



*Quality, Excellence  
and Passion*

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# Welcome

I am privileged to introduce you to Heron Park Primary Academy and Nursery. We pride ourselves on our warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere, where all members of the community feel very much part of our Heron Park family.

Heron Park is one of seven schools within the Aurora Academy Trust. This means that our staff work closely with colleagues across all schools developing curriculum provision and gaining access to the most up-to-date educational research and training. At all times, the commitment to improve further the educational outcomes for each one of our pupils is at the heart of all our developments.

Situated in the heart of Eastbourne, the school has access to a range of gardens, a large playing field and a Forest/Nature area where outdoor lessons take place. Additionally, we make use of Eastbourne's wonderful coastline with visits to the beach. Our school was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in May 2022. Staff, supported by our Local Board of Governors, promote high standards and deliver a rich and ambitious curriculum which excites and stimulates children's imaginations and creative thinking. Additionally, our curriculum encourages children to be independent learners. Across all lessons, pupils are encouraged to self-evaluate and consider their strengths and next steps. We believe this, in tandem with a high standard of teaching and learning, enables our pupils to excel in their education. At Heron Park, our vision is simple: we want our children to demonstrate Quality, Excellence and Passion. Our aim is to ensure our children gain the skills and knowledge they need to have fulfilled futures in an ever-changing society.



# Values

To realise our vision, every moment of school life is underpinned by our core values: *Respect, Curiosity, Independence, Resilience and Aspiration*. We display our value animals in each class and teach children the core skills related to them. At the end of the week, we have an award assembly. Teachers choose pupils who have gone above and beyond to demonstrate the core value we have focused on across the school.

**Respect**



**Curiosity**



**Resilience**



**Independence**



**Aspiration**





# Starting School

Your child's first days in school are extremely important. At Heron Park, we offer a range of activities and visits to ensure that your child settles into school with confidence. Children of Nursery age, who are due to start Reception, enjoy 'Stay and Play' visits with their parents and we also hold events over the summer, like our Teddy Bear's Picnic for your child to become familiar with the adults who will support them as well as the school building itself.

## The School Day

The school day starts at 8.50am and finishes for all years at 3pm. Members of the School Leadership Team are at the school gates each morning and teachers are available to talk to in the afternoon at the school gates.

The children have a 15-minute break each morning and a 45-minute lunch (this is extended slightly in Reception). Pupils are invited to bring a healthy, fruit snack to enjoy during their break. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, all pupils are able to have free fruit which is available each day. Children should bring water with them each day which they can access during their lessons. Water bottles can also be refilled in school.

The school office is open from 8am until 3.30pm Monday-Friday (term time only).

The main school gates open at 8.40am and at 2.50pm.





# Attendance



	100%	😊 OUTSTANDING
4	98%	😊 VERY GOOD
7	96%	😊 GOOD
10	95%	😊 ALMOST THERE
20	90%	😞 IMPROVEMENT NEEDED
29	85%	😞 CONCERNED
40	80%	😞 VERY CONCERNED

Our expectations regarding pupil attendance are very high. We know that excellent attendance supports our children in being able to achieve their very best. All our attendance procedures are set out in our policy which is published on our website.



A young boy in a white shirt is looking down at a book or paper. The background is a soft-focus classroom setting. The page has a pink and yellow geometric design on the right side.

## Our Curriculum

Our broad and balanced curriculum is underpinned by our vision that all pupils reach their potential, demonstrating **Quality Excellence and Passion**. We follow the Aurora Academy Trust curriculum which encourages enquiry at every stage. Our teaching of skills and knowledge enable our pupils to become confident scientists, mathematicians, writers, readers, historians, artists, geographers, programmers, designers, sports people, musicians by the time they leave our setting. Our bespoke and ambitious curriculum builds on what our pupils already know and enables our children to gain the knowledge and skills they need in the next phase of their educational career and beyond.

Our pupils study topics across the school. Each topic is based on a key concept question which our children answer at the end of their unit of work.



# Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Across our mornings, we have an extensive focus on Reading, Writing and Mathematics. We use Read, Write, Inc. to teach pupils phonics thus providing them with the skills to become independent, avid readers of books.

Our White Rose scheme supports our delivery of a Maths Mastery curriculum. Throughout all our lessons, children learn the foundations in mathematics and build on these to become confident problem solvers.

In the afternoons, we teach a rich and varied diet of the Foundation Subjects: Science, Geography, History, Art, Physical Education, Design Technology, Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education.







## Physical Education

Your child's wellbeing is at the core of everything we do. We know that one way of providing this is to ensure our young people are able to access a wide range of sporting opportunities. We work alongside Sportitude who not only deliver lessons alongside our staff but provide a wealth of after-school clubs/activities which the children can access. Annually, we ensure that the children can take part in a wide range of sports tournaments. We recognise the school values on display at these events and remain proud of each child who manages to take part.

## Our School Animals

To enrich our children's experiences further, we have a range of animals on site. Pupils can look after the animals, study their habitats and watch them grow! To date, we have some goats, chickens, tortoises, a bearded dragon and a frog! Our children are fortunate to be able to access two gardens close to the classrooms as well as a forest and large playing field, where outdoor lessons take place.





## Computing

At Heron Park, we prepare our children for their digital futures. Our curriculum is based on Purple Mash and encompasses the importance of Online Safety. Children have access to classroom interactive whiteboards as well as banks of Chrome Books. Whilst discrete lessons take place weekly, the use of Information and Communication Technology is embedded within other subjects.



# Music and Drama

Music, the arts and drama are important to us at Heron. We know that our pupils gain countless skills through taking part in these activities. We have wonderful facilities including a fully equipped stage which on which our children perform.

Pupils also access music lessons taught by members of Sussex Music School. All our children learn how to play the recorder and Ukelele throughout their time in school. We encourage pupils to learn the violin, guitar, keyboard and more through individual music lessons on offer from Sussex Music School. In addition, we encourage children who would like to join our fantastic Orchestra and Choir- both groups perform in school and within the local community.



# The Beach

We are fortunate to be located near Eastbourne's sunshine coast. Recently, our School Council adopted a section of the beach. Alongside school visits to explore this habitat, we work hard to maintain our section of the coastline.





# Inclusion

Inclusion, defined clearly, is simply “including all”. We promote equal opportunities and believe that all children should be able to succeed whatever their individual needs.

At Heron Park Primary Academy we have an inclusive approach to teaching and learning for all children. We have an inclusion team led by our SENDCo. This team supports inclusive practice across the school, provides support and intervention for individuals and groups and works with parents and families.

In line with Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Needs, we constantly monitor and assess the progress of the children in our care. This enables us to ensure that any need is identified and fully met at as early a stage as possible.

Before the children enter the foundation stage of our school, we liaise closely with the pre-schools, Early Years Service, and other outside agencies. We are informed of any child whose needs require particular attention. This enables us to ensure that provision and resources are in place to enable them to integrate as fully as possible into the life of the school.

We see the provision of SEN as a partnership between home and school and meetings are arranged with parents to discuss any concerns or the transition process. By working closely together we believe that a child’s individual needs are catered for effectively.

Ms Smith is our SENCO and will happily answer any questions you might have. You can contact Ms Smith via the school office on 01323 502525, or via email:

[heronparkoffice@auroraacademies.org](mailto:heronparkoffice@auroraacademies.org)





# School Uniform

We believe that having our own school uniform gives the school an identity and encourages the children to take pride in both their appearance and their school. The school colours are Raspberry, White and Black. A full list of uniform requirements is below:

## Uniform

- Raspberry sweatshirt
- White shirt
- Black trousers, black skirt or black pinafore dress.
- Black socks or tights.
- Black shoes (Not trainers or slip on shoes)

## Summer

(Term 5 and Term 6 only)

- As above with the addition of:
- Raspberry gingham dress

## PE Uniform

- Plain black sweatshirts/jumper no hoodies
- Black shorts
- Plain black jogging bottoms
- White t-Shirt
- Black trainers or plimsolls
- Black PE bag with school logo





## Wraparound Provision

We provide before and after-school care for those families who require further childcare support beyond the school day. Our Breakfast Club starts at 8am and runs every morning school is open and costs £3 per child per day. During this time, pupils have breakfast and are able to engage with a range of games/activities before the school session begins.

After-school, two sessions are available:

Sportitude Clubs: 3 - 4pm, Monday to Friday during term time. Bookings and payment for this are both made directly through Sportitude.

4-5pm - this additional after-school session will be managed by school and staffed by Sportitude. The cost for the 4 - 5pm session will be £5 per day.

Please do contact the school office on 013230 502525 for any enquiries.





# Monitoring and Reporting Pupil Progress

4 to 5	Reception		Baseline assessment in first 6 weeks	Working at expected level of development.
5 to 6	Year 1	KS1	Phonics Screening Check	Phonics Pass
6 to 7	Year 2	KS1	Teacher assessments in reading, grammar punctuation and spelling, maths and science.	Working at age related expectation (ARE)
8 to 9	Year 4	KS2	Multiplication Tables Check	Marked out of 25
10 to 11	Year 6	KS2	National tests and teacher assessments in reading, writing, grammar punctuation and spelling and maths	



# Further Information

Please do come to visit our wonderful school community. Appointments can be made via the school office. If you have any questions you would like to ask about Heron Park Primary Academy, or views/thoughts you would like to share with us, please get in touch.

01323 502525

Email: [heronparkoffice@auroraacademies.org](mailto:heronparkoffice@auroraacademies.org)

Our Headteacher is Mrs Helen Crees who can be contacted via the school office.

