children learn, achieve and enjoy success



Welcome

Old Heath Community Primary School is situated just outside the centre of Colchester. The school celebrated its centenary in 1994 and we are proud of the school's history and place in the local community. Many of our children are the second or third generation of their family to attend Old Heath.

Our school is a community primary school with a pre-school and early years class. It serves a pleasant residential area with a mixture of privately owned and rented housing. When the children reach the end of Key Stage Two, at the age of 11, they move on to various secondary schools within the Colchester area including selective grammar schools.

Our facilities include bright, airy classrooms. We are very proud of our advances in technology, which include interactive boards and many multimedia facilities in each classroom, laptops, computerised library facilities and a spacious computer suite. Our large playground and field offer a variety of facilities for playtime, lunchtime and during lessons.

The school has recently developed a nature/memorial garden with a large pond for children to enjoy throughout the school day.

We hope you will find all the information you need about our school here but if you have any other questions please call our very helpful office on **01206 794334** or email us at admin@oldheath.essex.sch.uk

Please visit our school to see our classrooms, computer suite/laptops, nature garden, spacious playground and field. Most importantly of all experience the happy, supportive and stimulating environment that Old Heath Community Primary School offers to all pupils, parents and staff.

Jeremy Hallum

(Headteacher)

Our playground is a fun place to be



What makes our school special?

Healthy School

We are committed to ensuring that the children in our care grow into healthy adults. Consequently, we teach children the key points about living a healthy life, including the importance of eating healthy food. We believe that it is only through a whole-school approach that the key messages about having a healthy lifestyle can be really effectively conveyed.

Extended Schools

We provide pupils, parents and carers with many opportunities outside of the normal school day. These include: a wide variety of clubs, adult education, parent/carer coffee mornings with trained professionals. We continually strive to increase the range of services and opportunities available to all.



Technology

We realise the positive impact technology can have on teaching and learning. At Old Heath pupils have access to multimedia equipment and interactive whiteboards in every classroom. Pupils also have regular opportunities to use laptops and a large computer suite.

Community

Old Heath is at the heart of the local community. We value our links with local churches, the health service and the sports trust. We regularly participate in events in the wider community.

School Council

The school has a very active school council. Pupils from each class are elected by their peers to represent the class for one year. The council meets every fortnight to discuss issues that affect the school.



Our school field



Our School

Times

8.45am Gates Open
9.00am Morning Starts
10.30 – 10.45am Morning Break
12.15 – 1.15pm Key Stage 1 Lunch
12.30 – 1.20pm Key Stage 2 Lunch
2.00 – 2.15pm Key Stage 1 Break
3.15pm School Finishes

Pre-school

Old Heath pre-school opened on the school site in January 2003. It was formed as a direct result of lack of provision for three year olds in the local community. The high quality of facilities, teaching and learning ensures that young children receive an outstanding education before reaching school age. We are very proud of the partnership we have with the pre-school which means every child feels confident and happy during their transition into the main school. For further information please speak to the school office.

Early Years

At the age of rising 5 pupils will attend our Early Years class. Our school fully supports the principle that young children learn best through play, and by engaging in well planned and structured activities. Teaching in the early years class builds on the experiences of the children in their pre-school learning. Early Years curriculum is based on the Foundation Stage Profile. This means that children are taught six interrelated areas of learning which are based on the Early Learning Goals. Much of this learning is taught through structured and free play.

Inclusion and S.E.N.

At Old Heath our curriculum is designed to be accessed by all children who attend the school. If we think it necessary to modify some children's access to the curriculum, in order to meet their needs, then we do this only after their parents have been consulted.

Our nature garden



Our learning

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum applies to pupils of compulsory school age. It is organised on the basis of Key Stages:

Key Stage 1 – Years One and Two

Key Stage 2 – Years Three to Six

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear at our school. The curriculum is the means by which the school achieves its objective of educating children in the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need in order to lead fulfilling lives.

Key Stage One

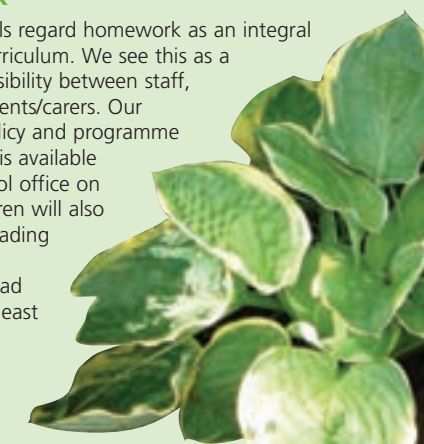
In Key Stage One your child will continue to build on the excellent foundations laid in Early Years. Our teachers are committed to providing a happy, healthy and calm atmosphere in which all children are encouraged to develop and reach their full potential.

Key Stage Two

In Key Stage Two we aim to build upon the high standards achieved already. The children will grow in all areas – personal, social and academic. Preparing them to have fulfilling lives as outstanding citizens.

Homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum. We see this as a shared responsibility between staff, pupils and parents/carers. Our homework policy and programme of homework is available from the school office on request. Children will also bring home reading books and are expected to read from them at least three times each week.



Admissions & Communication

Compliments and Complaints

If you feel particularly pleased with an aspect of the school please make your feelings known and pass on the thanks and compliments to the members of staff concerned.

As a school we value the importance of celebrating the success of pupils and staff. Special events happen on a regular basis to ensure all children have an opportunity to feel valued and to value others.

We strive to provide an outstanding education for all our children. The headteacher and staff work very hard to build positive relationships with all parents. Your child's class teacher can usually deal quickly with any queries or worries that you or your child may have.

If you are not satisfied with the outcomes and wish to make a complaint, you can take the matter up with the headteacher who will involve all persons required to resolve the situation.

Early Years Admission

Our school is a community school, and it determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the local authority. All children are admitted into Early Years in the Autumn Term but the induction arrangements vary depending on their birthday:

Children born between the 1st of September – 31st December attend full days

Children born between the 1st January – 31st March attend mornings only for the first half term

Children born between 1st April – 31st August attend mornings only for the first term

In exceptional circumstances individual cases may be considered.

Admissions to other year groups

We have places for 30 children in each year group. Please speak to staff in the main office for further information regarding admissions.