

# Welcome to our School!

We are thrilled that you have chosen to look round our school and would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family.

Your child is a priceless individual and they deserve a caring, unique, personalised education, which we believe we can offer them at Upton Meadows.

The decision you are about to make when choosing the right primary school for your child, be it in Reception or for a move during their Primary School journey is probably one of the most important ones you will ever make. It is vital that your child gets the very best primary education that they can, as this sets them up for the rest of their lives.

At Upton Meadows we hope to inspire our children to strive for the very best for themselves, their friends and the whole school community: we want them to know that they are unique, respected and well cared for.

I became a teacher as I passionately believe that we can make a real difference to lives and I cannot think of a more rewarding profession to work in. Every day I experience the joy that comes with working with children—it is a real privilege to create an environment that allows young minds to dream, create, believe, excel and feel a true sense of worth and belonging.

As a school we recognise the importance of developing the whole child by encouraging and celebrating all their different gifts and talents, be they sporting, academic, musical, theatrical or anything else!

We will ensure that your child becomes a confident, well-rounded individual who is a successful learner in all ways and who wants to learn because they have high aspirations for themselves.

We hope that you enjoy looking round our school today and that our presentation and tour answer any questions that you may have.

However, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions or if you think of something when you get home that you meant to ask.

With my very best wishes,

*Clare Searing*

*Headteacher*



# Northampton Primary Academy Trust

## ***'Achieving Extraordinary Things'***

In April 2018 we converted to become an academy and joined the Northampton Primary Academy Trust (NPAT). Being part of a wider academy trust has strengthened our position at a time of some uncertainty with the Local Authority, but will also provide us with exciting opportunities for future development for our children and our staff.

NPAT has strong links with partner agencies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, Microsoft and Create Development which allows NPAT schools to demonstrate exemplary practice in sport, dance, drama, the arts and technology. The aim of the Trust is to ensure that children can achieve the highest academic standards at the same time as enjoying a rich, challenging and relevant curriculum, which focuses on their personal development and prepares them for their place in the wider world.

Already this year, our children have benefitted from NPAT Trust-wide opportunities, for example Y4 attended a Shakespeare First Encounters performance of 'Comedy of Errors' and children from Reception to Y6 will take part in a Trust-wide Shakespeare project based on Romeo and Juliet after Christmas.

Our staff also benefit from regular training and network opportunities with colleagues and experts from within and outside the Trust, which can only mean good things for our children!

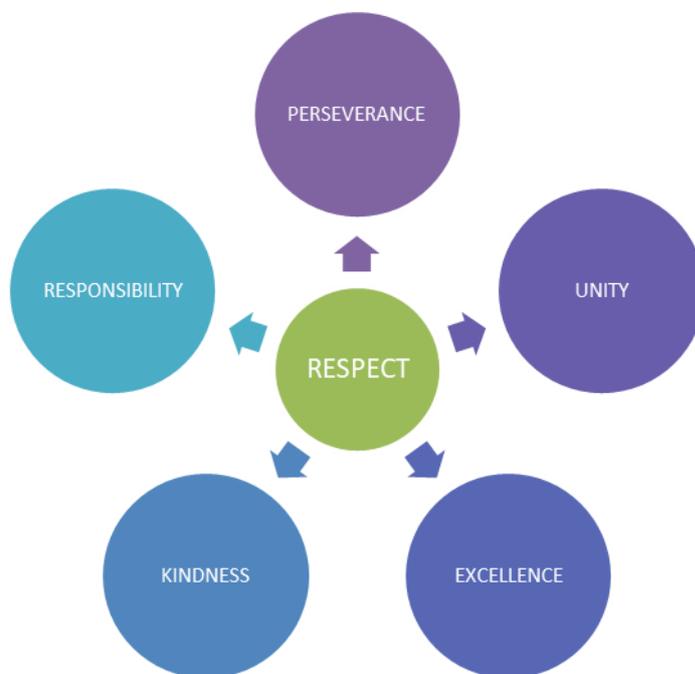


NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY  
ACADEMY TRUST PARTNERSHIP

# School Ethos and Values

At Upton Meadows we believe we are 'creating superstars of the future'. For children, this means that all adults in school will continuously strive to help them to attain their very best educationally, socially and personally.

A core set of values underpin our ethos and curriculum, influencing our interactions with each other and our attitudes to learning. RESPECT is at the centre of everything we do in school—respect for others, for yourself and for the school and wider environment.



## 'CREATING SUPERSTARS OF THE FUTURE'

**S**uccess in all we do

**U**nique in all we do

**P**ositive in all we do

**E**xcellent in all we do

**R**esponsible in all we do

**S**ensitive in all we do

**T**olerant in all we do

**A**chieving in all we do

**R**espectful in all we do

**S**upported in all we do

# Our Wider School Community

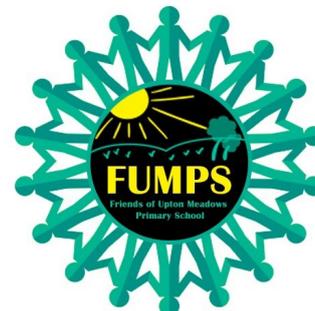
## HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Good relationships between home and school are crucial if a child is going to flourish, thrive and achieve their best. Therefore we welcome and appreciate parental support and involvement in all aspects of learning and in the wider life of the school. This is achieved in a variety of ways, for example, our celebration assembly on Friday mornings allows parents to celebrate in the successes of those children who have been awarded a 'Superstar' or 'Good Work' award. We also have a multitude of opportunities for parents to visit the school for class assemblies, shared reading, craft activities and on various other occasions, along with the more formal chance to meet with your child's teacher twice a year at parents' evenings.

## Friends of Upton Meadows Primary School (FUMPS)

We have a growing Friends association who are responsible for raising additional funds that can be used for the benefit of the whole school community. The most recent example of this is the construction the school 'ramble' which is used by children on a daily basis.

New members are very much welcomed and FUMPS are always open to new fundraising ideas—it's also a great way to get involved with the school community and meet other parents.



## School Governance

Our school governors manage the school along with the Headteacher. The governing body is made up of elected parent governors, co-opted governors from the local community, elected school staff governors and the Headteacher. From time to time the opportunity may arise for a new parent governor who will be elected by ballot. Questions for the governing body can be passed, in confidence, through the school office.

## Upton Meadows Residents' Association

We are at the beginning of building a new relationship with the Upton Meadows Residents' Association to build and strengthen community cohesion on our estate and are excited to explore what this could look like!

# Inclusion and Opportunity

We passionately believe that every child must be provided with opportunities to develop socially, emotionally, academically and physically. We are an inclusive learning community that is forward thinking and committed to ensuring that all children in our care are happy, enthusiastic and purposeful learners.



## Special Educational Needs

The identification and learning support programs for children with special educational needs are the responsibility of the class teacher and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). The children are fully integrated into school life, receiving expertise and assistance from various outside agencies that work with the school.

## Accessibility

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school.

## Nurture and Pastoral Support

We also run a highly successful nurture provision in school alongside an extensive pastoral support programme. We have a full-time Family Support Worker and a school counsellor who work with children in small groups and one to one if required.



# Curriculum

A high quality curriculum is the foundation of our successful school. It is based on consistently good teaching; stimulating and creative learning opportunities and the application of core knowledge and skills. We have carefully crafted a progressive learning journey for our children that build on the strong foundations of learning that begin in Reception and develop as they move through the school. From when your child joins us in Reception to when they leave us in Year 6, at 11 years old, they will experience a lively, engaging and rigorous programme of learning.

Our teachers carefully design topics, themes and challenges on which we can then 'hang' the children's learning. They are underpinned by our belief that we are 'creating superstars of the future', high quality teaching and high expectations for all of our children. Our topics focus on a wide range of different aspects of significant British and World History, Science and Geography which are enriched through engaging educational visits and visitors in school so that children can learn first-hand about these areas of study.



## LEARNERS FOR LIFE

We also place a strong emphasis on teaching our children essential 'Learn to Learn' skills that will equip them to be learners for life. These attributes are taught explicitly but are embedded in all that we do. We focus on six key areas so that our children become:

- ◆ Independent enquirers
- ◆ Reflective learners
- ◆ Effective participators
- ◆ Team workers
- ◆ Self managers
- ◆ Resourceful thinkers

# EYFS Curriculum

At Upton Meadows, we have a very strong Early Years ethos and follow the four main principles of good early years practice.

- 1) We believe that every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- 2) Children learn to be strong and independent through developing positive relationships.
- 3) Our children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to individual needs and there is a strong partnership between our practitioners and parents/carers.
- 4) Our children embrace learning and development in different ways and at different rates. We support the education of all children at Upton Meadows through our inclusive practice.



We teach the children through the seven areas of learning and development in the EYFS. These are grouped into two categories – prime areas and specific areas. The prime areas are important because they lay the foundations for children’s success in all other areas of learning and of life:

- ◆ Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- ◆ Physical Development
- ◆ Communication and Language

The specific areas provide the range of experiences and opportunities for children to broaden their knowledge and skills:

- ◆ Literacy
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Understanding the World
- ◆ Expressive Arts and Design



As practitioners, we observe and respond to each child in our care on an on-going basis. We take a flexible approach, responding to each child as an individual learner and give them a wide creative learning experiences. For example we have had trips in our mini bus to Salcey Forest to find Stickman, Tesco to explore where our food comes from. Visits from the fire brigade, the police, paramedics, Northampton Saints and Northampton Town FC. A Superhero breakfast, pirate picnic and a tiger who came to tea. And our 'it's good to be me' afternoons when we invite parents in to work with their children.



We also enjoy Forest Schools that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in our Forest School site.

# Our Extended Curriculum

To help our children explore their individual talents and experience a wide range of opportunities, our staff endeavour to provide the children with many different extra-curricular clubs and we also offer a range of clubs from external providers. These take place before and after school, as well as at lunchtime and there may be a small charge attached.

Recent clubs offered include:

- ◆ Freestyle Soccer and Dodgeball
- ◆ Hotshot Basketball
- ◆ Premier Sports Multisports
- ◆ Pacesetters Gymnastics
- ◆ New Stars Dance Academy
- ◆ Film Club
- ◆ Board Games Club
- ◆ Football Club
- ◆ Dance Clubs
- ◆ Lego Club
- ◆ Art & Craft Club
- ◆ Strictly Ballroom Dancing Club
- ◆ School Choir

We also have peripatetic music lessons offered by the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust on various musical instruments.



# School Organisation

## **School Session Times:**

Morning 8.55am-12.00 noon (EYFS & KS1) / 12.15pm (KS2)

Afternoon 12.50pm (EYFS/KS1) / 1.05pm (KS2) - 3.15pm

Children arrive in school from 8.45am and go into their classrooms at 8.55am to register before lessons begin promptly at 9am. There is no supervision on the playgrounds before school starts. Our school policy is that all children should be brought to and collected from their classroom doors by a responsible adult—in Year 5&6 it is possible to give written permission for your child to walk to and/or from school by themselves.

## **Lunch**

Meals are provided in school by ABM catering who provide a main and vegetarian option as well as jacket potatoes and sandwiches. There is always a salad bar available to all children and fruit and yoghurts for dessert.

The government provides free school lunches for all children until the end of KS1 (Year 2) and for some children in KS2 who are eligible for the Pupil Premium (see below). All children can book a hot meal for the cost of £2.30 a day; alternatively, children can bring a packed lunch from home which we request is well-balanced and healthy with no fizzy drinks, glass bottles or sweets. We are also a nut free school due to having several children with severe allergies so please avoid putting products containing nuts in lunch boxes.

Children also have access to fresh drinking water and are allowed to eat fruit at playtimes (this is provided free of charge for children in EYFS and KS1). Cool milk is available to order if parents wish their children to have a carton of milk each day.

## **Pupil Premium and Free School Meals**

Your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium, including free school meals, It is important to find out if you may be entitled to this even while your child is receiving school meals as you will also get other benefits in school such as money towards school trips, school uniform and extra-curricular clubs. Please speak to a member of the school office if you think you may be eligible for this money or click on the website below to find the local authority link to information.

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/pupil-premium.aspx>

## **Punctuality and Attendance**

It is essential that pupils are punctual and in school every day. All pupil absence is managed in accordance with government guidance and our Trust-wide policy is available on our school website.

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

It may be helpful for parents to know that it is a legal requirement for Headteachers to report obvious or suspected cases of child abuse. This includes non-accidental injury, severe physical neglect, emotional abuse and/or sexual abuse.

This procedure is intended to protect children at risk and schools are encouraged to take the attitude that where there are grounds for suspicion, it is better to be safe than sorry. A copy of our school Child Protection & Safeguarding policy is available on the school website.

## **Photographing of children**

The school uses photographs to record events and achievements by children. These photographs are used internally, to celebrate achievements and for publicity (e.g. the school website or Twitter accounts). We will always seek your permission before sharing photographs of your child. We would also not allow a newspaper to publish a photograph in which a child could be identified by name. We do allow parents to photograph and video events in school as we believe this is a common sense approach, however if any parent had a concern about this we would encourage them to speak to the Headteacher.

## **Behaviour**

Our school behaviour policy has just been rewritten and relaunched and is available on the school website. We have three simple school rules that children are expected to follow at all times:

- 1) We show respect
- 2) We try our best
- 3) We are kind

## **Rewards**

We have a variety of rewards in school for children showing any of our six school values. These include 'dojo' points earned on an individual, class and house point level, superstar awards, good work awards and lots of stickers! Children will receive continual feedback about their work and behaviour choices from all adults in school.

## **'Wrap around' care**

Ashbourne Day Nursery operates a breakfast club from 8am-9am and an After School Club from 3.25pm—5.50pm each day. Please contact them directly for further information.

## **Uniform**

We want our children to have pride in our school and to know that they are a special part of the Upton Meadows community. We believe that wearing a school uniform

- ◆ Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- ◆ Helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- ◆ Identifies pupils with the school
- ◆ Supports the school's commitment to inclusion
- ◆ Prevents pupils from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class
- ◆ Is practical, smart, and designed with health and safety in mind
- ◆ Is considered good value for money by most parents

Our children wear a jade green logo sweatshirt/cardigan, navy blue logo polo t-shirts, dark grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress/shorts and black school shoes (no trainers or boots). Summer dresses may be worn when the weather is appropriate—blue or green only.



## **Moving onto Secondary School**

When our pupils move onto secondary school at the end of Year 6, aged 11 years old, we make the process as smooth as possible. We have strong links with local secondary schools and reciprocal visits are arranged along with sharing of information, resources and learning experiences. Children from Upton Meadows will also have had the chance to take part in events at our local secondary school, for example sporting fixtures, during their time with us.