

## **GOOSEWELL SCHOOL**

### **Welcome**

At Goosewell, everyone is welcomed. We are proud of our friendly, caring school where we respect and value each other. Everyone joins together to develop and celebrate our learning, talents and achievements.

Selecting the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent. This prospectus should give you a good idea of what our school is like. More detailed information about our school (such as policies, staffing, topics of learning, governors and the PTA) is included on our website which is [www.goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk](http://www.goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk)

At Goosewell, we want all our children to develop a love of learning. To achieve this, we provide a lively, broad, balanced and caring education through a range of exciting and relevant and learning opportunities within and beyond the school environment.

Our friendly and dedicated administrative staff will be more than willing to help with your enquiries.

### **Starting School from pre-schools and nurseries**

We recognise that a smooth transition into school is vital to establishing long term success. With that in mind, we work very hard to ensure that effective induction arrangements are made. We have very close links with our feeder pre-schools and nurseries, meeting with them prior to children starting school. We hold information sessions in the summer months for new parents to meet staff and to visit the Foundation classrooms. During this period, children also visit from their pre-schools and nurseries and home visits are undertaken. In the Autumn Term, children are gradually introduced to school over a four week period whilst additional parent sessions are also held to support your child at home.

Please contact Plymouth City Council on 01752 307470 for details regarding admission arrangements for Foundation Stage children.

### **Joining Goosewell School from another school**

We have many children joining our school from other schools, usually because of family relocation, including armed forces personnel. We offer good induction arrangements by liaising with previous schools, arranging visits to the school before starting wherever possible, and by buddying up a new child with someone who can befriend and help them settle at Goosewell.

Please contact Plymouth City Council on 01752 307470 for details regarding admission arrangements for children joining from another school.

### **Our School Aims are:**

- Support everyone to have high expectations of ourselves and take responsibility for our learning and behaviour – always trying to do our best.
- Learn in a colourful, creative and fun place.
- Develop creative thinkers and independent learners.
- Encourage parents/carers to continue to actively support their child's learning.
- Ensure we have a school where everyone has a voice that is listened to.
- Understand and accept that we are all individuals and respect each other's differences.
- Identify and develop a range of life skills and interests.
- Encourage risk taking without fear of failure.
- Use everyone's talents, working together as a team within school and the wider community.
- Look after the school's and each others' property.
- Care for everyone's well-being.
- Learn using a wide and interesting variety of opportunities both within and beyond the school.

### **Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum**

Goosewell School is an inclusive environment in which we are all learners and one where the learning needs of all individuals are recognised. We will ensure that every learner experiences success. Our staff make learning real and exciting, striving to offer a broad balanced curriculum of high quality that gives the children opportunities to make links, to make choices and take responsibility for their learning. The National

Curriculum is brought alive by making links between the individual subjects and applying them to topics such as Africa, The Ancient Egyptians, Wheels, London, Castles, People who Help Us, World War Two and Plymouth, Mountains and Ourselves. Our curriculum includes opportunities for children to learn German and French.

We hold regular themed days to enhance the curriculum. During these times, we have celebrated music and art from around the world, Healthy Living, making books and meeting authors, modern languages and environmental activities.

Our curriculum promotes our children's knowledge and skills in literacy, Mathematics, computing, digital technology, creative, artistic and physical learning.

We help children to develop life skills; learning to learn and developing those responsible, independent skills needed for employment when they are older.

Social and emotional skills are built into our curriculum and support structures are put in place for any vulnerable children.

### **Pastoral Care and Wellbeing**

We know that children can only achieve their full potential when they have a sense of self-worth, believe in themselves and recognise their talents. Each child in our school is part of a caring community where positive relationships are fostered. We enable children to make the most of opportunities and to try new things within this safe and secure environment.

The school has a wide range of expertise to ensure the well-being of all the children in our care. These include a large team of highly skilled teaching assistants with embedded skills in helping children of all levels make good progress. Each class has a teaching assistant attached for their needs. Meal time assistants look after our children at lunchtimes ensuring that these are fun and a time to be enjoyed. Younger children have a MTA attached to their class to allow supportive and positive relationships to be developed.

Health issues identified as in need of action are supported through our school nurse, Primary Community Health Care and the speech and language therapists.

Across the school, individual pupils who have significant needs and are in need of one to one support can access support from school staff and where additional external expertise and support is needed, we are able to access Multi Agency support.

### **Learning Outside School**

We enjoy strong links with local schools (both primary and secondary) to further our children and staff's learning. The local environment is an integral part of the children's learning including our local churches, community library, parks, nature reserves, shopping areas and sports facilities.

The children also enjoy going on residential and day time educational visits. Recent adventures include visiting Plymouth Hoe, St Andrew's Minster, the historic Barbican area of Plymouth, Mount Edgecombe Country Park, Dartmoor, Rare Breeds Centre, Morwellham Quay, Wembury Beach and Plymouth's Theatre Royal.

The children participate in an exciting residential visit in Year 4 to London, where we experience a West End musical, Natural History Museum, the Tate Modern and National Portrait Galleries, the London Eye, touring the Houses of Parliament and entering Downing Street.

In Year 6, children have the opportunity to camp for three days in South Devon at a woodland clearing on the banks of the River Dart experiencing bush craft and survival skills, a zip wire and rafting.

### **School and Home**

Our school has an 'in it together' attitude to learning. We let parents and carers know what their children are learning. We encourage a two way dialogue between home and school and support this through parents consultations, parent and child sessions, curriculum information meetings, learning diaries such as reading records and invitations to many of our assemblies and school events. We also believe that homework can help reinforce what we learn at school. All our children are encouraged to read regularly at home and children in Key Stage 2 are set homework with teachers being careful to make sure that it is kept

to an appropriate level. Occasionally children in Foundation Stage and Keys Stage 1 are asked to bring something into school or to do something at home to promote their learning.

### **Our School Community**

We are a welcoming and family-minded school, we like to collaborate with and develop each other. Older children act as play buddies and monitors for younger children helping them with play, lunchtime arrangements, playtime activities and reading. Even parents and carers make friends with each other when they come to collect our children at the end of the school day. We value the special relationships that we have with our community and recognise the important role that parents and carers play in the life of Goosewell School. Parents and carers are always welcome at Goosewell School and are positively encouraged to become involved in school life in whatever way suits them best. Weekly newsletters help keep families informed.

Our Parent Teacher Association and Governors are very busy and include mums, dads, grandparents and other local people who care about our school.

Our school is used by athletic clubs, yoga, keep fit and dance clubs for members of the local community in the evenings.

### **Our Local Community**

Our school is an integral part of its community. Most of our children live within the school's neighbourhood though many travel from other parts of Plymouth and Devon. Around a third of our children have parents who serve in the armed forces, many of whom live in service accommodation close to the school.

Many local businesses and people give their support and are always generous when we fundraise for school equipment and opportunities. People in the community, including local fire and rescue crew, police officers, authors, artists, musicians, and member as of the armed forces visit us and tell us about what they do. We also visit people outside and take part in community activities such as singing carols at local churches and residential homes, performing drama and music at Theatres, concert halls and other venues and displaying art in our local library.

### **Our World Community**

We also learn to understand wider international issues and enjoy learning about Mexico, India, Germany, France and the United States. We have links with the University of North Florida and are developing links with other schools across the world.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

A large number of our clubs and activities are run free of charge by our teachers and support staff. Others are offered for a small charge by outside coaches and teachers. Clubs vary depending on demand and the season but regularly include:

Art, Athletics, Basketball, Chess, Choir, Country Dancing, Cricket, Cross Country, Dance, Drama, Drumming, Eco Club, Football, French, Friendship Club, Gardening, German, Hockey, Junior Ten Tors, Music, Netball, Recorders, Rounders, School Band, Short Mat Bowling, Table Top Games and Tag Rugby.

**Music lesson** are charged for and include: Clarinet, Flute, Guitars, Keyboard, Saxophone and Violins.

### **Our School Grounds and Accommodation**

We enjoy lots of space at Goosewell School. Our modern accommodation is an excellent learning environment which inspires, excites and celebrates effort and achievement. The school is accommodated under one roof with the classes arranged in order from the Foundation Stage through to Year 6. Our Foundation Stage is accommodated in three classrooms and an open shared area with lots of activities to do all day. Key Stage 1 has six classrooms and a large shared area for a library, ICT, water, sand, construction, role play and learning activities. Year 3 and 4 (Lower Key Stage 2) has six classrooms and a gallery for a library, computer area and displays. Year 5 and 6 (Upper Key Stage 2) has six classrooms and the main Key Stage 2 library close by. The ICT suite is used by everyone throughout the week and at lunch times whilst all our classrooms have an interactive whiteboard and have access to iPads. The school has two halls, one multi-use hall for PE, Dance, Assemblies, Performances and Dining and another for Music and Drama. There are also rooms for quieter individual or group learning. We have four playgrounds, a trim

trail, climbing frames and a large field for play and sport. We are developing an outdoor growing and conservation area each year. We also have a medical room, toilets, including disabled facilities and cloakrooms, an office for our Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Special Needs Co-ordinator, a staffroom, a room for our Site Manager and an office and reception area for the administrative staff.

### **Being Healthy and Happy**

We believe it is important to have a happy, healthy environment in which our children enjoy learning at Goosewell. We do our utmost to make it easy for children to approach staff with their problems or concerns. We teach that bullying is never acceptable behaviour. We promote healthy eating, provide fruit snacks for children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children and encourage everyone to drink water throughout the day. Our School Travel Plan Group encourages safe journeys to and from school, promoting walking, cycling, scootering and car sharing. We make the most of our wonderful outdoor space and, weather permitting, head outside as often as we can.

### **Supporting Each Other**

Collaboration and caring is encouraged at all levels, in both the staff and the children. Older children help younger children in the playground and classrooms. This happens both spontaneously and more formally through organised activities such as sharing stories and performing for others. All children follow a whole school behaviour policy to allow everyone to be as happy and hard working as they can.

The School Council meets most weeks to think of ideas to improve the school and to check that things are going well. Each class from Year 1 onwards has a School Council representative to share and report on ideas.

A Parents Council is made up of parents from across the school. They help the School Leadership Team think through ideas for improving the school and make their views known on school developments.

Our Parent Support Adviser is available to provide impartial, independent and confidential advice and guidance for parents on any matter relating to school and the wider community, including social issues, homework guidance and parental workshops to assist children in their learning. Advice can also be signposted for housing, relationship, employment opportunities and health matters.

### **Specialist Support Provision**

Our specialist support base for children with autistic spectrum disorders enables children with this diagnosis to be fully integrated into the life of the school. Their learning and social development is nurtured by a dedicated team of specialist staff.

### **Gosling Trust Out of Hours Care**

An Ofsted approved before and after school care and holiday club is provided independently on site to support parents/carers who work or just to provide an opportunity for children to get together with friends in the school holidays.