



# Hamsey Community Primary School

## Prospectus 2021-2022

Hamsey Community Primary School  
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### Executive Head Teacher:

Mr Stewart James

### Head of School:

Mr Robert Newlands

### Chair of Governors:

Mr Peter Clark



## **Vision**

***A Kind, Creative Community where Learning is an Adventure!***

Our vision is to be a small school with big ideas and an excellent reputation. We offer a unique range of learning opportunities and, working closely with parents and carers, support the needs, strengths and interests of all our children so that everyone can aim high. Our children are happy, thoughtful, confident, independent learners, who leave us prepared for the future.

## Welcome to Hamsey School

Our lovely little school was built early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to provide a school for the local community. It continues to serve this purpose, but we now welcome many families from a much wider area, including Lewes, which is just a few minutes drive away.

This is very much due to the growing reputation of Hamsey School which is largely a result of our ethos:

At Hamsey School we –

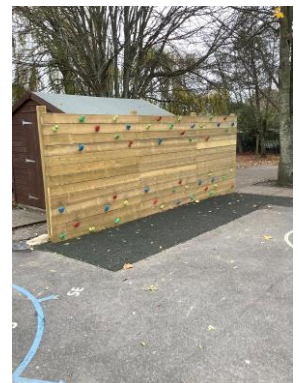
- ❖ value the whole child by providing a nurturing, inclusive environment.
- ❖ enjoy a warm family atmosphere where we develop close relationships with parents.
- ❖ achieve consistently good academic standards through creative teaching and learning.
- ❖ are committed to learning outdoors, including Forest School.
- ❖ encourage responsible, respectful attitudes in our school community.



Hamsey School is part of the highly successful **Skylark Federation** which comprises Plumpton Primary School and Barcombe CE School. This ensures we can provide our children with a range of expertise, added resources and access to further learning opportunities across the Federation.

Choosing the right school for your child is not an easy task. We hope this prospectus will give you a flavour of what Hamsey School has to offer you and your child and answer some of the questions you may have.

Please do contact the school if you have any further queries, or why not call us to arrange a visit so that you can see the school at work.



We look forward to meeting you soon.

Stewart James  
**Executive Head Teacher**  
**Skylark Federation**

Robert Newlands  
**Head of School**  
**Hamsey**

## Enjoying life at Hamsey School both inside and outside

We currently have just under 100 children on roll who are taught in 4 classes:

<b>Hedgehogs</b>	Reception and Year 1
<b>Foxes</b>	Year 2 and Year 3
<b>Badgers</b>	Year 4 and Year 5
<b>Owls</b>	Year 5 and Year 6

All classes have at least one teaching assistant supporting the class teacher in the mornings and our Reception Class benefits from a teaching assistant in the afternoon as well.



One of the features that attract people to Hamsey School is its rural setting and extensive grounds where children enjoy a range of outdoor learning activities. The front of the school offers no suggestion of the impressive grounds hidden behind the main school building!

At the far end of our 'traditional playground' can be found a quiet shaded patio and outdoor classroom area which in turn leads onto a small adventure play area to one side, and our huge field to the other side.

On the edge of this field are some willow structures providing shade in the summer, a pond, and our vegetable beds. The field is also home to a clay oven which is used as an additional resource for Forest School Activities that take place on site throughout the year, as well as for other curriculum and social activities.



In addition to this Hamsey School also has:

- A small room for group or individual learning.
- Wireless internet across the whole school with access to laptops and mini ipads.
- Interactive whiteboards in all teaching rooms.



## **Learning at Hamsey School**

As a primary school we educate children aged from 4 to 11 covering the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

## **Our Unique Skylark Curriculum**

We are particularly proud of our unique Skylark curriculum. We have devised a curriculum that is meaningful, purposeful, and relevant to the children who live in the area of East Sussex, nestled underneath the South Downs.

The area is rich with local history, Geography and creativity. We use these subjects as the drive for our curriculum allowing our children to truly immerse themselves in a project-based curriculum where subject specific skills are explicitly taught in a planned, age appropriate developmental way.

Through Skylark curriculum, children are taught the importance of analysis as the key to understanding.

## **Foundation Stage Reception Class (4-5 year olds)**

The Foundation Stage classroom is an exciting learning environment, where children can choose their own activities, both indoors and outdoors. Throughout the day the children come together to listen to stories and take part in phonics activities, to develop the skills needed to begin reading. Much of the early years' curriculum is very



creative and imaginative, and follows the children's own interests, with exciting topics such as pirates and dinosaurs.

Children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which covers three prime areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development and Communication and Language. Activities are also planned for four other areas of learning: Literacy, Mathematics Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

## Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2 and Key Stage 2: Years 3 – 6



As a school committed to creative learning, we teach many subjects through topics. This means the children become immersed in a particular area of learning for several weeks and really enjoy the exciting lessons, visits and experiences which are carefully planned by teachers to make learning as meaningful as possible.

### English

Literacy skills begin with speaking and listening, and therefore we have a strong emphasis on this in our English lessons. Children enjoy drama games and role-playing stories, which gives a deeper understanding of stories as well as building confidence.



Our approach to reading begins in Reception, with regular phonics lessons, which continue through the infant years. Throughout the school, children are encouraged to become confident, independent readers who read for pleasure, and class teachers use a variety of quality texts in their literacy lessons.

In their writing, children are taught a range of styles, for different audiences, with a strong emphasis on spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting skills.

### Mathematics



Mathematics includes a wide range of topics with a strong focus on number and calculation along with using and applying mathematics, algebra, shape, space, measuring and handling data.

Mathematics is approached in a variety of

ways, making use of investigative and real-life situations, often with links to other curriculum subjects.

We encourage our children to think mathematically and so help them to prepare for opportunities to apply their mathematical knowledge in and out of the classroom.





## Science

Science is taught from Year 1 onwards, in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum which ensures a broad and balanced coverage of all areas.

Science investigations are centred in a context that is meaningful to the children and are delivered in a creative and practical way. A special emphasis is given to investigative work and activities and is delivered in a practical way, with the children having fun and gaining many essential skills along the way.



## Computing

Hamsey pupils are encouraged to use a range of technologies in their learning across the curriculum. With a new focus on computer science, pupils are introduced to algorithms and instructions, creating, and debugging simple programs, in Key Stage 1.



As they progress through the school, this understanding is combined with creativity to design and write their own programs for specific purposes.

Children are encouraged to evaluate and apply different technologies to solve problems, all the while demonstrating an awareness and understanding of the safety aspects. Our aim is for each pupil to leave as a confident and responsible user of information and communication technology.

All classrooms are equipped with the latest ICT technology.

We have permanent and complete access to the Internet. This allows pupils to access the internet quickly – and safely – with access carefully filtered at source.

## Design Technology



Children learn several DT techniques during their time at Hamsey. They complete a range of projects in both wood and textiles and are encouraged to build on ideas and plan how to execute their designs effectively.

DT is complemented by Forest School activities when the children have the opportunity to use a range of tools to make different constructions as part of outdoor projects and they also enjoy cookery sessions, often related to a topic.

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

Children in Key Stage 2 learn French, and emphasis is placed on speaking and listening. Lessons are comprised of games, role play activities and songs, and are designed to engage children and to steadily build their confidence. Children learn standard greetings, basic vocabulary and simple sentence structures.

### **Humanities**



Children are fully immersed in History and Geography activities as part of a wider cross-curricular topic. This includes hands on experiences such as field trips, visits and meeting experts.

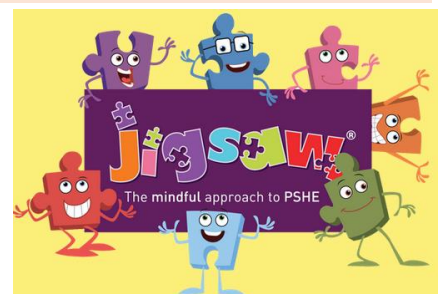
The aim in history is to inspire curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. Pupils consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like and what

beliefs and cultures influenced their actions. They see the diversity of human experience so they can understand more about themselves as individuals and members of society.

Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human worlds. A knowledge of places and environments is developed in the children, together with an understanding of maps and a range of investigative and problem-solving skills both inside and outside the classroom. It is also a focus for understanding and resolving issues about the environment.

### **Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE)**

PSHE is about preparing our pupils to live in the wider world, to understand diversity and to learn how to be good citizens both now and in their future lives.



In PSHE, pupils explore their own feelings and their role and relationships with others. The programme we teach includes a rolling programme of both Health (including drugs) and Sex Education, both of which are delivered to a child's maturity, understanding and needs.



We ensure that children develop the emotional tools to live in society through delivering quality provision using our Jigsaw Curriculum.

We teach pupils that there are many ways to manage their own, and others, feelings, and that the acknowledgement of other people as individuals is a key life skill. This is delivered through mindful activities within each classroom.

## Art

Art is regarded as an important area of the creative arts curriculum. Children are encouraged to use a variety of media and techniques.

They study the use of colour, line, shape, tone and observational drawing to develop their artistic skills and their appreciation of artists' work.



The school has close links with several professional artists who regularly work with the children, offering a high level of expertise in this area of the curriculum. Art is also used to supplement and enrich other areas of the curriculum.



## Physical Education:



All children participate in games, dance, gymnastics, athletics and swimming lessons in which they develop skills and sporting qualities.

All classes benefit from weekly lessons led by coaches. Each year, our Lower Key Stage 2 class Lewes Leisure Centre for lessons given by their swimming instructors, supported by staff from Hamsey School.

We aim to develop children's enjoyment, confidence and skill in physical activity and to introduce them to the pleasures of sport. We also feature extra-curricular activities and take part in a variety of sports tournaments with local schools.



Older children also can participate in a wide range of outdoor activities on a residential trip.

### **Music:**

Children in Key Stage One have the opportunity to listen and respond to a wide range of recorded and live music. They are encouraged to use their voices expressively to sing songs and speak chants and rhymes inspired by their topic work. At Hamsey, the children begin to play tuned and untuned instruments musically, taking their inspiration from artwork, storybooks etc.

They experiment with improvisation and composition and explore the history of music through their topic work. All children have the opportunity to perform regularly in termly class assemblies or our bigger productions that take place at Christmas and the end of the school year.

### **Religious Education and Collective Worship**

R.E. is learning about religion and learning from religion. Understanding of a range of different faiths is taught so that children develop sensitivity and awareness of the needs and beliefs of people both in the United Kingdom and across the world.

Assembly is an important part of the school day when we meet together as a community. It is a time when we place emphasis on the development of values and attitudes towards each other and the world around us.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship should they so wish. If parents do not wish their child to be taught the agreed syllabus or take part in short acts of collective worship then they should inform us in writing. Their child can then be excused and suitable alternative arrangements made.

### **Forest School:**

Forest School takes place throughout the year and gives children an opportunity to learn skills outdoors, either in our own school grounds, which includes a large field with trees, a pond and nature area, or in local woodlands.



During Forest school sessions, children learn social, personal and technical skills such as fire lighting, cooking and shelter building. We believe that learning outdoors encourages independence, builds self-esteem as well as bringing the curriculum alive. We particularly value the



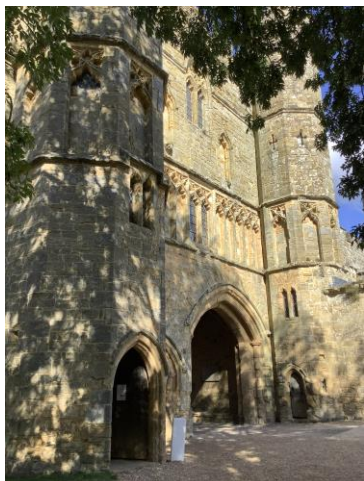
personal skills of problem solving and team building.

We incorporate the science curriculum into Forest School sessions, and children learn about their local environment such as plants, trees and wildlife.

### **Curriculum Enrichment:**

Children at Hamsey School enjoy regular events to make their learning more meaningful and

exciting. Recent trips include Battle Abbey, Newhaven Fort, Fishbourne Palace and Lewes Castle and Residential visits for older children. As part of the Skylark Federation, Hamsey pupils benefit from the academic support provided by Kings Academy Ringmer, Cumnor House and Chailey Secondary School for enrichment days.



### **Including all children:**

The school has a part-time Inclusion Manager and a team of teaching assistants who support children within the classroom or sometimes in small groups.

The school works closely with parents in assessing, monitoring and addressing children's needs and parents are regularly updated with their children's progress. The special needs policy of the school outlines the procedures for early identification, continual assessment, appropriate provision, record keeping and the involvement of outside agencies. We are a Dyslexia Friendly School.



Our more able pupils are also identified and given work appropriate to their needs both within school and for older pupils, in conjunction with other schools and outside services.

Our Year 6 pupils take a lead responsibility within the school, acting as Prefects, Sports Captains and as Buddies for our new Reception intake.



Each class has two School Council members who meet regularly to engage in discussions that have an impact on strategic developments within the school.

#### **Extra – Curricular Clubs:**

There are a range of clubs that take place either after school or during lunch breaks. These vary throughout the year and include: Multisports, Dodgeball and Tennis. Clubs are led by an outside range of providers.

### **Hamsey Community Primary School National Assessment Results 2019-2020**

#### **End of Reception – % of children reaching a Good Level of Development (GLD)**

<b>% Hamsey</b>	<b>% East Sussex</b>	<b>% National</b>
85.7	75.9	71.7

#### **Phonics Screening Check – % of children passing the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check**

<b>% Hamsey</b>	<b>% East Sussex</b>	<b>% National</b>
83.3	81.8	82

#### **End of Key Stage 1 Assessment – % of children reaching or exceeding End of Year 2 Expectations.**

	<b>Hamsey</b>		<b>East Sussex</b>		<b>National</b>	
	<i>Expected</i>	<i>Greater Depth</i>	<i>Expected</i>	<i>Greater Depth</i>	<i>Expected</i>	<i>Greater Depth</i>
<b>Reading</b>	76.9	38.5	77.3	26.9	75	25
<b>Writing</b>	75	7.7	72.2	15.6	69.2	14.7
<b>Maths</b>	75	30.8	77.6	22.2	75.7	21.7

#### **End of Key Stage 2 Assessment – % of children reaching or exceeding End of Year 6 Expectations.**

	<b>Hamsey</b>		<b>East Sussex</b>		<b>National</b>	
	<i>Expected</i>	<i>Greater Depth</i>	<i>Expected</i>	<i>Greater Depth</i>	<i>Expected</i>	<i>Greater Depth</i>
<b>Reading</b>	92.3	30.8	71.9	25.2	73.1	26.9
<b>Writing</b>	85	8	78.7	17.1	78.4	20.1
<b>Maths</b>	69.2	23.1	75.1	21.7	78.6	26.6
<b>GPAS</b>	76.9	30.8	72.3	26.9	78	35.6

### **Links with Secondary Schools**

We have close links with Chailey Secondary School where some of our children transfer to at the end of Year 6. Some of our most able mathematicians benefit from weekly lessons at the school and we also use their facilities for PE tournaments. Children also transfer to Lewes Priory or Ringmer School.

### **Everyday Life at Hamsey School :**

#### **School times:**

The school gate opens at 8.30am when children can spend some time socialising and playing on the playground (or in the Hedgehogs and Foxes outside area for the younger children) before Owls and Badgers Classes participate in the Daily Mile at 8.40am. Foxes Class completes the Daily Mile in the afternoons.

Break time is at 10.15-10.30am and lunch is from 12.00pm -1.00pm. The younger children eat their lunch first which means they can take as long as they like, and the dining area is quieter for them.

#### **Breakfast Club:**

There is a breakfast club available from 7.45am Monday to Fridays and as a rule there is no need to book, just turn up. Children at the club enjoy a breakfast with their friends and then have time to relax and do a few activities in the hall before the school day starts.

#### **After School Care:**

Our After School Care is currently unavailable but we anticipate this will be up and running shortly once we have recruited a new club leader to run the sessions.

#### **Attendance, absence and illness:**

Children who have good attendance at school consistently make better progress with their learning and find it easier to establish and maintain good friendships.

The Government and Local Authority have very strict guidelines regarding absence in term time, which the school has to follow. Any absence (except illness and medical appointments) will only be authorised in **exceptional** circumstances and should be requested using the form available from the office at least 2 weeks in advance.

If your child is unable to attend school, please notify the school office by 9.15am on the first morning of absence. Wherever possible we ask that you make routine medical or dental appointments out of school hours.

### School Meals:

A hot school meal prepared on the premises is provided every day with an option of 'traditional', vegetarian and jacket potato. You can choose whether your child has a cooked meal or a packed lunch on a day by day basis. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free meal each day and for children in years 3 – 6, the current cost is £2.15 per day. Free school meals are available for some older children and the office can advise you about applying for these if you feel your family may be entitled.



Should you wish to provide children with a packed lunch, we ask that **no** sweets, chocolate bars or **nuts** are included.

Children are welcome to bring a piece of fruit for morning break, and the school is part of the Government's fruit scheme which provides a free piece of fruit for all infants each day.

### School Uniform:

We feel that wearing school uniform is an important factor in helping children to develop a sense of pride and belonging in themselves and their school. Wearing uniform also ensures that children are wearing practical, appropriate clothes and that they do not have to compete in the fashion stakes. We therefore ask parents to co-operate, by sending children to school in uniform as detailed below.



- Red sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper - plain or with the school logo
- Grey/black school type skirt, pinafore dress, trousers or shorts
- White/red shirt - plain or with the school logo
- Sensible school shoes or sandals, which should be black.

Children also need plimsolls, black shorts or track suit bottoms and a white t-shirt for PE lessons (plain or with the school logo).

Please see our website for the full uniform code and a link to how you can purchase uniform online.



### Parents/Carers and the Community:

At Hamsey School we believe in developing close working relationships with our parents and carers. Teachers are available for a quick chat about any issue concerning you after school most days of the week, or we ask that you make an appointment should you need a longer discussion.



As well as this we have more formal consultation evenings in the autumn and spring and each child receives a full written report at the end of the academic year.

The Executive Head, Head of School or Deputy Head of School are at the school gate each morning and are pleased to talk with you then about any matters that do not require a longer or confidential appointment.

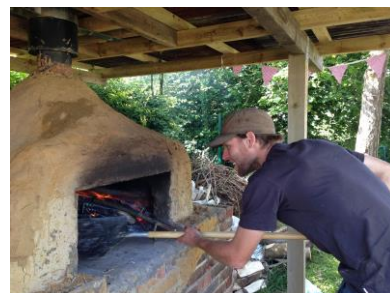
We welcome many of our parents in helping around school in a variety of ways such as reading with children, Forest School, art and cooking. This can be on a regular basis or a one-off for a special event.

We have a very active **Parent Teacher Association** (PTA) which arranges a range of social functions and also raises a great deal of money which is used for the benefit of all the children. Each year the PTA subsidise coach travel for swimming lessons and recently gave a significant contribution towards our music curriculum.

### Admitting your child to Hamsey School:

All admissions are administered by East Sussex Council and can be carried out on line using the link shown:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/findingaschool/default.htm>



However, should you have any queries about availability of spaces in a particular year group, or any other questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us directly.



We hope you have found this prospectus useful and wish you every success in finding the school that best suits your child's unique personality, interests and learning needs.