

Barcombe CE

PRIMARY SCHOOL



A small and mighty school where everyone flourishes at the heart of the community.

Proudly part of the Skylark Federation





Barcombe CE Primary School

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Welcome

My name is Jennifer Ross and it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our thriving and inclusive school. As our vision says, Barcombe is a 'small and mighty school where everyone flourishes at the heart of the community.' We put the needs and aspirations of the children at the centre of all we do, valuing strong links with our parents and carers, St Mary's Church in Barcombe and those in the wider community in order to achieve this.



Barcombe School is proud to offer a broad, creative and ambitious curriculum which enables pupils to take pride in their learning and where the potential of every child is realised. We are guided by Christian values and we use the teachings of Jesus to help us learn to live wisely and to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Through our values and vision, we strive to be leaders of learning and agents of change, exploring ways we can positively contribute to the community and help to create a better world.

Our nurturing and committed team of teachers and support staff work collaboratively to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for the children. As a small school, we pride ourselves on knowing one another well and celebrating the individual needs and gifts of every child. Through these close and caring relationships, children to are enabled to feel empowered and secure. Our school values of compassion, responsibility, perseverance, forgiveness, hope and courage underpin all we do and we strive to uphold these in our work and play, each and every day.

If you would like to find out more about our small and mighty school, you are warmly welcomed to visit and see our vision in action.

Jennifer Ross
Head of School

“We pride ourselves on knowing one another well and celebrating the individual needs and gifts of every child. Through these close and caring relationships, children to are enabled to feel empowered and secure.”

Christian Vision and Values



Our Vision

At Barcombe CE Primary School, our vision is at the heart of everything we do, inspiring every member of our community to flourish academically, personally and spiritually. Inspired by the parable of the mustard seed in Matthew's Gospel, we believe that small beginnings can grow into something significant and make a lasting difference. Although we are a small village school, we are powerful and mighty, and every child and adult has an important part to play. We encourage everyone to recognise their potential, celebrate their strengths and make a positive difference to the lives of others.

Our Values

We are guided by the six core Christian values of *Compassion, Responsibility, Perseverance, Forgiveness, Hope and Courage*. These values shape our behaviours and attitudes both in school and out and are championed and promoted across the curriculum and in all aspects of school life.

Church Links

We have strong links with our local churches, attending St Mary's Church for Harvest, Easter and Christmas services, and enjoying key-stage worship at St Francis Chapel. Reverend Sam works closely with our school and visits each week to lead whole school Collective Worship, helping children to explore their faith, reflect on Christian values and consider how these values can shape the way we live and treat others.

Curriculum

Creative, Engaging and Rooted in Our Community

At Barcombe, we follow the Skylark Federation Curriculum, designed to provide a coherent, engaging and ambitious education for every child. Our curriculum combines high expectations with meaningful learning experiences, helping pupils develop secure knowledge, strong skills and a lifelong love of learning.

Learning is carefully sequenced to build understanding over time, with children exploring knowledge through a broad range of subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, The Arts, Computing, Physical Education, and Religious Education. Through our project-based approach, pupils make meaningful connections in their learning while developing critical thinking, creativity and curiosity about the world around them.

We place children at the heart of everything we do, nurturing resilience, independence, kindness and collaboration. Our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education promotes wellbeing, positive relationships, emotional literacy and responsible citizenship, helping pupils to understand themselves and their role within the wider community.

Our curriculum is enriched by the unique character of our local community and aims to prepare pupils both for the next stage of their education and for life beyond the classroom.

The curriculum is organised into three stages:

- **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):** ages 4-5
- **Key Stage 1:** ages 5-7
- **Key Stage 2:** ages 7-11



Our Learning Journey

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In Reception, children learn through play and exploration. Our curriculum covers Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design. We use Tapestry to share your child's learning journey with you, providing a window into their experiences, achievements and progress at school. We also encourage pupils to share their learning and experiences with you at home, helping to strengthen the connection between home and school.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1-2)

Children build on their early learning with a focus on English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, Computing, PE, PSHE, and RE. During this phase, Phonics and Maths are taught in single-year groups as part of our commitment to providing children with strong foundations in literacy and numeracy.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6)

Our older pupils benefit from a rich and varied curriculum, encompassing English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, Computing, PE, PSHE, RE, French and Oracy. As they progress through the school, we provide increasing opportunities for independence, responsibility and challenge, ensuring that pupils are well prepared for a successful transition to secondary school.



Enriched Curriculum

Trips, Events and Celebrations

Educational Visits

We make the most of our wonderful local area, helping children develop a strong connection with their community and the world around them.

From exploring Battle Abbey, Lewes Castle, the Towner Gallery and Brighton Pavilion to visiting local farms, our trips and visits bring curriculum learning to life.

Residential Trips

In Year 6, children enjoy a residential trip to Bowles Activity Centre, building confidence, teamwork and independence.

Events and Celebrations

Throughout the year, we come together as a school community to celebrate, learn and have fun. From exciting STEM days and book weeks to school productions and sports days. We also proudly support national charity events, including Children in Need and Red Nose Day, helping pupils develop a strong sense of compassion and responsibility.

Workshops and Visitors

We regularly welcome specialists into school to lead inspiring workshops, from authors and artists to scientists and historians. These experiences bring learning to life, spark curiosity and help us create memorable moments of awe and wonder for our pupils.



Forest School and Sport

Forest School

Forest School is a valued part of our curriculum across all phases, giving children regular opportunities to learn, explore and thrive in the outdoors. Children in EYFS and KS1 enjoy a full term of Forest School each year, while KS2 pupils take part for a half term. Based in the beautiful Wild About Barcombe community space, sessions provide a rich environment where children can develop confidence, resilience, independence and teamwork. Through practical, hands-on experiences, children learn skills such as fire-lighting, shelter-building and safe tool use.

Physical Education and Sport

High-quality PE is an important part of our curriculum, and we are fortunate to have a state-of-the-art Sports Hall at school. We believe that being active is essential for children's physical and emotional wellbeing, and we encourage every child to discover the enjoyment and benefits of sport, whatever their age or ability. Our PE curriculum provides opportunities for children to develop a wide range of skills through athletics, gymnastics, dance, yoga, football, cricket, hockey, netball and more. Alongside developing physical skills, children learn about teamwork, resilience and fair play as they have the opportunity to represent the school at inter-federation sports events and competitions, as well as taking part in sporting events across the county.

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Music and our PTA



Music

Music is an important part of our curriculum, with all children developing their skills and creativity through the National Curriculum for Music. Alongside classroom teaching, children enjoy enriching opportunities through Brass Sparks, our Barcombe Choir, and performances at church services, end-of-year productions and other school events. Our choir has also had the exciting opportunity to perform on stage at Glyndebourne. Children can further develop their musical talents through individual tuition from specialist peripatetic teachers, with instruments including piano, cello and drums. We aim to inspire a lifelong love of music and give every child the opportunity to enjoy, create and perform.

PTA

Our incredible PTA plays an important role in supporting the school, raising funds to provide enriching resources, experiences and opportunities for our children.

Throughout the year, the PTA organises a fantastic range of fundraising events, including our Christmas Fair, Summer Fun Day, discos, Community Café and Colour Run, as well as running refreshment stalls at events such as Bonfire Night and Sports Day. The generosity and enthusiasm of our families make a real difference. Last year alone, the PTA funded over £5,000 towards sports coaching, curriculum resources, educational visits, author visits, animal encounters, books and much more.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our PTA and wider school community, which helps us provide memorable experiences and enrich children's learning.

Clubs and Pupil Voice

Clubs

We offer an After-School Club until 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, providing flexible and convenient wraparound care for families. Throughout the year, we also offer a varied programme of specialist after-school clubs, giving children opportunities to discover new interests, develop their talents and enjoy learning beyond the classroom. Our clubs include: Chess, Football, Tennis, Art, Skateboarding, French and many more.



Pupil Voice

We believe that children should have a genuine voice in their school and the opportunity to make a positive difference. Our Student Council meets regularly to share ideas, discuss improvements and help shape school life. Alongside the Student Council, children take on a range of leadership roles, including Worship Wardens, Librarians, Sports Leaders and Digital Leaders. These roles encourage pupils to develop confidence, responsibility and leadership skills while making a meaningful contribution to our school community. Our pupils' ideas lead to real change. From redesigning outdoor play spaces and improving the lunchtime experience to organising charity events, children are empowered to share their views, take action and see the impact they can make.

Inclusion

We are committed to ensuring every child is included, supported and able to thrive in all aspects of school life. Our experienced SENDCO works closely with teachers, families and external professionals to identify needs early and provide the right support at the right time. Through a graduated approach, personalised plans and regular reviews, we carefully monitor and adapt provision to meet individual needs. Adaptive teaching is embedded across the classroom, ensuring that lessons, resources and approaches are responsive to different learning needs and enable every child to make progress and achieve their potential.

Our new sensory room is available to all pupils throughout the day, providing a calm, supportive space where children can regulate their emotions, manage sensory needs and refocus. This helps to reduce anxiety, improve concentration and attention, and enables children to return to learning feeling calm, settled and ready to engage.



The Skylark Federation

Matt Dean

Interim Executive Headteacher



I hope you have enjoyed learning more about our school and the opportunities we provide for our children. My name is Matt Dean, and I am proud to be serving as Interim Executive Headteacher of the Skylark Federation, which brings together Barcombe CE, Hamsey CP, Iford and Kingston CE, and Plumpton Primary School.

As a federation, we are committed to ensuring that every child thrives within a nurturing, inclusive and ambitious learning community. Each of our schools has its own unique character and sits at the heart of its village community, and we work hard to celebrate and preserve these distinctive identities.

At the same time, being part of the Skylark Federation enables us to share expertise, resources and opportunities across our schools. This allows children and staff to benefit from the strengths of a larger organisation whilst retaining the warmth, personal relationships and close-knit community spirit that make small schools so special.

I am incredibly proud of our children, staff, governors and wider communities, and of the rich educational experiences we provide. Together, we are committed to helping every child flourish, develop a lifelong love of learning and achieve their full potential.

Having been part of the federation for a number of years, I have developed strong relationships across our schools and a real appreciation for what makes each community unique. I have seen first-hand the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our children and the support of our families. I am honoured to lead the federation and look forward to building on the many strengths that already exist across all four schools, ensuring that every child continues to thrive and succeed.

Admissions

Admissions to Plumpton Primary School are managed by East Sussex County Council. Our Published Admission Number (PAN) is 20. We warmly welcome visits from prospective families. Please contact the school office to arrange a tour, we would love to show you around and answer any questions.

For full admissions information, including application forms and deadlines, please visit the East Sussex County Council website or contact us directly.

Governors

Our Governing Body plays a vital role in the strategic direction of the school. Governors are drawn from parents, staff and the local community, and they work closely with the leadership team to ensure the best outcomes for every child.

Meet Bramley

Bramley is Miss Ross's golden Labrador and a much-loved member of our school community. As he gets older (and better behaved!), he'll be visiting Barcombe more often. Bramley loves listening to stories, playing on the recreation ground, and helping others feel calm, happy and confident.





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