

ParkSide Community

Primary and

Preschool

Prospectus



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Choosing the right school for your child is a significant decision for every parent. The foundations set in a child's early education will have a major impact on their capacity to learn and to achieve. This prospectus is designed to give you an outline of our school and what we can offer your child. Whether you are considering applying for a place at Parkside, or whether your child already has a place, we hope that you find this information useful and interesting.

Starting school is an exciting and important time for every child and their parents, and we want it to be a happy and successful experience. We believe that our school is a special place. We strive to create a welcoming and caring atmosphere where children feel secure and happy. All of our staff are committed to providing the best possible start in life to all the children who make up our school community. We know that in order for children to learn their activities should be interesting and enjoyable.

Every child who joins us at Parkside will be given the opportunity to succeed in all areas of learning. We work hard to enable all of our children to achieve their potential academically, emotionally, physically and socially. We also strive for the development of key skills to empower all children to be happy, successful people who love learning. We celebrate children's sporting and creative talents alongside academic achievements. Our overall aim is for our pupils to discover a great interest in our world, for them to find empathy with people and have the ability to make relationships and to care. We are all committed to ensuring that each child leaves Parkside School having experienced outstanding opportunities and been empowered to learn and to achieve.

All of this is done in conjunction with parents and carers and we advocate strong home-school communication. We look forward to showing you how Parkside can give your child a fantastic start to their school journey, ensuring they have the skills and knowledge of learning which will last them a lifetime.

With sincere wishes



Derek Hollywood  
Headteacher



# SCHOOL VISION, AIMS AND VALUES

## “Proud to be Parkside”

*Our vision is for Parkside to continue to be an exceptional place to learn - where going the extra mile is at the heart of all that we do.*

We are ‘Proud to be Parkside’ and these are our aims and values:

**P** **Potential**

Explore the unique strengths and interests of each child, enabling them to reach their full potential

**A** **Ambition**

Enable our children to have the ambition to pursue their interests and passions

**R** **Respectful Relationships**

Establish supportive, trusting and respectful relationships

**K** **Kindness**

Teach our children the importance of being kind and caring

**S** **Self-Confidence**

Help our children to develop their self-confidence and be brave

**I** **Independence**

Support our children to be independent in their learning

**D** **Determination**

Encourage our children to take risks and never give up

**E** **Excellence**

Be the best we can be



# The Journey Starts Here ...



## Welcome

Parkside Community Primary & Preschool lies on the edge of Heathfield in a beautiful parkland setting. The school has many excellent facilities with two playgrounds, woodland and pond areas, an outdoor classroom, a small farm and sensory garden area, an adventure trail, outdoor gym, and Reception and Preschool class play areas.

The school has seven year groups from Reception to Year 6 and an enthusiastic and caring staff team who will welcome you and your child to our friendly school community. Each class has a teacher or teachers supported by experienced teaching assistants. We also have an onsite purpose built Preschool.

Children come to Parkside from all over Heathfield and beyond. When they leave, the majority transfer to the local Heathfield Community College with whom we have strong links. Other secondary schools also offer supportive transition programmes.

In our exceptional setting, we deliver an exciting, rich and varied curriculum. We aim to inspire an enjoyment and love of learning that we hope children will carry with them for life.



# Our Promise

At Parkside we work together to give everyone the chance to achieve. Relationships are important at our school; we know a happy child is more receptive to learning. You will find an ethos of mutual respect throughout the whole school community and a caring and understanding approach. We aim to develop positive relationships and a feeling of team spirit throughout the school. There are strong links between all children which begin in the first days of our Reception Class and continue throughout their journey through the school.

We make links with the wider community, welcoming visitors to the school and participating in local events and activities organised by the partnership of Heathfield schools and the wider Wealden area.

# Our Curriculum

We offer your child a balanced, broad-based curriculum. We aim to help every child achieve their best, by creating a rich, meaningful learning environment. All classes organise visits as part of the learning experience and having our own minibus means we can easily organise trips out and access a variety of places. As a school we value the arts, and your child will be given many opportunities to perform in plays, dances and assemblies.



We put on Christmas, Easter and summer productions each year and we offer opportunities for parents and carers to share in their children's learning.

We organise our curriculum into termly topics to make learning relevant, exciting and suited to each child's learning style. Children learn new skills, develop the ability to reason and solve problems, and investigate and create. These skills are taught in a progressive and hands on approach, ensuring children have the chance to revisit and build on previous experiences and learning. They are helped to reflect on their learning and develop independence. Throughout the year, we carefully monitor each child's progress and engagement in their learning and we have shared discussions with parents and carers.



At Parkside we offer a range of facilities and resources which enhance the curriculum opportunities offered. There is a dedicated kitchen area in a central multi-use room which includes additional learning space and a library area. 30 networked computers are in a computer suite, plus a bank of laptops and iPads for use in classrooms. We are constantly looking to develop our buildings and grounds; having improved the corridor areas to include learning space, and our most recent improvement being the instalment of our Cabin, creating additional room for music lessons, small group work, and after school clubs.



# Outdoor learning and Forest School

At Parkside, we try to get outdoors as much as possible! We are lucky to have a fantastic outside environment. We have woods with a woodland trail – look out for the minibeast hotel, the log pile house, our hand-made shelters and our campfire!



We also have a small farm area which we set up partly because the children wanted to improve the school and partly to enhance the curriculum we offer. There are chickens, goats and ducks on the farm and children can learn many tasks in a practical cross-curricular fashion.

The school has a large field, an adventure trail, an outdoor classroom, a sensory garden and two playgrounds. A new outdoor gym area was commissioned and installed in September 2022, further promoting physical exercise and outdoor activity. A pair of wellies is essential at Parkside!



We run Forest School sessions in our woods, where children can direct their own learning outside and learn skills such as woodwork, fire lighting, cooking, shelter building and nature conservation from Preschool to Year 6. Our in-house, forest school trained staff support children's learning and ensure their safety. Our Early Years, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children all experience Forest School sessions on-site. Our Key Stage 2 children experience their sessions on site and we can access a local woodland. Our outdoor area includes a Sensory Garden space which has been partly funded by local initiatives and our PTA. This is a quiet reflection space for children to use.

## Sport

Sporting activity features highly at Parkside. We believe in providing opportunities for all children to try as many activities as possible during their time with us and we are very fortunate that our extensive grounds help us to do this. Both our PE lessons and all year round after-school sporting clubs, allow children to develop their skills across a wide range of disciplines.



At Parkside we take pride in our sports teams and we endeavour to enter all the sporting competitions that are held in the locality, often fielding more than one team. We also



hold many of our own intra-school competitions for our Key Stage 2 classes. These allow the children to practise the skills they have learnt in friendly competitive situations.

As well as twice weekly PE lessons, we see the importance in providing opportunities for all children to be active throughout the day. Our class teachers ensure that children take active breaks from learning in the classroom – these ‘brain breaks’ help the children to stay physically active as well as helping them to focus in class. We have a robust PE Curriculum which not only focuses on physical development, but is a values-led approach and allows every child to flourish, regardless of their own ability. We hope that promoting these opportunities for movement and exercise at primary school will lead to children developing a positive mind-set towards activity as they transition to secondary school and beyond.



We have been recognised for our sporting achievements by achieving the highest award for the Sports Mark - platinum standard - in the School Games award, in recognition of our participation in sporting events in and out of school.

## Music

As well as music lessons within the taught curriculum, we offer paid music lessons during the school day which are provided by peripatetic specialist music teachers. Currently, children are learning guitar, keyboard, woodwind instruments and drums.



## Wrap-Around Care

We offer a Breakfast Club and After School Club which can be booked on a regular or occasional basis. Children can attend one to five days a week from 7.30am until 5:30pm. At the end of the Breakfast Club, children are taken into class for the start of the school day and, at the end of the school day, taken to the After School Club. For more information, and the latest charges, please see the school website.



# Parkside Preschool and Early Years



In January 2017, we set up Parkside Preschool, which is now based on our own school site. Our preschool makes use of our school facilities. The preschool is a natural addition to our school and is staffed by a deputy manager and practitioners. This ensures we have quality learning provision in place. Children at our preschool can make a seamless transition to their Reception year.

For further details about our preschool offer, please see the school website.

Our Early Years team works closely together. Our Reception class has a full-time Early Years trained teacher (the school's EYFS lead) and two full-time experienced teaching assistants. The learning is planned around the children's interests and is enhanced through the whole school curriculum programmes. We have skilled staff engaging with the children, providing a balance of child-initiated and adult-initiated learning, enabling their learning to be taken to the next stage of their development. We recognise that a constant focus on physical, language, and social and emotional development is key to securing the building blocks for future learning and success. Reception children have free-flow to indoor and outdoor activities every day, their own cloakroom and toilet space and dedicated quiet areas. They access weekly PE sessions as well as opportunities to be in the main school for assemblies, library and ICT sessions. Both the Reception class and our preschool have weekly farm duties, taking care of our animals.



## Communication

We welcome parents and carers as partners in the education of their child and work hard to maintain a close liaison with you throughout the time your child is at the school.

Before your child starts in our Reception class, we will contact their preschool and arrange opportunities for your child to visit and spend time with their new teacher in their new classroom.

It is important to us that this partnership is maintained through the school. Teachers are available after school for short discussions, by email and through meetings by appointment.

In September, each teacher holds a Curriculum meeting to explain the learning that will take place that year and, very importantly, provide an opportunity to meet with parents and answer any questions they may have. Parent-teacher consultations, in a range of formats, are held in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.





# Healthy Eating

Our school is committed to encouraging healthy eating and we are part of the government “five a day” scheme, providing a piece of fruit or vegetable at morning break each day for all children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Children in Key Stage 2 are allowed to bring a piece of fruit or healthy snack to eat during morning break. All children are encouraged to bring water in a suitable container.



Parkside has a wonderful team of cooks employed by Chartwells, who provide a wide choice of school lunches each day. If your child requires a school lunch, this currently needs to be booked online using our ParentPay booking and payment system. All children in Reception and KS1 are offered a free school lunch. Alternatively, you may provide your child with a healthy packed lunch in a lunch box. Lunch is always supervised. Due to the number of allergies in school, we are a ‘Nut Free’ and ‘Allergy Aware’ school.

# Respectful Relationships

Mutual respect is at the core of our school and children and adults are encouraged to develop considerate and polite behaviour towards each other at all times. We have a well-developed behaviour policy which has been written in conjunction with parents, carers, children and external agencies. We use positive rewards and thinking time to help children regulate their actions when necessary.



Explanations about feelings and emotions, and understanding that much behaviour is communication, are the central themes to our response to all behaviour. We are always actively modelling and explaining pro-social behaviours and feelings in order that all children feel understood and safe and happy. All our staff have had a wide range of training in a variety of therapeutic and ‘behaviour as communication’ strategies. You can find more information on our approach via the school website.

# Personal, Social and Health Education

PSHE helps prepare children to make a positive contribution to society, live a safe and healthy life and achieve economic well-being. We support children in extending their knowledge of relationships, attitudes and values and give them the opportunity to take increasing responsibility, while building self-esteem and self-discipline. Relationship and Sex education is part of the PSHE curriculum and is also covered, when relevant, through science and topic work. We educate and nurture to show a strong emphasis on ensuring all our staff and children maintain a healthy mental wellbeing. Children know who trusted adults are and staff are given regular opportunities to ensure they are in the best possible place to support the wellbeing needs of the children in our school.



# Additional Educational Needs



Children learn in different ways and at different rates. At Parkside we monitor all children carefully so any child experiencing difficulties can be supported. Often this will only be a temporary concern which, with a little additional help in class, can be overcome. Where more help is required, we use diagnostic assessments and specific observations. Our Inclusion Manager works with staff and parents in order to help identify the nature of the difficulty and provide further interventions if necessary. A provision map will be prepared outlining any actions or programmes required to help a child and these will usually be delivered by the class teacher or teaching assistant and regularly reviewed. When a difficulty is felt to be more significant, we may request that outside agencies are consulted, such as Local Authority Specialist Advisors. Any difficulties that arise at any stage are discussed with parents and carers and we encourage parents to let us know if they have any concerns.

# Educational Visits



We use visits and visitors to enrich the learning experience and help bring the curriculum alive. Trips out give children an opportunity to be actively involved in the wider community. Visitors and parents involved in our school bring expertise and help inspire; educational visits add excitement and the chance to learn in a different environment. We plan trips to the local area, and further afield into London and the coast. Children have visited Canterbury Cathedral, The British Museum, Hastings Aquarium, Drusilla's Park, Wilderness Wood, Leeds Castle, Herstmonceux Science Centre, Lewes Castle, Brighton Toy Museum, The Science Museum and Kent Life. There is so much to explore!

In Year 5, the children go on a week-long residential trip which offers children the opportunity to try new activities and extend their physical and teamwork skills. Payment schemes are set up and funding is available to ensure that all children are able to take part. In Year 6, we organise a week of local day-activities to extend children's experiences and ensure they have an exciting end to their Parkside journey.

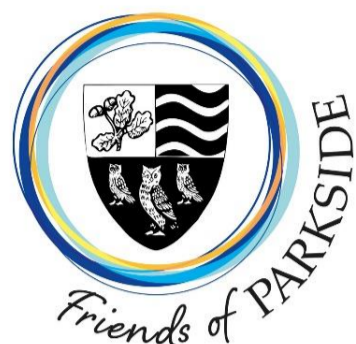
# Key Stage 2 Carousel

Throughout Key Stage 2, children experience a rotation of lessons on Thursday and Friday afternoons. They have lessons in music, PE, computing and French. These lessons are taught by the Key Stage 2 class teachers who themselves specialise in a specific carousel subject. We believe that our carousel ensures that all the children at Parkside are given an excellent learning experience in a wide range of subjects beyond English and maths.



# Partnerships

Education is a continuous process from birth to adulthood and beyond. Therefore, we work hard to maintain a close relationship with parents, our school, and secondary schools to which the children will transfer at age 11.



All parents are automatically members of the Parent Teacher Association, the 'Friends of Parkside'. This group exists to help parents become involved in the life of the school. It is a great way to socialise with other parents whilst organising a diverse range of events: firework display night, quiz nights, sponsored events, discos, Christmas Fair and Summer Fair. Recent fundraisers have helped contribute to the funding for a new Key Stage One canopy area, and a new learning room (The Cabin).

At Parkside we lay a great emphasis on an active partnership between school and home. We have many parents who regularly assist class teachers in special projects or share their expertise in areas such as cooking and art. We also have a team of volunteers who read with children each week – our Parkside Reading Army. Year 6 children are extremely proud of the buddy system that they undertake with Reception Class. Each year they ensure that the Reception children enjoy a smooth transition into school.

We have strong links with the local Community College who have their students come and support our pupils with activities such as reading, and musical performances.

We also regularly meet up with the local Young at Heart group and set up activities such as singing, reading and craft projects with them.

## After School Clubs

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities including seasonal sports such as netball, football, rugby, hockey and cricket. In addition, we offer a wide range of activities through external providers with clubs offered including Drama, Fit Kidz, Archery, Fencing, Archaeology, Trigolf and Science. In addition, we run the Young Voices choir for our older children, and also offer a wide range of clubs for every year group such as Art, Construction, Photography and Puzzle Clubs. We also hire our school hall to the local community and have a netball group regularly using our school playground on a Saturday.



# We are woven together ...



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