

ANSTEY FIRST SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS

2019-2020



**“I love everything about this school and what’s more so
does my child”**

Parent quote



“The school you go to is among the smallest in the country and this makes it special because it feels like a small family It is a good school and you told me how proud of it you are. It has lovely grounds – not all schools have so much space.”

Letter from Christopher Gray, Ofsted Inspector, to the children of Anstey School.



“I am extremely happy that all my children have had the privilege to attend this wonderful school”

Parent quote. Source Ofsted Report

Outstanding attendance. “Pupils are keen to come to this school.”

“The school is an important part of the village community.”

“Parents’ confidence in the school is well founded”

“Pupils with special educational needs and/ or disabilities make good and



“I love everything about this school and, what is more, so does my child”

Parent quote. Source Ofsted Report

Welcome to Anstey First School



Within this prospectus we aim to provide you with information about our school and the well-rounded education your child would enjoy here. However, we always recommend that you visit in order to experience first hand the charming and welcoming environment of this small and very individual school which has nestled into the Anstey countryside since 1853.

Our children are privileged to benefit from stunning grounds, located in open countryside within a small and beautiful, rural village. We have superb outside facilities which include an outside classroom ("The Cabin"), a dedicated area for outdoor exploration which includes a mud kitchen and potion station, impressive wooden trim trail equipment, a wildlife area, well-established pond and raised beds in which we grow a range of vegetables.

We teach children of all abilities between 2 and 9 years of age from Anstey, Buntingford and the neighbouring Hertfordshire villages. Being a true 'village school' our class sizes are small, our pupil/teacher ratio high and we have very strong links to the local community.

We are not a faith school but as part of our involvement with the local community, we regularly welcome the local pastor and vicar into our school to join our assemblies and are extremely fortunate to benefit from the time and support of local volunteers. We also form part of the larger community and share events and learning opportunities with other schools. The children benefit from a well-resourced school not least with a number of wireless laptops and interactive whiteboards

We have a tradition of providing a caring, nurturing, 'family' environment which encourages sociable, confident, well-mannered, thoughtful children. Within this environment, our children are encouraged to work to their highest standards and achieve their full potential which is much more than just academic success.

School life is very full. We aim to support our children as they grow into confident, happy individuals and to provide them with the skills to enable them to get the most out of their education at every level.

We are always pleased to show visitors round and hope that you will feel inspired to visit us soon.

Mrs A Myers
Head Teacher

Every Child Matters

At Anstey First School we believe that children should:

- Stay safe
- Be healthy
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Enjoy economic well being later in life

All the children make good relationships with staff and feel happy to talk to them.

We ensure that the children stay safe whilst in our care through Child Protection and Behaviour policies. Staff and Governors are trained in Child Protection procedures.

All staff, volunteers, sports coaches and occasional workers at the school have received a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check from the Safe Staffing Team and our Single Central Record for monitoring this is in place. Safeguarding procedures are followed when recruiting new staff.

To ensure our children's' safety, we ask that parents, when photographing events, only use the photographs at home and do not place any image onto the internet.

At Anstey First School, our children eat healthily and have plenty of exercise. Anstey School meals conform to the healthy standards required. Almost 100% of our children eat school dinners. Break time snacks are fruit or vegetables. All the children have access to drinking water. In general, our children have access to at least 2 hours of physical exercise each week. In addition, children in Year 1 and above run the daily mile every morning - aimed at getting children ready to learn and building a lifelong understanding of .

At Anstey, the children really do enjoy their education with a good range of activities on offer which allows them to achieve in all areas.

We are very aware that the years spent at Anstey are the building blocks for further education and achievement in life. We encourage our children to acquire knowledge as well as skills (both academic and social) which will help them in later life:

- Performing in front of an audience to develop confidence
- Exercises involving team work
- Acquiring and reinforcing basic skills for success at middle and upper school and life in general

Anstey School has strong links with the local community, the wider community (through assemblies, learning and fund raising activities for various charities) and the global community (through studies and an evolving relationship with the local charity Khandel Light which provides direct links with aid to a village in India).

Behaviour

Our school prides itself upon the friendly, family atmosphere that exists here. This is reflected in our values which set the guidelines for behaviour here at Anstey School. We emphasise good manners and a responsible attitude. We give, and expect to receive, respect for one another and for the buildings and their contents. Bullying is not tolerated.

Children and adults are expected to *"Be The Best You Can Be at Anstey"*.

Attendance

In order to achieve, it is very important that children attend school regularly and on time. We ask parents to ensure this and to limit absences as much as possible.

Holidays should be taken during the school holiday periods so as not to disrupt a child's learning. Where this is not possible, parents are required to request leave in writing from the Head Teacher.

Organisation

Anstey School admits children between 2 and 9 years of age. We follow the County admissions policy and in case of over subscription, criteria are applied by the Local Authority to allocate places. We admit a maximum of only ten pupils in each school year and offer *an excellent teacher/pupil ratio*.

Children at Anstey First School are organised into the following Classes:

- Owlets: pre-school children, age 2-3 years
Owlets Manager: Mrs Tansley supported by Mrs Hammond in the School House pre-school
- Fledglings: Nursery and Reception
Class Teacher: Miss Fell supported by Mrs Tilbury and Mrs Jocelyn
- Little Owls: Year 1 and Year 2
Class teacher: Mr McKelvey
- Wise Owls: Year 3 and Year 4
Class teacher: Mrs Modeste

We have 3 teaching assistants(TAs) who help in each class every day and 1 additional Exceptional Needs TA to give 1:1 support.

School Hours

School starts at 9.00 a.m. The teachers are available to talk to before and after school on the playground and we encourage you to do this rather than letting any potential worries grow. We finish the main school day at 3.30 p.m. (with the exception of our Owlets and any Nursery children who have elected to do mornings only who finish at 1.15pm and are collected from the side gate by the Village Hall)

The playground is staffed from 8.50am. Anyone needing to leave their child at this time should ensure that they are handed to a member of staff otherwise parents are responsible for their children until they go into school.

Our school day includes a 15minute mid-morning break at 10.45 a.m. Lunch break is from 12.00 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs are available – see wraparound care

Wrap Around Care

Both Breakfast Club and Afterschool Clubs are available.

Breakfast Club runs from 8.00am and costs £4.50 to include breakfast (children can choose a combination of cereals, porridge, toast, fruit and milk or juice). Alternatively children can be dropped off at 8.30am. They will not receive breakfast at this time and the cost is £1.50.

Afterschool Clubs run from 3.30 – 5.00pm daily. We offer Dance, Science*, Sport, Outdoor Pursuits and Film clubs for a charge of £5. *Sometimes there is a slightly higher charge if an outside provider is involved. We understand the need for reliability for our working parents so even if a club leader is absent we still run a club activity.



Coming Into School



Wise Owls and Little Owls:

For families not walking to school, parents should park in the bottom car park (not the area beside the village hall which is used for staff). We only unlock one playground gate, at the bottom of the playground, for security reasons. This gate is locked again at 9.05am so late arrivals should go round to Reception at the front of the school.

We have two classroom entrances from the playground - one for the older Wise Owls Class and Little Owls children and the other for Fledglings. Fledglings parents are welcome to come in to the Foundation area when the bell is rung to help their children hang up their things and share any relevant information.

Wise Owls and Little Owls are able to enter school independently.

Owlets Class:

Owlets parents too can enter from the playground (beside the Wise Owls entrance). We also have an entrance from the road - through the wooden garden gates - which many parents seem to prefer to use. There is a separate bell on this gate in case you should arrive after gates have been closed. For families who are not walking to school, there is limited parking at the front of the school but it seems to work as not all the pre-school children arrive at the same time. Otherwise parents can use the car park at the bottom of the playground.



Owlets sessions available:

Monday through to Thursday mornings
9am – 1.15pm

Assemblies

There is an assembly every day. We also occasional assemblies led by either the local pastor or the vicar where we include collective worship (parents can withdraw their children if they wish). We also hold special assemblies which parents are welcome to attend. At the end of every very half term we will present the *Dimsdale Award* which recognises the particular achievement – personal or academic - of one particular child. The recipient keeps the Dimsdale cup until the end of the next half term when they hand it on to the next student to be recognised.

The Curriculum

At Anstey School, we use a unique hybrid of Montessori principles and resources blended with the National Curriculum to deliver imaginative and creative lessons that encourage independence and, we hope, a life-long love of learning.

The School has three National Curriculum Stages within its age range:

- Foundation Stage (4-5 years)
- Key Stage 1 (5-7 years)
- Key Stage 2 (7-9 years)

At all Key Stages, children are asked to carry out home learning projects.

At some point in the Reception year, you will be invited into school to discuss how we teach phonics with the class teacher.

The Foundation Stage curriculum covers:

- personal, social and emotional development

- communication language and literacy
- mathematical development
- knowledge and understanding of the world
- physical development
- creative development

Both KS1 and KS2 cover:

- the core subjects of Maths, English, Science and ICT
- the foundation subjects of History, Geography, Art, Design and Technology, Music and P.E.
- Information and Communication Technology is also used to enhance the learning and teaching of other subjects.
- the modern foreign language we are learning is French

Our school is well resourced with wireless laptops and an interactive whiteboard in each classroom. In addition, 5 ipads are available for group activities.

Religious education is taught throughout the school following the County Agreed Syllabus which takes into account all the faith groups in the county. Parents may, if they wish, withdraw their children from collective worship and R.E. To exercise this right, parents should write to the Head Teacher.

During KS1, the children are taught the KS1 programmes of study for all the National Curriculum subjects. However, importance is given to literacy and numeracy. The other subjects are often presented to the children as “topics” and computing skills are taught and used by the children as part of this. Topics are carefully planned and generally last half a term. They draw from the programmes of study of other subjects where relevant. The children present their work in a variety of ways including displays, presentations, folders and “home-made” books in which they take great pride.

The pattern is similar for KS2 but here the children can study at greater depth. Skills that they will need later are beginning to be developed – for example, study skills and the ability to access information.

On many occasions at both Key Stages, visits or visitors are used to make the learning more exciting.

The school emphasises the children’s personal and social development. Time is given to discussion in class of issues or problems relevant to the children. Pupils vote for a representative from their year group to serve on the School Council. This enables the children to have a voice in decisions that concern them.

Assessment

Assessing children’s progress regularly is important to us. It helps the teachers to plan and to provide challenges appropriate to each child.

Assessment takes many forms such as observation, tasks and teacher assessment of pieces of work. The children are actively encouraged to assess their own learning in different ways too. The Year 2 children are assessed throughout the year in order to complete the statutory End of Key Stage formal assessments.

It is also important to communicate each child’s progress with their parents. This is done via an annual written report and with personal consultations in the Autumn and Spring terms. Should parents wish to talk to their child’s class teacher at other times, we are always happy to meet parents at a mutually convenient time.

To support our assessment, we use an online tool called Tapestry. This is a very user-friendly assessment system which has the advantage of allowing us to share individual pupils' achievements with their parents/carers who in turn can upload comments and photographic evidence to share with us at school. New parents will be given log in instructions.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children with special educational needs are taught within the class and supported by the class teacher and allocated Teaching Assistant(s). Individual education plans are set and reviewed termly with parents, following the code of practice for special educational needs. If necessary, outside agencies are referred to and will provide support and advice. Parents are involved fully at all stages of this process. A more detailed policy is available on the website or can be requested from the School Office.

The school reviews its work for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities on a regular basis through the Governing Body.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Being a small school, we are able to be very flexible. At short notice, we can enhance children's learning by adapting our planning to incorporate a visit to the library in Buntingford, Shuttleworth museum, the Cambridge botanical gardens, the Anstey alpacas to name but a few of our trips! Three members of staff are qualified to drive the minibus which means we are able to keep charges to our families to a minimum.

Some of these activities are with another school or schools so that they benefit from the small, friendly environment of Anstey School but do not miss out upon the opportunity to socialise and compete within larger groups.

Children are encouraged to think of others by our work for local and national charities.

Both listening and performing encourages children's development. All children from Year 1 upwards learn to play the Ukulele.

They also have the opportunity to benefit from a visiting piano and LAMDA drama teachers, should you wish to pay for extra lessons.

Our children perform regularly at school assemblies and plays or during our annual Fairy Festival. We also visit the local retirement home where residents enjoy being entertained by our students.



School uniform

We have a uniform at Anstey School and ask that parents support the uniform policy to maintain the high standards of dress that we have in school. Uniform can be ordered online from the link on our school website.

Girls

- Grey skirt or grey tailored trousers
- White shirt or polo shirt
- School sweatshirt, burgundy (or cardigan)
- Burgundy and white checked dress if preferred in warmer weather
- Grey tights or white socks
- Black shoes

Boys

- Grey trousers/shorts
- White shirt or polo shirt
- School sweatshirt, burgundy
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

PE

- Burgundy, logo'd polo shirt
- Black shorts
- Plimsolls or trainers
- Black tracksuit or sweatshirt and joggers

In addition, you can order bags for books and letters.

For health and safety reasons, jewellery is not permitted in school with the exception of stud earrings and, in Key Stage 2, a watch may be worn. Boys and girls will be asked to remove stud earrings (or tape them) for physical education and swimming.

The Governors

The school's Governing Body consists of 11 Governors (including the Head Teacher) who represent the staff, local community and parents. In conjunction with the Head, the Governors are responsible for the overall management and planning for the School.

The full board meets twice a term. Much of their work is carried out in sub committees who also meet on a regular basis.

The work of the Governors includes the appointment of staff, the formation and monitoring of the budget, the development and maintenance of the school premises, monitoring and evaluating School performance and overseeing and contributing to the annual School Development Plan.

Charging and Remissions

It is the School policy to ask for voluntary contributions for extra activities and we apply the County Council's Charging and Remissions Policy. A full copy of this can be found on the website or in the School Office.

Expressing Your Concerns

The School aims to work closely with parents and we hope that parents who have any anxieties or concerns will, in the first instance, raise these with the class teacher. If you are not sure who to approach, contact the School Office who will be able to help you. We find that nearly all concerns or potential complaints can be resolved through discussion.

The Governors of the School have arrangements for considering complaints formally if necessary. For general complaints and matters to do with special educational needs, they have adopted procedures which follow the recommendations of the Local Authority.

Our complaints procedure is available on the website or from the School Office.

Parents and School

Parent/Guardian/teacher consultations take place termly. Towards the end of the Summer Term a written report is sent home. There is the opportunity to arrange a consultation after receiving your report should you deem this necessary. Included in the Year 2 report package are the child's SATS results and an explanation of how the levels work.

Staff are very much aware of the importance of good home/school communication. To this end, the children use a reading record book and a homework/liaison book. Parents are also welcome to ask staff after school if they can look at their child's work or to discuss any areas of concern with the class teachers.

We believe it is vital that parents are active partners with their children's school. Parents are welcome at any time and we encourage any who wish to work in School on a voluntary basis (for example with reading). Parent volunteers can support staff in the classroom and accompany on trips. We are very grateful for all voluntary help and interested parents are asked to approach a teacher.

We have a fantastic **Friends' Association** that organises a number of very successful fund-raising and social events throughout the year. The contributions they make greatly enhance the materials and extras that we can provide for the children. For example, coaches for swimming and trips, books and play equipment, musical instruments in the playground..... New parents are encouraged to participate in all activities and meetings – the PTA meet for coffee upstairs in the school house on a half termly basis.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming your child to Anstey First School

This prospectus gives some insight to life at Anstey School. If you would like more information, or if you would like to visit us, please telephone or email the School Office to make an appointment.

ANSTEY FIRST SCHOOL

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