

FS2 PROSPECTUS
**GOTHAM
PRIMARY
SCHOOL
2023**



**BEING THE
BEST WE CAN
BE TOGETHER**



OUR SCHOOL

JANETTE ALLEN
HEADTEACHER

At Gotham Primary School, we are proud to have designed an ethos and curriculum that ensures every child can live life in all its fullness. By offering inclusive, awe-inspiring and challenging experiences with British Values at their heart, children will leave Gotham Primary with a thirst for future learning and a belief that they can make a difference.

Our large, secure site offers a rich variety of experience for our children. At Gotham Primary, we understand the importance of happy playtimes and we have made it a priority to develop a wide range of play equipment and apparatus for break times. We have two playground areas with resources such as a trim trail, a performance arena, seating shelters, and social areas for the children to enjoy.

I am proud of our children's excellent behaviour at Gotham Primary. Behaviour and effort is regularly celebrated through our merit system - when you get 15 merits you earn a 'Bronze' award. Miss Allen celebrates with the children by having a hot chocolate or special drink. Then you move onto Silver, Gold and finally Platinum - where the sky's the limit!



As a school, we aim to create memorable experiences to make the curriculum come alive. We have lots of enrichment weeks and trips that reinforce our teaching and learning. Our very supportive parents and an active parent association called the FOGs – Friends of Gotham School. - support us to achieve this.

The local community is very important to us. We are involved in community events such as Maypole dancing at the village fetes and singing at the village Christmas fair, We also decorate the woods at Christmas, always one of the children and families favourite days!



OFSTED VIEW

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and
management

Good

Early years provision

Good

In July, 2022 OFSTED came and judged us to be 'Good'.

Their report said:

"The school's mission statement of 'Being the best we can be together!' represents the aspirational ethos and family feeling at Gotham. Staff know the pupils well. Teachers combine care and support with high expectations. Pupils are happy to come to school. They talk positively and enthusiastically about their learning."

Pupils said to Ofsted:

"We don't ever fail. It's just your first attempt." and "People should be treated the same way. There is no difference between people. We all have the same rights."

Parents told Ofsted that staff are dedicated, approachable and friendly, with one parent saying:

"The school is very good at listening to our views and responding."

At Gotham Primary, we are always on an improvement journey and we are already working on the two areas for improvement that Ofsted identified - one focused on the curriculum and one on attendance.

We were very proud of how the pupils represented the school to Ofsted, with the inspectors noting that classrooms are positive and peaceful places to learn and that pupils are polite and well-behaved. We were also very happy that they could see how we have been developing a love of reading with the children. We hope you see and value all these strengths in our school too.

PARENT VIEW

What do you like about our school?

The rounded development of children, the friendly happy atmosphere, the hard work of staff and children, the fantastic school site and building, the approachability of staff.

School is good at providing a wide range of enrichment weeks, these provide varied activities and experiences for all children to take part in, it's clear from the level of enjoyment and participation that the children enjoy these providing lifetime memories.

Togetherness.
Empathy. Sustainability.
Valuing people.

There are good interactions with parents, we always feel informed. Approachable staff and teachers, welcoming village school environment.

My children both love coming to school and have amazing knowledge and vocabulary. They have always felt safe and cared for. Not only are their academic needs met but so are their personal needs. Thank you to everyone.

My child thoroughly enjoys school and I've never had to question how happy they are and the care they receive when attending. As a parent, I have always been listened to if I have concerns or need advice. I think Gotham Primary is amazing!

GPS is the best. Staff are very kind, good, and supportive to the children to help them achieve their best. Thank you.

Unity...
I feel that Gotham Primary is very friendly and united. Inclusive of all children



OAK CLASS

Our classes at Gotham Primary are all named after trees and for their first year your child will be in Oak class.

We currently have 6 classes across the 7 age groups at Gotham, with a mixed Year 3/4 class. This is due to pupil numbers in these classes and is reviewed by governors each year,

-  Reception - Oak
-  Year 1 - Beech
-  Year 2 - Chestnut
-  Year 3/4 - Sycamore
-  Year 5 - Cedar
-  Year 6 - Maple

Once children are in school, we work quickly to find out what they already know and enjoy. We work with all the children to make progress, both academically and socially, from these starting points using resources that engage them.

We will carry out the National Baseline Assessment but our own records are more detailed and personalised than this. All children are given both support and challenge to help them make good progress and we check their progress regularly as part of the class activities.

Throughout school, parents and carers are invited to a parents' evening in the Autumn and Spring terms and will receive a written report in the Summer term. We set half-termly homework. It's for you to do together and have fun with. You will discover what your child has been learning and be able to support at home.

There will be lots of home-school communication, we have an app called Parent Mail, you can phone the office and talk to the teachers and teaching assistants before or after school. Each child will have a reading diary, which has lots of information in and we will tell you what we're practising in reading in this book too.

A DAY IN OAK CLASS



Oak Class's day has three or four points of direct, carpet time teaching. This teaching is then reinforced and extended through continuous provision and guided teacher time. Some days can vary from the plan below, for example, on 'Walkabout day'. This is a guide to the 'typical' day.

8.45-8.55 am - The gate is open for drop off, children are dropped at the class gate with their book bag, a drink and a coat/sun hat depending on the time of year. Parents can help hang coats up outside.

9 am - Self-register, good morning song and the register. Children will then have some carpet time for direct teaching. After this the children have an opportunity to explore the environment and work with the teacher on the morning activities.

10.15-10.30 - Snack time and singing. Children in reception will be provided with fresh fruit each day. Until they are 5 they also have free milk. After their 5th birthday, they can still have milk but parents need to pay for it through the Cool Milk system. Many children also bring their own fruit or vegetable snack in a labelled tub.

10.30-10.45 am - Assembly, a chance for school to come together for updates, singing, celebrating achievement and house point updates. Initially, Oak class don't attend all of these but over time they do.

10.45 playtime

11 am - Phonics lesson. Every day children are taught phonics. The new skills are then reinforced within independent activities around the indoor and outdoor classroom.

12 pm - Lunchtime. All reception children are entitled to a free hot meal from the canteen, this is called a 'Universal Free School Meal'. Some children choose to bring a packed lunch. The menu is available on the website and can accommodate dietary requirements.

After eating, children will go outside into the playground. They might choose to run on the mile track, play dob or just enjoy the fresh air. On rainy days, children go to their classroom for their social time.

1 pm - Maths. Every day we have a maths lesson. This might be maths talk, practical games, practising skills or number sense.. For the rest of the afternoon, we have something we call 'Plan, Do Review' time. The children plan where they would like to learn and play. The options for this continuous provision reflect the teaching that has taken place that morning and across the week.

2-2.10pm playtime

3.30 pm - Home time, children are collected from the class gate.



LEARNING IN OAK CLASS

On entry into our Reception class (FS2), staff will build on children's prior knowledge to ensure that they develop the foundations for a lifetime of learning. In their first year with us, children learn the phonics required to begin to read and write independently. They acquire number skills that allow them to problem solve. Physical skills are developed through active outdoor learning and P.E lessons. The free flow classroom supports children to acquire the communication, listening and social skills required to succeed throughout school.

All children read once a week and will bring two books home. One will be 'phonically decodable', children read this themselves using the letter sound knowledge they have developed. The other book is a 'Reading Together Book' that they will need some help with.

Once children begin learning some phonics they will have words sent home, e.g s, a, t, p then the word tap – they can sound out and blend this word. Eventually, children can practise spelling these too.

We also support parents through information sessions and the opportunity to come in and be taught by your child - phonics wasn't taught as it is now when most of us were at school after all.

Continuous provision within the classroom supports children to reinforce skills that they have been taught in direct teaching sessions. Children will think they're just playing but within the classroom key skills for learning are embedded in all areas. Learning takes place indoors and outdoors. The outdoor classroom is accessed directly from their room. All areas of learning are taught outside as well as in.

We also learn about the world. We make the most of our beautiful surroundings through 'Walkabout Thursday'. We put our wellies on and explore the local environment, collecting interesting leaves and seeds, making nature pictures and visiting some local places.



SCHOOL READINESS

Children develop and learn at different rates, within school we work from what each child already knows and build from there. However, there are a few things that you can practice at home that will really help your child to be ready for school. They will also help the teaching staff.



PUT ON THEIR COAT AND DO UP THEIR ZIP



RIGHT HANDED



HOLD A PENCIL USING A TRIPOD GRIP



LEFT HANDED



INDEPENDENT TOILETING AND HAND HYGIENE



HOLD SCISSORS CORRECTLY



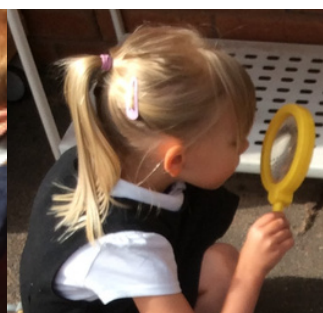
PLAYING I SPY

This game helps children to hear the initial sound in words. When children are very young they find this very hard and the game is challenging. Gradually, children will remember the 'I spys' that you have said but not be able to do their own. Given time and lots of practice it will click!



COUNTING OBJECTS ACCURATELY

Some children can count a long way and know many number names. However, they don't always know what those numbers mean. In school, we would like children to be able to accurately count out collections of objects e.g. 5 apples, 7 sticks, 9 cars. If they find this tricky, encourage your child to move the object from one position to another as they count.



TRANSITION INTO SCHOOL

As a school, we greatly value the close links that we have with our pre-school providers. Within the village are:

- Gotham Playgroup - an independent organisation based on our site
- Katie Wade Childcare
- The Old Co-operative Day Nursery
- Toy Box Childminders

Prior to starting school, children who attend these settings visit Oak class over the year. This builds familiarity with school over time.

On 'National Offer Day' in April, we will find out which children will be joining our school in the following September. We then organise visiting children in their current pre-school setting - wherever that might be. If children don't attend a pre-school setting, we will organise a home-visit wherever possible. These visits allow the children to get to know the class teacher in a place where they are safe and secure. It also means that we can find out about your child from their current practitioner.

In June, parents and carers will be invited into school for a New Parent's Induction Meeting. During this meeting, we will help you understand the process of starting school and Gotham Primary School and answer any questions that you have.

In early July, your child will be invited into school for three mornings. During this time, we will help your child to start the process of settling into school life.

When the new academic year starts in September, your child will initially stay for 5 half days. This helps the children to settle in. We want them to go home wanting more, rather than getting too tired to enjoy themselves.

As a school, we are planning to have our own before and after-school provision from September 2024. This will run during term time. We do have other providers within the village who operate all year round and on Inset days. The details for those providers are to the left, Gotham Playgroup does not offer before or after school provision but the other three settings do.

Gotham Playgroup

Telephone - 0115 983 1272

Website - www.gothamplaygroup.org.uk

Email - gothamplaygroup@live.co.uk

Katie Wade Childcare

Telephone - 07917170858

Email - kwadechildcare@gmail.com

The Old Co-operative Day Nursery

Telephone - 0115 983 0003

Website - www.co-opnursery.co.uk

Toy Box Childminders

Telephone - 07954 175641

E-mail - Toyboxchildminding@gmail.com

OUR UNIFORM

All children are encouraged to follow the school dress code, as we believe that a uniform looks smart, wears well and contributes to a sense of 'belonging' to the school.

Our uniform consists of:

- Navy blue or grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers.
- Navy cardigan or jumper with school logo.
- White shirt or blouse with a school tie from Year 3.
- A white polo-shirt in reception, Year 1 and 2.
- Footwear should be smart and practical, not trainers.

In the summer:

- Girls may choose to wear a navy and white gingham dress or playsuit (checked).
- Navy blue or grey shorts may be worn.
- All children should wear sun-screen and bring a sunhat during hot spells.

Jewellery such as rings, bracelets, necklaces etc. should not be worn to school and if children's ears have been pierced only stud type ear-rings should be worn. This is an essential safety precaution.

Hair should be neatly cut, and not with shaved stripes and patterns. Longer hair must be neatly tied up, with navy or white 'bobbles', ribbons and hair bands.



PE kit

Each child should have a PE kit comprising of navy shorts, a blue t-shirt with the school logo or white t-shirt and a pair of sports shoes such as trainers or plimsolls.

This kit should be clearly labelled and brought to school in a small, labelled bag. PE kit is kept in school and taken home to be laundered during holidays. A navy tracksuit will be needed in the winter months.

All our logo uniform items and ties can be purchased from Big Fish Schoolwear www.bigfishschoolwear.co.uk

Click on School Login

Username: Gotham

Password: cuckoo

Big Fish attend school for uniform sales and enquiries on the New Parent's Induction day. They also deliver to school throughout the year at no charge. If you have any queries regarding sizing, Big Fish can be contacted through the website or by phone. In addition to new uniform, we have a second-hand uniform sale each year.



OUR FAMILY

We work closely across the school to ensure that your child gets the benefit of the experience of the whole staff. We are proud that our head teacher knows every child in the school, and the children know that they can turn to any teacher if they need help.

We have consistently been praised by Ofsted for the behaviour of our pupils and the respect with which they treat each other.

Each year, our children benefit from a range of community activities: assemblies from Church; visits by a variety of faith leaders, recently our school council visited Rushcliffe borough council; assembly talks from local people who have had significant achievements as well as a range of school trips and visits. We learn about all faiths and British values. We have visits from the police and other professions to share their roles with the children. We also cover topical issues in assembly.



Teaching assistants work alongside teachers in classrooms to enhance all children's individual learning. For some children who have significant additional needs, we can apply for funding so as to allocate additional support. We pride ourselves on the inclusive nature of our school.

We take the safety of children very seriously. As well as all the required policies on safeguarding, child protection and anti-bullying, we create an atmosphere where children will approach adults for support, have an anti-bullying week every year, talk about how to be a good citizen and celebrate being a good friend and classmate.

Our family also includes work with the wider community, so that the children understand their place in the community and the children value the support the community provides.

Your family will be part of our family too. We welcome parents, grandparents and other family members into school, sharing dates at the start of the year for (grandparent afternoons, arts, crafts and reading), the nativity plays, sports day, reading and learning with your child.

We have a number of enrichment weeks throughout the year, including art and science, each of which culminate in a display in the hall and the opportunity to come in and have your child share their work with you. These often also include a small class performance.

The Friends of Gotham School (FOGS) also arrange a number of events, often a Christmas disco for the children and other activities where the children can socialise together. You will soon find that your child knows children across all years in the school!

HOW DO I APPLY?

For a child starting school in September 2023, you can apply for a school place from 6th November 2023 – 15th January 2024 for first admission to reception. You can express a preference for up to 4 schools.

The best way to apply is online. However, if you are not able to apply online you can call 0300 500 80 80 or download a paper application.

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions

If you live in Nottingham City . Please go to

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/schooladmissions

You will find out the place your child has been offered on 'National Offer Day' - Monday 16th April 2024. If you applied online you will receive this by email.

Further guidance can be found at the admissions webpage, including all the key dates and information on how many people in Nottinghamshire got one of their preferred options.



We would be glad to welcome your child to Gotham Primary