Welcome!

North Denes Primary

Achieving Excellence Together

Brochure
Welcome to North Denes Primary School! I take great pleasure in writing the opening statement for our brochure, which is intended to give you a flavour of our school. It has been designed to provide useful information to new parents as well as to those who are already a part of our school community. More detailed information is available on the school website at www.northdenesjunior.co.uk

We are a happy and hard-working school where everybody matters.

A recent Ofsted Inspection (March 2014) rated us as ‘Good’ in every area. They wrote:

‘Very strong support is provided for pupils and their families and relationships with parents and carers are good. There is excellent liaison with parents and carers, schools and other agencies, and this is valued highly by the parents concerned... The behaviour of pupils, in lessons and around the school, is good and often excellent. Pupils learn well how to take responsibility for their own actions because they are encouraged to make the right choices... Consistently good and often outstanding teaching challenges pupils particularly well.’

We are very proud of all we do at North Denes and strive to provide the best we can for every child in our care.

We believe strongly that a close working partnership with you as parents or carers is absolutely essential — it is of benefit to you, the school and the wider community that we serve and, most of all, to your child. When we all work together, children do best. We offer many opportunities for you to come into school and we keep you well informed of the progress your child is making. We operate an ‘open door’ policy and you are welcome to come in at any time should you have any worry or concern — no matter how small.

School is a happy and well-ordered place. Visitors to the school frequently comment on how attentive, well-mannered and happy our pupils are and we are very proud of this achievement.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school. Open evenings for new parents/ carers, and a separate visit for the pupils, are arranged in the summer term. However if you wish to see our school at any time, you are most welcome to make an appointment and I will be pleased to show you around.

Debbie Whiting
(Head teacher)
The Staffing Team

### Senior Leadership Team:
- **Mrs D Whiting**  Head Teacher
- **Mr C Honey**  Deputy Head Teacher
- **Miss V Purvis**  Head of Lower School and Curriculum
- **Mrs C Ward**  Head of Early Years Foundation Stage & KS1
- **Mrs J Fearn**  SENCo
- **Miss L Bacon**
- **Miss J Bradley**
- **Miss K Brooks**
- **Miss I Burrage**
- **Mrs R Calver**
- **Miss B Gadsdon**
- **Mrs S Gadsdon**
- **Miss H Farman**
- **Mrs L Harrowing**
- **Mrs J Ingram**
- **Miss H Johnson**
- **Mrs A Leveroni**
- **Mrs S Noble-Parker**
- **Miss H Parker**
- **Mrs G Pointer**

### Family and Pupil Support:
- **Mrs A Juler**  Child Wellbeing
- **Mrs S Johnson**  Care & Support Adviser
- **Miss V Beales**  Behaviour & Attendance
- **Mrs A Juler**  Child Wellbeing
- **Mrs S Johnson**  Care & Support Adviser
- **Miss V Beales**  Behaviour & Attendance

### HLTA:
- **Ms K Cantell**
- **Miss A McCarthy**
- **Mrs N Mellows**

### NPEC Sports Instructors:
- **Mrs B Brooks**
- **Mrs C Bull**

### Office Staff:
- **Mrs J Tasker**  Business Manager
- **Mrs P Webster**  Reception
- **Ms E Tolman**  Reception

### School Governors:
- **Mrs J Ridpath**  Chair of Governors
- **Mrs A Smith**  Vice Chair
- **Mrs D Whiting**  Head Teacher
- **Mr C Honey**  Staff Governor
- **Mrs J Esposito**  Parent
- **Mrs J Sales**  Parent
- **Mr R Shipton**
- **Mr G Daniels**

### Caretaker:
- **Mrs K Pollard**

### MSA:
- **Miss S Bensley**
- **Mrs J Whittemore**

*staff also MSA

**Class teachers:**
- **Miss L Bacon**
- **Miss J Bradley**
- **Miss K Brooks**
- **Miss I Burrage**
- **Mrs R Calver**
- **Miss B Gadsdon**
- **Mrs S Gadsdon**
- **Miss H Farman**
- **Mrs L Harrowing**
- **Mrs J Ingram**
- **Miss H Johnson**
- **Mrs A Leveroni**
- **Mrs S Noble-Parker**
- **Miss H Parker**
- **Mrs G Pointer**

**Support Staff:**
- **Miss J Bicker**
- **Mrs A Bilyard**
- **Mrs N Bracken**
- **Mr J Burgess**
- **Miss D Carter**
- **Mrs J Copland**
- **Mrs K Craig**
- **Mrs S Fox**
- **Mrs P Gidney**
- **Miss D Gleeson**
- **Miss R Hood**
- **Miss D Jaye**
- **Mrs B Karlilikowska**
- **Miss M Lewis**
- **Miss J Lowe**
- **Mrs R Reilly**
- **Mrs J Sales**
- **Mrs S Shepherd**
- **Mrs W Simpkins**
- **Mrs S Smith**
- **Miss O Tungatt**
- **Mrs D Turner**
- **Mrs A Valipour**
- **Miss S Ward**
- **Mrs H Wilkinson**
- **Miss K Woodward**
Breakfast Club starts at 8:00 am which allows pupils to come to school early under supervision. Cereals, toast and jam and fruit juice are provided for a total of £3.00 per week, regardless of how many sessions are used.

All other pupils should be in school for 8.45 am at which time the bell rings. They should not arrive before 8.30 am unless they are attending Breakfast Club as no supervision will be provided until this time.

We also offer every child a piece of toast and a drink of squash, as they enter class each day. This ensures that all children have had something to eat to start the day and that they are better placed to learn.

8.30 am - School gates open
8:45 am - Teachers will collect pupils from the playground
8.55 am – Registration
9.00 am – Lessons begin
10.30 am – 10.45am Morning Break
12.00 pm – 12.45 pm – Key stage 1 lunch
12.45 p.m. – Key Stage 1 Afternoon Registration
12.30pm – 1.15 pm Key Stage 2 lunch
1.15 pm – Key Stage 2 Afternoon Registration
1.30 pm - 1.45 pm – playtime for Key stage 1
3.20 pm - 3:20 pm. – After School Care – Price on application to the school office.

Arrival, Access and Safety
A pedestrian gate provides safe entry to the school for pupils and parents. Please do not come in across the car park, as delivery vehicles and staff cars use these. It is not safe for pupils to access the school that way. Parents are welcome to wait with their pupils on the playground at the start of the day and similarly to wait for them to leave their classes when school finishes. The pedestrian gate will be unlocked just before the school day ends. Teachers come out with their classes at the end of the day and this is often a good time to speak to your child’s teacher if you have any messages or concerns.

SAFETY is very important at arrival and departure times – please keep young pupils with you and under close supervision at all times.
We ask parents and pupils not to cycle, roller skate or scooter in school grounds. We also ask parents not to park in the school grounds at the start or end of the day, as space is very limited. Please park with consideration near the school if you need to bring your pupils to school by car. We are happy to issue parking permits for disabled parents/carers – please ask at the school office. We also ask parents not to bring dogs on to school grounds.

**Cycling to School**

The school asks that pupils have written parental permission to cycle to school. A cycle permit will be issued to pupils who have this permission. Pupils who do cycle to school must wear a safety helmet and bikes should conform to all legal requirements and safety regulations. We will try to ensure that cycles are not tampered with, but we cannot accept responsibility for damage to cycles left on school property.

**Break time**

We have worked very hard to achieve the Healthy Schools Standard. Pupils are encouraged to bring a named plastic water bottle to school so they can have access to water throughout the day. Pupils may bring in a healthy snack from home, such as a piece of fruit, to eat at break time if they wish. They should not bring sweets, crisps, or chocolate. Break time snacks are available to buy from the school tuck shop and these all comply with healthy government guidelines. Items range for 20p to £1.

**Lunch Time:**

Pupils may stay for a school meal or snack pack, bring a packed lunch or go home for lunch. If they go home, we ask that you collect your child from the office at the appropriate time for their key stage, checking back in to the office in time for their registration so that we know which pupils are on the premises.
School Meals and Healthy Eating

Pupils may have a hot cooked meal, a filled jacket potato or a snack pack (Year 3 upwards), prepared in the on-site school kitchen. Alternatively, they can bring a packed lunch from home. We ask that all money for school lunches is brought in on a Monday morning in an envelope marked with the child’s name, class and the days of the week when a school packed lunch or hot meal is required.

The School Catering Service offers:-

**Seasons Menu**

A varied and well-balanced two-course meal at a fixed cost paid for weekly each Monday morning. In 2018 this choice costs £2.20 per day.

**A Filled Jacket Potato**

A jacket potato with the choice of tuna, cheese or beans. This can be purchased at a cost of £2.20 with a dessert from the Seasons menu.

**School Packed Lunch** (Year 3 upwards)

A sandwich, roll or wrap; a cold drink, vegetable sticks, a homemade biscuit, yogurt or fresh fruit. The cost for this choice is also £2.20 a day. Menus for all of the above are available from the school.

**Packed Lunch from Home**

The school would like your help to ensure that children bringing a packed lunch from home are provided with a balanced healthy meal, as this helps children to concentrate, be more receptive to teaching and to learn more effectively. Therefore, we request that home packed lunches may contain for example: a sandwich/wrap or similar, a yogurt, fresh fruit/vegetable sticks and a drink. We ask children not to bring bars of chocolate or sweets to school. A lunch full of sugary items does not help a child to concentrate and behave well in the afternoons.

Children are not allowed to bring fizzy drinks, drinks in cans or glass bottles, for obvious reasons. They may purchase drinks from the cafeteria or have a cup of water, provided by the kitchens. The school does not have 'cold store' facilities, so for food safety this fact should be considered when selecting items to include in a packed lunch. The use of pre-frozen 'ice packs' in lunch boxes could help to keep food fresh longer (please ensure that such items are leak free and labelled with your child's name). If you have a problem providing your child with a proper lunch for any reason, please speak to us – we don’t want any child to go without lunch.
Dress Code
School Uniform is worn by all pupils. We expect our pupils to look clean and smart and to wear the correct uniform, complete with proper school shoes. Our uniform is a simple one aimed at building a sense of belonging to the school. To help alleviate the problem of lost property, all clothing, including footwear, should be clearly marked with the child’s name. Please note for boys and girls hair should be one natural colour and worn in a sensible style. Make up, including nail varnish, should not be worn. Any concerns should be discussed with the Head teacher.

School Uniform
Maroon jumper or sweatshirt with or without school logo.
White shirt/blouse or polo shirt
Plain black tailored trousers
Plain black skirt – knee level length or just below
Black, flat-heeled sensible shoes (or closed heel and closed toe sandals in the summer) Trainers are NOT permitted
Black plain flat-soled boots
Grey or white socks
Natural/grey/black/dark burgundy plain tights.
Girls may wear red and white checked dresses in summer.
Boys and girls may wear smart tailored black shorts in summer.
(Not lycra/cycling/sports shorts)
All pupils should be provided with an art overall (an old adult size shirt will suit).

Pupils in year 6 wear a shirt and striped school tie (burgundy and gold) which is presented to them by the school on the first day of year 6. This helps them to stand out as the eldest pupils in the school, to act as ambassadors and to prepare them for the move to high school. Some year 6 pupils will be given a gold tie – showing that they are ‘gold standard’ pupils who are role models to the rest of the school. This is earned through a persistently excellent approach to all aspects of school life.

Maroon sweatshirts/cardigans and white/burgundy polo shirts with the school logo are available to order from Harrisons of Gorleston and Tesco Direct. Details are available on the school website.

P.E. / Games Kit
Plain burgundy polo shirt – with or without school logo
Plain black shorts – with or without school logo
Outdoor trainers (trainers are not to be worn for indoor P.E.) Black plimsolls for indoor P.E.
Tracksuit (plain colour)
One-piece swimming costume / swimming trunks (not shorts)
Swimming hat
A hair band to tie back long hair

All kit must be brought to school in a named bag. A draw-string bag in school colours is available. Please collect an order form from the school office if you would like one.
**Property**

Valuable items should not be worn or brought to school. Pupils are advised not to bring items to school that are not essential for either their school work or the school day. Storage is limited and we cannot take responsibility for loss or damage.

**Money**

Unless it is for a specific purpose, such as dinner money or money for a snack at break time, it is better that money is not brought to school.

**Jewellery**

Jewellery should not be worn to minimise the risk of accidents and the possibility of loss or damage. The only exception is for pupils with pierced ears who may wear a small, single stud in each ear, provided that they are removed for PE and swimming lessons. The pupils are responsible for removing their studs and if this is a concern to parents then we recommend that studs are not worn on days when there is PE or swimming. The school is unable to accept responsibility for accidents involving studs or other jewellery. In addition, pupils may wear a watch. The pupils are responsible for removing and collecting watches before and after PE lessons.

**Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are not permitted in school. Any parent, who wishes their child to carry one for travel / arrangements outside school, should sign a permission form, available from the office, and ensure that it is handed in to the school office for safe keeping during the school day.

**Photography**

During their time at school, there may be opportunities to publicise some of the activities in which your child is involved. This may well involve filming or photographing children for use in the local media. As a school, we welcome these opportunities, believing that positive publicity benefits all involved with the school, and we hope that you do too. There may be occasions when we arrange photography for our own purposes, such as displays and school brochures, or events where parents wish to take photographs e.g. sports day and concerts.

All parents receive a form giving them the option to refuse permission for their child’s image to be used. Parents who wish to video events in school are asked to keep the video material for their own personal enjoyment. We ask that images containing children in school are not posted on social media sites.
Absences

If your child is to be absent through illness or for any other reason please telephone the school on the first morning of the absence. Please send an “absence note” into the school on your child's return for our records. If your child needs to attend an appointment with the dentist or the doctor, and will be in school later in the day, please contact the school as for an illness. By law we are required to inform our Attendance Support and Enforcement Officer if a child is absent for more than 10 days without notification and whenever we are concerned about a child’s attendance at school. We monitor attendance closely and you will receive a termly report. An unauthorised absence will be recorded where a valid reason for an absence is not given by a child’s parent/carer (either via telephone or in the form of a written note) lateness without a valid reason (greater than 15 minutes after start of a school day session) or for the reason of a holiday taken during term time.

Holidays during term time

In response to the government’s Attendance Strategy for Schools, the Governing Body of North Denes Primary School will not authorise holidays taken in term time.

It is very important for pupils to attend school and so receive all the learning opportunities they can. Loss of school time has a detrimental effect on the continuity of a child’s learning development and can also affect friendship groups. During a period of one or two weeks of absence, a child can miss whole areas of study and catching up can be extremely difficult, as each learning experience builds on what has gone before. Schools’ attainment and progress measures are strongly linked to attendance and if pupils take 10 days of holiday during each academic year they will miss the equivalent of over a term’s teaching in their primary school career. Illness – which is inevitable over a 7 year period - then adds to this.

Please support us when we ask you not to take your child out of school for a holiday. However, if you do decide to do this, you must complete a holiday notification form; obtainable from the school office. Absences for holidays taken during term time will not be authorised and pupils absent from school for this reason will therefore have their absence marked as unauthorised. All unauthorised absences will be reported in your child’s annual end of year report. Teachers do not set work for pupils who are on holiday.

The school is open to pupils for 190 days, which leaves 175 days for such as holidays, visits to relatives etc.

If you need help to get your child to school please let us know. We will be glad to help you and offer support to ensure your child’s attendance at school is good.

We are required to publish our attendance figure for the school, for the year 2016/17 it was:

Total percentage of attendance: 94.7%
Policies and Procedures
Any policy relating to the curriculum and the running of the school can be seen on application to the school. Most school policies are also available on our school website.

Admission Policy
The intake limit for the cohort of pupils to be admitted in September 2018 is set at 60.

The pupils will come into a mixed ability class in all year groups.

In the event of over subscription for pupil places in any of the year groups, preference will be given to pupils living nearest to the school according to the following criteria, in order of priority:

1) Pupils for whom their Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health Care Plan names this school.
2) Pupils in public care who are due to start school and live in the area served by the school.
3) Pupils who reside within the designated area and have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of their admission.
4) Pupils who reside within the designated area and have a brother or sister attending the infant school at the time of their admission.
5) Pupils who reside within the designated area and do not have a brother or sister attending the school or adjoining infant school at the time of their admission.
6) Pupils living outside the area served by the school who have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of their admission.
7) Pupils living outside the area served by the school who do not have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of their admission.

All parents have a right of appeal if their child is not admitted to the school of their choice.

Charging Policy

The school is entitled to request voluntary contributions towards the cost of educational visits which are planned to link with the curriculum. Several areas of the curriculum are enriched by educational visits to such places as museums, historic sites, and contrasting environments - locally and further afield. Such visits, made during the school day, are a planned part of the curriculum and much preparatory and follow-up work flows from them. Parents are requested to make a voluntary contribution towards the costs of these visits. We can only afford to make such visits if enough parents are willing to support them financially. No child will be excluded through lack of voluntary contributions but insufficient contributions might result in some visits being cancelled. The school’s Charging Policy is available on request.
**Disabled Access**

All parts of the school are accessible to all pupils, members of staff and visitors with disabilities. We have a detailed policy to ensure that all pupils have equal access to our provision; including the curriculum. This is available on request.

**Problems/Complaints**

If parents/carers are worried or concerned about anything, we urge them to contact the school. Even if you consider the matter to be trivial, if it is worrying a child or a parent, it needs to be resolved before it becomes a bigger problem. Initially, the child’s class teacher should be contacted but if a parent wishes to speak to the Care and Support Adviser or the Head Teacher an appointment can be made by telephoning the school office. Issues arising are usually fully resolved at this point; however, if after discussion, the matter is not resolved, a formal complaint can be made to the Chair of Governors. A copy of the complaints procedure is available on request at the school office.

**Medical Matters and Medicines**

The admission form requests medical details which may affect a child’s well-being whilst at school such as asthma, allergies etc. We keep this information confidential amongst relevant staff and request that parents keep us updated with health matters arising during their child’s time at the school. We appreciate being kept up to date with changes of address, telephone contact numbers and of any events in your child’s life that might affect their work or well-being. If a child needs to have a prescribed medicine administered during the school day, parents should complete a consent form at the school office. The medicine should be clearly labelled with the child’s name and dosage required and should be given to the school office who will follow the instructions accordingly. Under no circumstances should medicine be carried around school or left in a bag in the cloakroom. The exception to this rule is inhalers. The inhaler should be clearly named and can be kept by the child. For the occasional or emergency user, inhalers may be held in the school office. An Administration of Medicine policy that explains this further is available on request to the school and on the school website.
In September 2015 we launched our new ‘Cornerstones Curriculum’. The curriculum links learning across the full range of subjects in Imaginative Learning Projects based on developing key skills in a practical way that motivates and engages pupils and raises standards. The curriculum is built on inspirational learning activities and high-quality teaching in classroom environments that allow pupils to learn in a way that motivates and interests them. Each project is split into sections, which see pupils progress through four stages of learning: Engage, Develop, Innovate, Express.

**Engage:**
At the ‘Engage’ stage, pupils:
- gain memorable first-hand experiences, such as going on a visit or inviting a special visitor into school
- enjoy ‘WOW’ experiences
- get an exciting introduction to a topic or theme
- begin researching and setting enquiry questions
- get lots of opportunities to make observations
- develop spoken language skills
- take part in sensory activities
- have lots of fun to fully 'engage' with their new topic.

**Develop:**
At the ‘Develop’ stage, pupils:
- improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic
- develop and practice their new skills
- compose, make, do, build, investigate, explore, write for different purposes and read across the curriculum
- research their own questions and those set by others · follow new pathways of enquiry based on their interests
- complete homework activities that support their learning.

**Innovate:**
At the ‘Innovate’ stage, pupils:
- apply skills, knowledge and understanding in real-life contexts
- solve real or imagined problems using everything they’ve learnt
- get inspired by imaginative and creative opportunities
- revisit anything not fully grasped at the ‘Develop’ stage.

**Express:**
At the ‘Express’ stage, pupils:
- become the performers, experts and informers
- share their achievements with parents, classmates and the community
- evaluate finished products and processes · link what they have learnt to where they started · celebrate their achievements!
**Writing**

At North Denes we want our writers to make great progress, produce amazing pieces of writing and love doing it.

Our approach is simple: focus on the basics, offer the pupils real life experiences so they have something to write about and insist on high expectations for handwriting, spelling and punctuation. We aim for our writing to link to our Cornerstones Curriculum, making sure there is both a point and purpose.

**Reading**

We encourage all our young learners to read, read and read some more. As a school we take a multi-layered approach to improving reading skills and our family links are key to making this happen.

- Reading at home as much as possible, making good use of the reading records
- Everybody Reading in Class (ERIC) time in sessions across the week
- Guided Reading in groups exploring texts.
- Reading and presenting to an audience - our curriculum and timetable allows for plenty of opportunities for our learners to read aloud and present information orally.
- Accelerated Reader – a structured approach to reading and developing comprehension skills.

**English**

English is about gaining the skills to communicate effectively with everyone around us; now and in the future. This is achieved through exploring and enjoying a wide range of books and texts, asking and discussing questions, trying out different types of writing and expressing ourselves clearly and creatively. The use of structured reading schemes, general fiction and non-fiction books, group reading books and games, support the development of both reading and writing. Book fairs, visiting speakers and readers, along with regular theatre productions also play an important role in enhancing the language experiences of our pupils.

Teaching plans are drawn from the National Curriculum Programmes of Study. There is a daily literacy lesson for each class and the teaching of literacy is also a main focus within each unit of work.

**Mathematics**

At North Denes, we follow the Mathematics National Curriculum for England. This curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems over time, so that pupils develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately.
- Reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, conjecturing relationships and generalisations, and developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language.
- Can solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication, including breaking down problems into a series of simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions.

The curriculum covers the following areas: Number, Measurement, Geometry, Statistics, Ratio and Proportion and Algebra.

At North Denes we strongly believe that it is essential for all pupils to build a strong mathematical foundation in their time here with us to support them in everyday life. We do this through a daily maths lesson in all year groups, daily maths meetings and regular calculations practice, as well as embedding opportunities for pupils to further develop their
mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding through other areas of the curriculum such as science, technology, PE and History. We ensure pupils have regular opportunities to use and apply what they have learnt.

North Denes is also part of the Maths Mastery network and keeps to the principles of the Maths Mastery programme. These can be found at www.mathsmastery.org

To ensure consistency for our pupils, we have a calculation policy. This details the methods pupils use for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

**Assessment**
Progress is monitored throughout their time at the school by means of teacher assessment, in the course of lessons, or by specific tasks and tests: the outcomes from this inform planning to enable the needs of all pupils to be met. Pupils will be teacher assessed on entry to reception and at the end of that first year. A phonic screening test takes place in year one. Towards the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, pupils take end of Key Stage national tests in English and Maths. (SATs).

**Religious Education**
Pupils investigate aspects of Christianity every year as well as being introduced to two other principal religions. They learn about different beliefs and the world around them. They talk about what is important to them and to others, valuing themselves, reflecting on their feelings and experiences and developing a sense of belonging. RE is delivered through RE days, rather than as a slot in the timetable each week.

The syllabus has been designed in accordance with Norfolk’s ‘Agreed Syllabus’. Parents wishing to withdraw their child from Religious Education or from Collective Worship are invited to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Collective Worship assemblies are held daily as a whole school event.

**Physical Education**
P.E. is taught by qualified sports instructors with pupils having 2 hours of lessons each week.

Lessons include dance, gymnastics and a number of athletic activities which promote a healthy lifestyle. The games lessons include strategies and skills in all the major sports. Our curricular activities, including a block of swimming lessons, are supported by a wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs of both a competitive and non-competitive nature.

Pupils must always come to P.E./games/swimming lessons with the full appropriate kit. It is important that all pupils take part in P.E. lessons; which is a legal part of the National Curriculum. Pupils will only be excused from taking part in P.E./games/swimming lessons on production of a letter from a parent/carer stating a valid medical reason, or if they have injured themselves or become unwell during the school day on which the activities are taking place. Pupils with minor ailments should bring a note informing the teacher of any problems, but should still participate in the lesson, as these ailments will be taken into consideration and accommodated during the lesson. If a child is well enough to be at school then they are well enough to take part in P.E. Pupils forgetting to bring kit will be loaned school kit and a letter will be sent home.

**Primary Languages**

Learning a language enriches the curriculum. It provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge for pupils and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic and creative learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life.

At North Denes we teach French and pupils also learn about the culture of the France.
To assist our overall objective of helping each child at North Denes Primary School achieve his/her potential, we set homework activities that are designed to support learning carried out at school by helping pupils to:

- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Extend learning through additional reading
- Have time to learn spellings, vocabulary, number facts etc.
- Exploit resources for learning at home, including opportunities to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult
- Develop those skills and attitudes which are important to independent learning; such as confidence and the self-discipline needed to study on their own.

A regular pattern of homework assignments is important, since a familiar routine is helpful for pupils, parents and teachers. The amount of time that a homework assignment takes to complete may well vary from child to child and from assignment to assignment. Sufficient time needs to be spent on homework assignments to ensure that they are completed as required and to the best ability of the child.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their pupils with homework by encouraging a positive attitude and giving support when difficulties arise. It is also expected that parents/carers will ensure that their pupils read or are heard to read, as appropriate, on a daily basis.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
When necessary, extra help is given to pupils either by the class teacher or another member of staff. At times we may seek advice from other professionals. We always involve parents at an early stage if we perceive that there is a problem. In line with the government’s Code of Practice, we publish our Local Offer and approach to SEND on the school website.

Looked After Pupils
Pupils who are ‘looked after’ are supported well in our school. We follow all the legal guidelines and try to ensure that they are happy and make good progress in our school.

Gifted and Talented
We identify gifted and talented pupils at North Denes and recognise, celebrate and encourage achievements both in and out of school. We provide, where appropriate, a range of extension activities for these pupils, so they can achieve their potential. We also signpost clubs and activities we find out about that take place outside of school to parents.

Educational Visits
Several areas of the curriculum are enriched by educational visits to such places as museums, historic sites, and contrasting environments - local and further afield. Such visits, made during the school day, are a planned part of the curriculum and much preparatory and follow-up work flows from them. Pupils who do not experience the visit will find follow up work difficult. Parents are requested to make a voluntary contribution towards the costs of these visits. We can only afford to make such visits if enough parents are willing to support them financially. However, it is our policy that no child should be excluded because of hardship and we endeavour to ensure that all benefit from
the experiences offered. Please speak to us if finance is a problem or a barrier to your child being included. We will do what we can to help.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**
Extra-curricular provision means children have the opportunity of joining a variety of lunch-time and after-school activities. During the last year these have included: Football, Dance, Netball, Rugby, Athletics, Strictly North Denes Style, The Voice, Cookery, Recorders, Guitars, Choir, I.C.T. Gardening. Clubs change according to the season and demand.

**Parents and School Working Together**
Parents are always welcome in school as volunteers in the classroom and opportunities also exist to support our annual events – particularly our school concerts/productions, sports events and summer fair.

Evenings are set aside in the autumn and spring terms for parents’ evenings and pupils are given an annual written report to give to parents to read and sign in the summer.

The successful education of pupils involves an effective partnership between school and home. We need and depend on your support.

**Developing Positive Attitudes**

**Behaviour**
Pupils are happiest and learn best when their environment is rich, enjoyable and stimulating; boundaries and rules are clear and they understand the consequences of their actions. They need to know that staff care about them and are prepared to give their time to assist them and to listen. Positive attitudes and behaviour are rewarded and celebrated through merits, house points and recognition in assemblies. We have a clear and well-structured behaviour policy which is available to view on the school website or on request to the school office. The application of the behaviour policy is a matter for the school. Parents may not ask for their child to be treated differently. The behaviour policy applies to all children.

**The School and the Community**

We believe that pupils should recognise that they are part of a wider community, as well as being members of our school. We encourage pupils to engage with this community in a variety of ways to encourage community cohesion. Broadly, our school’s contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under the three following headings:

§ Teaching, learning and curriculum teaching pupils to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action.
§ **Equity and excellence** – ensuring equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible, removing barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and eliminating variations in outcomes for different groups.
§ **Engagement and ethos** – providing a means for pupils, young people and their families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations, including links with different schools and communities locally, across the country and internationally.

**Pastoral Care**
The well-being of pupils in our care is of the utmost importance. To this end we have a full time child well-being service based in our school. We also have a full time Care and Support Adviser (Mrs Johnson) who works with pupils and families in a supportive role. She is out on the playground at the start of every day and available during the school day to meet with you should you need any support or advice. She has a wealth of knowledge and can signpost and refer to a range of other agencies if required.

**House System**
Every child will join one of the following houses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Colour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wellesley</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britannia</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pupils can earn house points for their work, by being helpful, kind to others and polite. Points are also gained for sporting events, competed for in houses. A cup is presented to the house captain of the house with the most points at the end of every academic year. Points are read out in our good work assembly every Friday.

**General information**
Details of annual school attainment and achievement, the latest Ofsted Report and information about term dates etc are all published on the school website. Copies can be viewed in the school. Please contact the school office should you require this.