

## **Leys Farm Junior School**



**January 2007:**

*Leys Farm is a good school in which pupils thrive and flourish.*

*Pupils enjoy their learning and their behaviour is good. The school has created a nurturing environment in which pupils grow in confidence, both academically and spiritually.*

*The pupils are proud of their achievements. They have gained Artsmark Gold, Eco-Schools and Young Environmentalist awards and achieved Healthy Schools' status. Pupils' growing confidence and ability to apply basic skills prepare them well for the next stage of education.*

*Standards are above average.*

*Lower ability pupils and those with learning difficulties and disabilities are identified early to help them to do equally well.*

*The creative and stimulating curriculum is a strength of the school.*

*The emphasis on emotional literacy is playing an important part in developing the creative and spiritual elements of learning and is contributing to good personal development.*

*Pupils are outward-looking and keen to be involved in many different activities and to make a contribution to the wider world.*

*Teaching and learning are good with particular strengths in planning and creativity.*

*Good progress has been made on many fronts since the previous inspection.*

## **Our School**

**Address:** Park Avenue, Bottesford, Scunthorpe,  
DN17 2PB  
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### **The people at our school are:**

**Headteacher:** Mr E.E. Gibbs  
**Deputy Head:** Miss A.F. Laidlaw

**Teaching Staff:** Mrs K. Price  
Miss E. Simpson  
Mrs R. Stephenson (part time)  
Mrs A.M. Wass

**Peripatetic Support:** Mrs J. Scorer (SEN Teaching Team)  
Woodwind Teacher  
Brass/Percussion Teacher  
Strings Teacher

**Business Manager:** Mrs A. Pinnick

**TAs** Ms D. Bilton  
Mrs A. Elliot  
Mrs L. Neal

**Senior Midday Supervisor:** Mrs J. Black  
**Midday Supervisors:** Ms D. Bilton  
Mrs A. Macleod

**Cook Supervisor:** Mrs J. Seeley  
**Kitchen Assistant:** Mrs R. Bennett

**Cash Till Operator:** Mrs C. Sheard

**Caretaker:** Mr J. King  
**Cleaner:** Ms D. Bilton

Our school is a Junior School in the North Lincolnshire LA.

The Service Director for Learning, Schools and Communities is:

**Mr C. David Lea**  
**North Lincolnshire Council**  
**Hewson House**  
**Station Road**  
**BRIGG**  
**DN20 8XJ**

### **The Governing Body**

The Chair of the Governors is: Mrs E. Girling

The Vice-Chair is: Mr K. Kaye

The SEN and English Governor is: Mrs E. Girling

The Mathematics Governor is: Mrs E. Tindall

The Governors serve a four year term from their date of appointment. The governors have overall responsibility for the effective management of finance, appointments, personnel, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, curriculum, Special Educational Needs, Performance Management and the discipline in the school. The Governors delegate the detailed management and day to day running of the school to the Headteacher and the staff. The body meets each term, with additional committee meetings, especially the finance committee who maintain an oversight of the budget. At these meetings they receive a detailed report from the Headteacher and, on occasions, other staff update the Governors on their subject areas. The governors aim to work closely with the school and they try to make regular visits with reports back to the Governing Body meetings.

### **The School Buildings**

The school has eight classrooms, a hall and an administration area. In Spring 2008 a joint funding project with North Lincolnshire Council meant double glazing could be extended throughout the school. This has brought more comfortable conditions for staff and pupils and major energy savings. Air conditioning has been installed in those parts of the school which experience very high temperatures during the summer months. Currently we are waiting for matched funding to be released in order to update our kitchen and dining facilities. Improved access for disabled people was installed in early 2009.

Throughout the school there is an emphasis on the attractive display of children's work and the maintenance of a pleasant place in which quality work can be done. The children respect the demands placed on them to share the responsibility for caring for their school.

One room has been developed as a resources room for the books and other packs of information the school maintains for teaching a wide range of subjects as well as the many artefacts the school keeps to bring history and other subjects alive to the

children. It is also a teaching space for the peri-music teachers and Special Needs staff. We have a room which has been converted to an ICT Suite with interactive whiteboard. Another room is used for Food Technology work both in the curriculum and in after school activities. The hall is used for school assemblies and concerts and has a range of P.E. apparatus. It is used as a dining area at lunchtime. Outside are a large playground and an extensive field for games. There is a small space which is used as a "wild area" where the children can do practical work on natural history and conservation themes. Two garden areas, one for flowers and shrubs and the other for vegetables, have been developed in recent years. Seats are provided for children. The gardening club maintain these areas.

A superb new garden will be installed during the summer of 2009. This is in co-operation with John Cavill, a local gardener and landscaper, who has obtained funding through the Council and many sponsors. The garden is a showpiece at the BBC Gardener's World Show at the NEC and will then be brought to our school. It will be a wonderful new resource for our children, parents and the community. It will also be a training garden in conjunction with the RHS.

### **Standards Achieved**

We are proud of the work our children produce and the progress they make during their time with us. In January 2007 we were inspected by Ofsted. This inspection found we are a Good school "where pupils thrive and flourish." This report is available in school and is also available on the Ofsted website ([www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk))

The school has been awarded the following:

**Artsmark Gold**  
**Basic Skills Award (Second Award)**  
**National Healthy Schools Standard**  
**Eco-Schools Green Flag Award**  
**Activemark**  
**Geography Mark**  
**Fully Extended School Standard**  
**Food for Life Bronze Award**

### **Class Organisation**

In September 2009 there will be four classes:

Two Year 3 / 4 classes

Two Year 5 / 6 classes

We are pleased that the school's increasing popularity has meant pupil numbers are rising steadily.

## **The Curriculum**

Our curriculum follows the National Curriculum and the Guidelines of North Lincolnshire LA. We aim to give the children a broad and balanced range of learning experiences which give them the opportunity to develop to the maximum of their potential. We want them to gain independence and become responsible for their own learning, by being asked to make decisions and develop their curiosity. We believe the foundation of all learning is competence in communication - through language (spoken and written), mathematics and the creative arts. Our schemes of work aim to give them the necessary skills. We think it is important that they learn to work together and enjoy school, so they have the all-important commitment to learning.

## **English**

We follow the work prescribed in the revised National Literacy Framework each day. A strength of our school has been that language is used across a broad curriculum for a real purpose.

In Language the children are encouraged to communicate effectively orally, using a range of strategies. We want them to be able to express their ideas and explain themselves, as well as be able to listen to, and have respect for, the ideas of others. They will have experience in giving reports of work they have done, of interviewing and talking in class and assemblies.

We believe that it is a fundamental right for all children to be able to read competently and with enjoyment. We employ methods appropriate to the needs of the individual child, but there is an emphasis on a structured approach to phonics. Our reading books are colour coded, to ensure a distinct progression. We make a point of adding to and replacing classroom books regularly as children need the stimulus of attractive and good quality reading books. We have been able to increase the number of books by using funding from the government, the school budget and valuable support from the parents. We use books from reading schemes, which offer progression in small steps for those who need it, and many story books which give the competent readers plenty of opportunity to extend themselves.

Reading of course underpins all other work, and children are constantly being challenged to read for information and to use that information for themselves. Children are encouraged to take books home to read and share with parents. We hope you will find a few minutes in the evening to hear them. If your child doesn't bring a book home regularly, please ask them where it is and talk to the teacher. It is probable that your child is forgetting and needs reminding.

Children with reading difficulties will receive additional help from the teacher from the Special Needs Teaching Team, Mrs Scorer, who works closely with the class teachers to provide the specific assistance your child requires.

Children are given a wide variety of experiences in writing which aim to make them competent as well as giving them pleasure. The opportunities for writing are based on real situations - including writing reports and records of what they have done, persuasive writing, letter writing, short plays, informative accounts and instructions.

They are also given the chance to express their creative talents through story writing, poems and so on. We believe children need to know how to structure their writing by using correct grammar and punctuation. We have been focusing on Story Writing techniques in the past year and this will continue this year. Literacy Hour work supports this. Spelling is always given a high profile and children will have word lists to learn at home. Spellings are corrected in work, as appropriate to the ability of the child, and spelling rules and patterns are discussed. We hope you will support our work by encouraging your child to learn spelling lists at home. We believe the presentation and layout of work is very important and there is a common approach throughout the school. We find that children are very proud of their work when they are set high standards.

Children are taught a handwriting style from Y3 and begin their handwriting in pencil. As their confidence and capability improve their teacher will move them to an ink pen. Our school provides the pens.

### **Mathematics**

Our planning is in line with the new Primary Numeracy Framework. With the support of fundraising by parents we were able to purchase a complete new Abacus Evolve Scheme of textbooks which have been in use since January 2008. These are based completely on the new Framework.

As in their language work, we want the children to have both competence and enjoyment in the subject. The work is covered using a variety of methods, including class teaching, grouping by ability and individual investigations. Teachers use the method which is most appropriate and effective for the task in hand.

Children also carry out investigations and games to extend and practise their skills. Number bonds and tables are practised regularly - and children are asked to learn them at home. The skills must be competently learned so they are of use in real life, so such situations are presented to the children across the curriculum.

There is support for children who need additional support in numeracy through our TAs. A group of more able children in Year 6 have a special lesson each week.

### **Science, Technology, ICT, History, Geography, Art**

These subjects are usually taught as part of the broader curriculum through work based on themes which have a particular focus. These are very carefully planned to ensure the necessary work is covered and to prevent repetition. They are chosen to give a balance, so an individual theme will cover only one or two subjects IN DEPTH. This ensures the skills and knowledge demanded by a particular subject are studied in a worthwhile way, not skimmed over. We welcome the recent proposed changes to the National Curriculum because it gives us greater control over which aspects to teach in depth.

There is a great range of work done and quality is emphasised all the time. Whenever possible the children work from their own experiences and do practical tasks. They use reference books from the library, use the internet, go on visits, have visitors into school and write off for additional information. We use the local area as

much as possible, both around school and in Scunthorpe.

We use information technology whenever possible, using our computers to create databases, do word processing, desk top publishing, for reference on CD-ROMs and so on. The ICT Suite has sixteen PCs with flat screen monitors. The classrooms have high quality computer benches to house the computers. The PCs are networked through data cabling, so files and printers can be shared and each computer in every classroom has internet access. We have developed a web site with the help of the children. The school is developing a Learning Platform (Studywiz) in conjunction with the local authority. A blog is being developed so up to date news can be accessible to parents and the community. The children are also able to e-mail other schools, including some abroad. We have an Internet Access Policy, which is shared with parents. The computers are protected by professional quality filtering software to ensure internet safety. Interactive Whiteboards are installed in classrooms, the ICT suite and the Hall.

At the end of each theme the children will have produced a folder, or have made a book to contain their information. This latter activity gives them practice in the skill of designing, making, organising and presenting. The books produced are put on display and are read by the children. Technology in its broadest sense is fostered through our activities lessons, where the children are encouraged to observe, analyse, design and create. The high standards achieved give them confidence both in the techniques used and in the decision making involved. A range of media are used in art: paint, pencil, pen, textiles, clay and printing.

## **Music**

All children have the opportunity for music making, singing and listening to music in lesson time, and in addition we receive help from the peripatetic music service. Teachers come to school to teach strings, percussion, brass and woodwind, working with children mainly in Y5 and Y6 (there is a supplementary charge for this teaching.) We ask that children make a commitment to attend regularly. Our choir has taken part in local primary school events.

## **R.E.**

There are school assemblies three times a week and class assemblies. These are times when stories are told which have a religious/moral background and are broadly Christian in character. Other religions are covered too. In addition there are elements of RE brought into thematic work and into class discussion times (PSHCE). The children follow the syllabus of North Lincolnshire LA. We aim to give them the basis of our Christian culture and beliefs.

## **Planning, Assessment and Record Keeping**

All this work demands meticulous and detailed planning by teachers to ensure the Programmes of Study of the National Curriculum are covered. Teachers work closely

together in their year groups planning what is to be done, each bringing their own interests and expertise to the process. Teachers use Layered Targets for English and Mathematics which help us to focus differentiated tasks and expectations on the groups in each class and across the school.

Assessment of work is done regularly, both formally and informally, in the classroom and these assessments are recorded for all children. Records are kept of work done. QCA tests are carried out each Summer in Mathematics and English. These are standardised tests which help us to compare the children's performance with others nationally and locally.

The Year 6 children take the National Curriculum Tests (SATs), the results of which are reported to parents, together with our Teacher Assessments.

Each Autumn the children take NFER tests in Maths and Reading which give us another, independent, source of assessment data. This data is shared with the LA.

Parents receive written reports in the Summer Term, giving a report on all the National Curriculum subjects as well as general comments.

### **Special Educational Needs Service**

If children have learning difficulties they are helped initially in the classroom by their teacher, and there is additional time available from the teacher from the Special Needs Teaching Team (Mrs Scorer). This help is both in the classroom and on a withdrawal basis. Our TAs are fully trained and provide support in class, to targeted groups outside the classroom and to individual children.

### **Visits and Visitors**

As part of their curriculum children will make day or half day visits out of school. We believe these visits are very important to give children experiences and information which is not easily obtainable within the classroom. A charge is made for transport and entrances for these visits and there is always a subsidy from the school. This charge is voluntary, and no child will be excluded, but it is hoped that all parents will support the visits because it is unlikely they will take place without sufficient voluntary payments. There is no special funding from the LA for them. The Governors have a policy for charging in line with the LA Guidelines. Older children usually have the opportunity to go on a residential visit: a four day visit to Bamburgh in Northumberland. This visit is particularly useful for the work in Y6 and gives the children a great sense of self-confidence and independence. We are greatly encouraged that parents support it so well. This visit was not viable in 2009 because of a small year group size and the national economic downturn. We hope it will be possible in the near future.

We regularly have visitors who bring expertise in subjects such as history, cooking, dance and drama.

### **Wild Area**

Our school grounds are a valuable resource - we are developing a wild area and we have planted spring bulbs to make the area attractive. Children are encouraged to

care about the environment in which they live and to do something about preserving it.

### **Swimming**

When children are in Y4 they receive eight one hour lessons at Riddings Pool, funded by the LA. The aim is to make sure all children have at least a basic competence in swimming.

### **Clubs**

Teachers and TAs have extra-curricular clubs, usually after school, covering such activities as chess, music, athletics, cooking, football training, netball, gardening, maths, school newsletter and School Council. The clubs have a small charge to cover staffing costs and materials. These are explained at the beginning of the year.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their child's learning, both in school and at home. We want there to be a partnership which can only be to the benefit of your child.

We welcome help in the classroom, helping children to choose books, helping with creative activities, baking and with mounting work.

All children are encouraged to take books home to read with their parents and to share and enjoy them. There is a record sheet so comments can be made at school and at home.

A group of parents have been helping us by providing Safe Cycling Training and Pedestrian Skills under the guidance of the Road Safety Department.

We have parents evenings to discuss progress each term. Each Summer Term parents receive a written report on their child.

Parents who volunteer to work in school will have to complete the clearance form required by the CRB. We hope parents will see that this is an additional safeguard for their children, and will continue to volunteer to give their valuable help.

### **Links with Melior School**

We look forward to working again with Melior School, the headteacher, Mrs Briggs, and the staff. We have also had useful links with Frederick Gough School, especially with our Christmas Concert.

### **Healthy Schools Standard**

The school has achieved the National Healthy Schools Standard and maintains the various aspects which led to the Award. There is a close liaison with the Football in the Community team from Scunthorpe United, who provide training in the curriculum and also run an after school club for fitness and games, which is open to all year groups, boys and girls. Each year they also organise a broader health

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promoting scheme for four weeks, in which children do group games and have a week looking at healthy sandwiches, as well as discussing healthy lifestyles. We hold a Healthy School Week each year which includes contributions from a number of outside agencies.

Our School Council meets fortnightly, at which children from each class can give ideas on what they would like in school. A number of new initiatives have been introduced as a result of their suggestions. Water is available in proper drinking fountains in each classroom, which the children can access appropriately at any time. Fruit and milk are on sale each break. This has proved to be very popular.

We have focused on healthy eating, especially at lunchtimes. In the Summer Term 2008 we introduced attractive plates and dishes, which replaced the flight trays. We hope all parents will help by following guidance on healthy packed lunches. There is no doubt that restricting additives and colourings makes a great difference to children's learning and attitude. The School Council discuss school dinner menus with our cook each term. Our commitment, in association with the Schools Catering Service, has been recognised with the Food for Life Bronze Award. We are now working on the demanding criteria for the Silver Award.

As part of our Healthy Schools procedures ***children are not allowed to bring sweets or snacks to school (also no chewing gum)***. Fruit and milk is available at breaks.

### **General Administration**

Mrs Pinnick, the Business Manager, is usually the first contact for visitors and telephone calls. She is responsible for the day to day running of the office and is able to help parents herself, or will pass on enquiries or problems to the Headteacher, Deputy Head or the appropriate member of the teaching staff.

Mrs Elliot is our designated trained First Aider and is responsible for the care of children who are ill or injured.

Our school times are: 8.45 a.m. to 12.00 noon and 12.55 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

We ask that children do not arrive too early for school (before about 8.30 a.m.) especially on cold and wet days. A TA (Ms Bilton) supervises children in the playground each morning from 8.30am.

School lunches are provided by North Lincolnshire Catering and are of high quality and conform fully to the requirements of the DCSF. Menus for the term are sent home at the start of each term and are on display in the school. They can also be seen on the North Lincolnshire website. Meals are served on a cafeteria system, offering a choice of dishes. Children go into the hall on a daily rota basis so they all have a turn at being 'first'.

The school operates the "cash till" system in which children bring their money daily and so can choose on which days they wish to stay for school lunch. There is also the facility for children to bring cheques for a week if parents wish. Parents can pay "on line" through the North Lincolnshire website.

Packed lunches may be brought. If your child brings a packed lunch we ask that it is securely packed in a plastic box and drinks are not in glass bottles. Packed lunches are collected and stored in the Servery each morning so they are kept safe and

hygienic for lunchtime. **Please try to keep to healthy eating options in packed lunches.** Advice leaflets are made available.

Children must remain on school premises for the whole of lunchtime unless they go home for their lunch.

At lunchtime the children are supervised by a team of supervisors, with a Senior Midday Supervisor, under the general direction of the Headteacher.

Mrs Black and her team work hard to make sure children are well cared for and safe at lunchtime and it is important that children realise that good standards of behaviour must be maintained in the midday break. Serious and repeated ill-discipline will lead to children being excluded from school in the lunch break for a period of time. Parents would, of course, have been kept informed of the situation well before such action. It is important that we have your support and that you repeat the message at home.

It is useful if children who are at school over the lunch break have a small game or puzzle book in their drawer for use on wet days.

There is a wide range of apparatus and games for children to enjoy when they are playing outside at lunchtime. Children act as Play Leaders and Buddies to support children.

At break times the children are supervised by teaching and support staff and in good weather play outside on the playground or, if it is suitable, on the grass.

## **Data Collection**

All schools are required by the DCSF and the LA to keep up to date information about children and families. We send out regularly for updates, such as change of address, telephone number, etc. ***It is important that you let the office know immediately of any changes.*** All data is covered by the Data Protection Act and is kept in confidence.

## **Absence**

If your child is absent through sickness or is unable to take part in school activities such as games or P.E. please let us know by telephone or by a note. We have a telephone answer machine so you can leave your message at any time before school starts, even if we are not able to be in the office. DCSF regulations on registration mean that we have to have a message from you about each absence, or your child has to be recorded as 'unauthorised absent' and this is reported on the end of year report. If the absence is likely to be prolonged we will be happy to arrange for work to be sent home as appropriate. If we have not heard from you, Mrs Pinnick will telephone you to make sure your child is safe and has not set off for school.

Holiday absence: you **may** be permitted to take your child out of school to accompany you on your annual holiday for **NO MORE THAN TEN DAYS** each year. This is at the discretion of the headteacher who will take into account a number of factors, including overall attendance levels. Children are allowed only ONE holiday each year, however many days it is. Please complete a holiday form which is available from the school office. We would ask that all requests for absence be kept to the minimum to prevent disruption to your child's education. The DCSF have made it very clear that children should not be taken out of school unless it is

**absolutely necessary.** No absences will be authorised during test periods. North Lincolnshire Education Welfare Officers will issue fines if absences are numerous and unauthorised. Similarly parents of children who arrive late regularly will be subject to fines.

### **Children leaving school premises**

If your child has to be out of school for any reason during the day (for a hospital visit, dentist, etc) we will allow him/her to go only if you, or a previously notified representative, collects and returns him/her to school. All such absences must be recorded at the office to ensure your child is never at risk of being taken out of school by anyone other than you or your representative. Please do not go to the classrooms to collect your child.

If your child is ill or is injured whilst at school we will make every effort to contact you or your representative, so a decision can be made. In serious cases children will be taken to hospital and parents notified as soon as possible. It is, therefore, important that we have a contact number for you or a relative.

### **Security**

It is, unfortunately, a sign of the times that we need to provide extra security for our children and the staff. The courtyard doors have keypad locks on them and the front door has a lock and buzzer system so no unauthorised persons can gain entry. In the case of any threatening or abusive behaviour the police will be called immediately to ensure the safety of everyone in school. CCTV covers each side of the school and pictures are recorded.

### **Safeguarding**

Our school is committed to ensuring children are safe. All staff at the school have to have full safeguarding checks and similar checks are carried out on visitors who work with our children. We encourage parents to help in the classroom and in other activities such as Road Safety training. Parent helpers must obtain a CRB check. Forms are available from the school office. This check for parent volunteers is free. We work with relevant outside agencies if concerns are raised. All children have a named adult contact with whom they are comfortable to talk, should they have any concerns. Pupil buddies are on hand to support adults.

Copies of the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies are available in school if you wish to see them. These conform to North Lincolnshire requirements.

### **Asthma**

If your child suffers from asthma it is important you complete a record sheet and give us full information about the condition and the type of inhaler your child uses. We have to keep a register in the school office.

## **Medicine**

If your child needs to take routine medicine during school time this must be provided, with full instructions, in a dose size amount in a suitable container. It must be given to a member of staff and kept in the school office. We will see that it is given at the correct time. On no account must any medicine be kept in classrooms or in bags.

If your child needs an asthma inhaler we will keep it in the office, where it will always be available immediately. We do ask you to keep us informed about the use of the inhaler and to keep the refills replenished. We do not like children to keep the inhalers in their bags or drawers as they could be misplaced, or misused by others, and not immediately available.

## **School Clothing**

The governors have a policy on school dress which they expect parents to support. Certain items are NOT permitted: trainers (unless all black), track suits, jeans, leggings, gaudy tee shirts, etc.

The school dress has been arrived at after listening to parents' views and considering cost and practicality.

### **Boys and girls:**

- Blue school jumper (with school badge) or plain blue or black or grey jumper.
- School tee shirt (pale blue, with badge)
- White or pale blue polo shirt (school shirts available)
- **Black shoes or all black trainers**

### **Boys:**

- grey, navy or black trousers

### **Girls:**

- grey, navy or black skirt or tailored trousers. Plain grey, navy or black tights can be worn in cold weather. Summer dresses with small checks or fine stripes in blue may be worn.

For P.E. the children will need (this is part of the Governors' policy):

### **Indoor:**

Boys: black shorts, white or pale blue shirt

Girls: black shorts, white or pale blue shirt

### **Outdoor games and P. E:**

White/light blue tee shirt or polo shirt (school logo clothing available), black shorts for boys, black/ navy gym skirt for girls, blue or white socks, trainers or plimsolls. For cold weather a black or blue track suit may be worn.

Please note: football team shirts are not permitted for PE and games lessons.

Please make sure your child has PE/Games kit on the correct day. Letters will be sent home on the second occasion kit is not available.

The school has fleece jackets and waterproof outdoor jackets (with school logo) for purchase if parents wish.

***Jewellery should not be worn***, but small studs are allowed in pierced ears. Other body/facial piercing is NOT permitted. Hair braids are not allowed as they present a safety problem when taking part in physical activities. Similarly, patterned cuts in hair and “challenging”, unusual, haircuts are not appropriate for school. The Governors expect all parents to adhere to this policy.

### **Mobile Telephones**

There are very few circumstances when a child would need to bring a mobile telephone to school. However, if this is necessary they MUST be taken to the office first thing in the morning and NOT kept in bags. They should be turned off when in school. A note from parents must request permission.

### **Discipline**

The basis of the discipline of the school is the class unit, with each teacher being responsible for their class of children. They try to build up an identity within the class and show children how they fit into the school community. It is the responsibility of each child to contribute to the well being of our school through their attitude and behaviour and to show our school in a good light in the wider community. Children are constantly made aware of what is, and isn't, acceptable behaviour by referring to our school code. This emphasises respect for others and for property and the need for hard work.

Good behaviour is encouraged through stickers, table points, good behaviour certificates and so on.

Normal routine discipline is dealt with by the class teacher. If the behaviour gives more concern, or is repeated, a loss of privileges will result.

More serious cases are referred to the Deputy Head and the Headteacher. The child is warned that the behaviour is unacceptable and further loss of privileges results. Parents will be asked to come into school to discuss the problems and to plan a joint approach. This usually solves the problem. Some parents find it useful to keep in touch through oral reports every few weeks until things improve. It is important to realise that problems are not solved overnight and will need patient and consistent work at home and at school. If there are very serious cases, or a child does not respond, then a child may be excluded from school for a fixed period and parents will be asked to guarantee future behaviour.

The Governors' Discipline Committee will be involved, with the Headteacher and parents, if the fixed period of exclusion exceeds five days in a term.

We have to consider all children and ensure that effective teaching is not compromised by the behaviour of one or two. Bullying is not tolerated in any form and if there is any suspicion please let us know. We work with both children and

parents to make sure no child suffers.

Outside agencies are available to offer additional help and guidance.

We function on the goodwill of all those who work here. All staff aim to produce an interesting, challenging and stimulating environment and curriculum. Children know that they have a choice - to behave and work hard and receive praise, or to misbehave and accept that there are well defined sanctions.

In the past few years we have, with the other primary schools in the Cluster, been working with Jennifer Fox Eades, an education consultant and expert on behaviour and emotional literacy. The work has included the whole school focusing on Festivals as part of the cycle of the year and on Character Strengths. We have modified and adapted this work and it has made a significant difference to our school. We have been referred to in Jennifer's books and in national conferences.

The Character Strengths and Circle Time strategies are used to encourage children to view themselves positively and to work together and listen to each others' views.

### **Dealing with problems**

We have an 'open door' policy to allow parents to share problems or worries with us. We believe in creating an atmosphere where problems can be discussed openly and frankly and we do our best to solve them as quickly as possible. All we ask is that there is honesty and realism and, if necessary, an acceptance that your child may be the instigator of unacceptable behaviour. Parents should come in, or telephone, rather than allowing the situation to build up. It is not always possible to see parents immediately, because of teaching and other commitments, but an appointment will be made at the earliest opportunity. We commit ourselves to investigating and dealing with difficulties quickly – usually the same day.

### **Liaison and Community Links**

We have close links with our infant schools and the comprehensive schools. Meetings to discuss the curriculum and issues are held regularly. The infant children visit us during the summer, and our children visit the comprehensive schools. Teachers make visits too to get to know the children.

We link with the PCSOs in our area and with the local Neighbourhood Watch. We have formed a link with Yaddlethorpe Pre-School Group. A group of Senior Citizens who live locally come in to enjoy lunch with us on Wednesdays.

### **Homework**

You will see reference to homework in different parts of this brochure. We do believe in children doing work at home to supplement what they do in school. It is good training in self-discipline to make sure the work is completed, or facts learnt. Sometimes the homework will be to practise reading - we hope you will share books with your child for a few minutes most evenings. Sometimes it will be to learn tables

or spellings. You can help by checking them after your child has tried to learn them. At other times it will be to do some research connected with their topic work or work from a numeracy investigation. Here we hope you will work with them, supporting and encouraging and gradually letting them take the initiative.

The homework is to support what is done in school - it should never be allowed to cause great distress or upset. Please talk to your child's teacher if there are repeated problems.

We expect all parents will agree with, and sign, our Home-School Agreement. This document sets out what we in school will provide, and what we expect from our children and their parents. The intention is that it will bring the various facets of school life together to ensure all the children are given the very best opportunities and achieve to the fullest extent of their ability.

*We hope and expect your child will have a happy  
and successful time at our school.*