



Rudyard Kipling Primary School & Nursery

Woodingdean, Brighton

Where learning is an adventure!





Headteacher's Welcome



A very warm welcome to Rudyard Kipling Primary School and Nursery (RKPS), Woodingdean

We are located in the Woodingdean area of Brighton and Hove and possess magnificent outdoor learning spaces, including our very own Forest School. We take the learning outside at every opportunity: here at RKPS, *Learning is an Adventure*.

RKPS is an academic school with high expectations for all our learners. Quality First Teaching ensures that our children become confident in the core skills within maths, reading, writing, science, computing and PE – we lay the academic stepping stones for our children's future success.

We are a friendly, diverse and inclusive community: nurture is at the heart of all that we do. At RKPS, we use the OPAL

(Outside Play and Learning) approach: our children love playtimes and enjoy using a varied selection of play equipment which encourage creativity and collaboration.

Our children are active learners and are provided with myriad opportunities to take part in different sports, to represent the school in events. We know that academic and sporting achievement often go hand in hand.

A rich, rigorous and varied curriculum runs through RKPS: our children are mathematicians, scientists, historians, artists and coders! Our children sing, our children dance, our children perform plays on our indoor and outside stages – we have incredible facilities here at RKPS.

Because of the high quality of our teaching, our children enjoy achieving. They leave our school as kind, respectful and open minded individuals with high aspiration and ambition. You will not realise how wonderful Rudyard Kipling Primary School and Nursery is until you come and visit so please book a tour and see for yourself – we look forward to seeing you soon.

Euan Hanington – Headteacher

"I have lots of friends." Year 1 Pupil

"This is a school that cares." Year 5 parent

An academic school; A creative school



We are an academic school.

The high expectations of our dedicated and talented teaching staff ensure that every child fulfils their potential as they discover their own individual pathways to success. Mathematics, reading, writing, science, computing and PE form the bedrock of our curriculum. Challenge is a feature of every lesson with our children taught to become equally confident with numbers and words.

Our children are taught the knowledge and the skills to enable them to become successful learners in primary school and beyond.

RKPS children are challenged to be the very best learners they can be: our growth mindset approach to teaching

and learning enables children to develop strong learning behaviours. Our children are resilient, confident and have high aspiration.

Our classes are named after inspirational people from the past and the present: from David Attenborough to Frida Kahlo. The children are taught to be ambitious and we equip them with the academic tools to become successful in the years that lie ahead of them.

A creative curriculum drives the learning here at RKPS. Our children are taught a love of the arts and are given opportunities to become confident artists, actors and musicians.

“Leaders and teachers know pupils very well and have a thorough understanding of their needs.” Ofsted

Our Nursery and Reception Classes



Learning is magical in EYFS!

We have a first class teacher-led Nursery as part of our Early Years Foundation Stage. This includes both a two to three year old room and three to four year old room, and two bustling Reception classes. Our Nursery offers our children a smooth and gentle transition into our Reception classes.

Throughout the Early Years, we provide a nurturing, rich and stimulating learning environment to promote children's curiosity and autonomy. We deliver a creative curriculum where every child is inspired to explore, investigate and learn through fun hands-on experiences.

Our spacious and green outside learning garden offers discovery and learning on a larger scale making the most of nature and natural resources. It supports the enrichment of communication and language, also the development of children's understanding of their world through sensory experiences: with a nature kitchen, planting beds for growing,

areas of insect friendly flora and mini beast habitats, including a Bug Hotel!

Nursery and Reception classes also have the use of the school's amazing wildlife area.

Throughout Early Years, we value and appreciate working in close partnership with our families. Teachers meet and greet daily; we share your children's learning through 'Evidence Me' (an online portal), offer workshops and guidance to enable parents and carers to feel both informed and involved in their children's development.

We offer occasions for children to proudly share and celebrate their learning with families.

In EYFS, our children grow into happy, inquisitive and resilient learners, who feel comfortable to share their thoughts, 'have a go' at new learning and seek a challenge. We wish for our children to create many magical, memorable moments and develop key characteristics of learning that will support them throughout school and equip them for life.

"My children are making really good progress. I am really happy."
Nursery & Year 2 parent

A Community School

A Woodingdean School

Our school is at the heart of the Woodingdean community. We hold close ties with the local children's football club, Woodingdean Wanderers: The Wanderers use our two football pitches on Fridays after school for girls' and boys' football practice. Many RKPS children play for these teams.

RKPS participates in local events such as the Woodingdean Carnival and we take part in competitions with the other 'Deans' schools.

We hold close relationships with community businesses and support the local Food Bank. Our whole school community works together to help Woodingdean families who might need a little extra help.

A Brighton and Hove School

We are proud to participate in the Brighton Festival Children's Parade every year and also perform at the Let's Dance Festival at the Brighton Dome. Our school choir sings at the Brighton Centre Schools Christmas Concert as well as at other venues. RKPS support local charities at our fund raising events and through food donations at Harvest Festival.

We are proudly a Brighton and Hove school and our children visit the city for numerous events over an academic year, including beach walks, theatre visits and swimming lessons.



"There of plenty of clubs for my child to take part in." Year 1 Parent

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

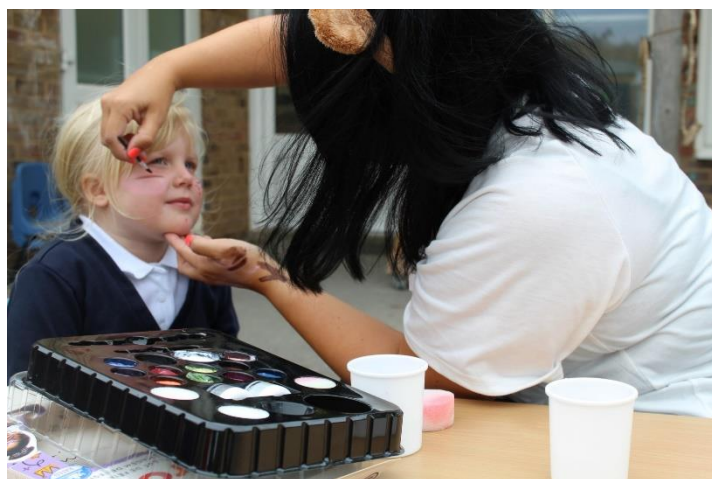
Our Amazing PTFA!

We are fortunate to have a very welcoming Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). Anyone in the school community can take part in our fun events which include: Christmas parties, raffles, Easter, Halloween and Christmas trails and film nights. We even have a fantastic Kipling Cafe! Many of our events are open to families from the whole of Brighton and Hove. Our PTFA raise a lot of money, all of which goes towards enriching our children's everyday school experiences.

Many of the wonderful features in our school came courtesy of the fund raising efforts of the PTFA.

Amongst many other initiatives, in recent times our PTFA has funded the sound and lighting for our professional theatrical stage, a new RKPS football team kit, a fantastic egg hatching experience for the whole school and re-landscaped our EYFS outdoor area – it is amazing.

Our PTFA would not be as successful without its dedicated army of volunteers. It's a great way to be creative, get to know the school and other parents. The PTFA always need help, any amount of help big or small, so please do get involved.



Enjoying Achieving

We believe that children learn best when the curriculum is challenging, exciting and relevant. Here at RKPS, children experience awe and wonder on a daily basis: we make the learning magical. Drama for writing is a key part of our curriculum and regular dress up days are fun and always enjoyed by our children.

Learning Behaviours & 'Special Mentions' Assemblies

We are a research driven school and recognise the importance of teaching children the techniques which will enable them to become successful learners.

Created by the children, our five key 'Learning Muscles' encourage them to

think about their learning behaviours – curiosity, perseverance, co-operation, positivity and problem solving. Our children are taught to be reflective learners who recognise the benefits of collaboration. Our children use their Learning Muscles every day: we talk about the characteristics of each one and how they are helping us to learn. Children who have demonstrated an outstanding use of a learning behaviour might receive a certificate in our weekly 'Special Mentions' assemblies which parents and carers are invited to attend.



A Creative Curriculum and Talking for Learning



Our teachers' creative planning ensure an exciting and cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning. Wherever possible, many areas of the curriculum are taught through termly topics which ensure that the learning is meaningful and children have opportunities to practise skills in context.

Parents and carers are invited to termly 'Topic Chats' where teachers share an overview of what the children will be learning; these also provide an opportunity to ask questions and see our stimulating classroom learning environments.

We believe that children learn best when provided with frequent opportunities to discuss their learning: children might do this in groups or with a learning partner. Talking for learning is an important driver at RKPS.

Reading

We are proud to be a reading community here at RKPS. Our magnificent new

library is the first feature that will greet you when you walk through the door. We regularly invest in new books from diverse and exciting authors.

We aspire for all our children to become lifelong lovers of reading: we promote reading for pleasure in a range of creative and motivating ways, including inviting parents and carers in to school every Friday morning to read with their children – we call this 'Rock Up and Read'. Our reading environments reflect our literary ethos: there is a tangible reading culture here at RKPS.

Music

Children are provided opportunities to learn musical instruments at RKPS including violin, guitar and keyboard. In Year 5, all children have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument and perform as a group to the school and their parents and carers.

"I like English and Maths as we learn loads and grow our brains." Year 4 pupil

Mathematics, Reading and Writing



Mathematics

We teach our children to love maths here at RKPS. A rich and varied mathematical curriculum teaches our young mathematicians the core maths skills, embedding a solid understanding of number and shape.

Maths is always given a real life context and made practical: problem solving activities run through the curriculum. Children are provided with the apparatus to help them become confident mathematicians, collaborating with other children to achieve success.

Half-termly maths competitions encourage children to develop their fluency and rapid recall of mathematical facts and times table challenges with Wilfie the Wolf are a firm favourite with the children! Times Table Rockstars is enjoyed by the whole school to make the learning of times table facts engaging.



Writing

RKPS, Woodingdean is an associate school for the 'Power of Reading' approach to teaching writing. This creative and effective approach increases children's engagement and attainment, which puts high quality children's literature at the heart of all learning.

Throughout the school, children take pride in their writing. Writing assemblies are an opportunity to share their work with the rest of the school. We also celebrate writing through 'publishing' the children's work as: books, poetry anthologies, news clips or performances: developing editing and presentation skills each time. Children's work can be read and enjoyed in our new school library and in class reading areas – the writing feeds directly into reading.

"Learning is fun! Teachers really engage the children." Year 3 parent

Outdoor Learning

We take the learning outside at every opportunity: we have magnificent outside spaces including our own Forest School. Our children are given myriad experiences to learn in nature with science, maths, English and other lessons often taking place in the fresh air. Our staff recognise the power of learning in the outdoors.

Using the curiosity approach to learning, our children are encouraged to explore and problem solve in the outdoor environment as much as possible. Classes are given opportunities to produce their own fruit and vegetables: our EYFS children have beautiful new vegetable gardens where they plant and grow and learn how to live off the land!

Here at RKPS, learning is an adventure.



Sport/Sports Days

We are a sport loving school, believing that a love of exercise is something that benefits a child for life. There is a real sporting culture here at RKPS and our young sportswomen and men are given numerous opportunities to improve their sporting skills.

Some of our after school clubs include cricket and football: these are very popular with many girls and boys.

Our RKPS girls' and boys' football teams compete against other schools – our children are proud to wear the school colours! Our children take part in many sports including hockey, tennis, cricket, netball and athletics. Annually, we take part in the Brighton and Hove athletics meet at Withdean Athletics Track.

Swimming is a very popular activity here at RKPS and our Year 3, 4 and 5 children improve their swimming skills at a local Brighton swimming pool.

The summer term sees year groups take part in their Sports Days where children have the chance to compete against other children within their year group. These events always end with the traditional parent/carer races which are always fun!



Inclusion and School Dogs

Hugo and Buddy

Hugo and his brother Buddy are our school therapy dogs and very much part of the fabric of our school: indeed, they are two of our most popular members of staff! They are very friendly and love to meet new people. Buddy and Hugo like to help children feel better when they are sad or upset. They also like to hear stories read to them by the children, especially those who may feel shy reading to adults.

Research has demonstrated that therapy dogs properly managed in the school setting, can make a huge difference in helping children improve their academic skills, but also in contributing to their social and emotional development.

Inclusion

We are a highly inclusive, nurturing and supportive school: nurture is at the heart of all that we do. Our dedicated Inclusion team are passionate about improving children and families' life chances: this is achieved through our comprehensive support programme. We celebrate diversity and equality; we have a fantastic team of staff who promote a kind and caring environment for all our learners. We are committed to every child reaching their full potential and do our utmost to break down any barriers to learning.

We are dedicated to raising writing and reading standards for all our children: those with additional needs also make good progress and acquire the necessary skills ready for secondary school and beyond.



Wrap Around Care

Breakfast and After School Club

We recognise the busy lives which parents and carers lead and run a breakfast club from 7:30am. Here, children are offered a selection of healthy choices to eat and drink, as well as a range of supervised activities each day to keep them busy before the school day begins.

Throughout the year, we run a popular daily After School Club. This runs from 3:15pm to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. Children enjoy many fun activities including art and outside sports.

School Clubs and Year 6 Residential

We offer a variety of school clubs for our children to enjoy. Our dedicated teaching team share their own passions offering the children a selection of free, inclusive and enjoyable clubs. These include art, dance, cricket and football.

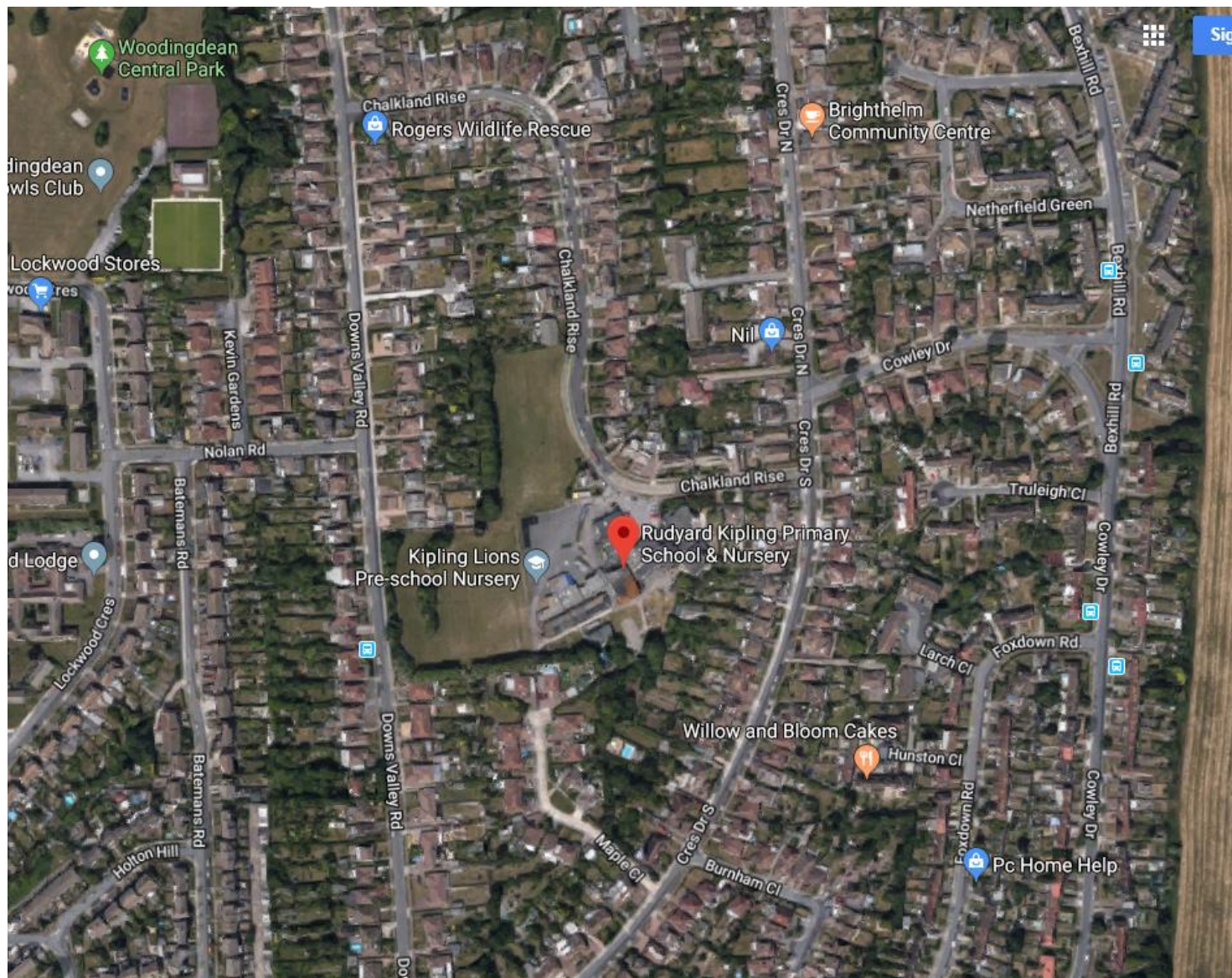
Some external providers also use our first class facilities to offer our children further opportunities, although these incur a charge.

In the Summer Term, our Year 6 children have the opportunity to attend the residential. Here they take part in adventurous outdoor pursuits as an extension to the school curriculum. These might include: rafting, orienteering, archery or abseiling. The Year 6 residential is also an opportunity for some children to experience being away from home for the very first time and make lifelong memories with their friends.



“Teachers are committed to playing their part in raising standards and staff morale is high. Parents say their children are happy in school and that teachers listen carefully to what parents have to say.”

Ofsted



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