



## What makes Finstock School special?

### SIZE

- The school is much smaller than the average-sized primary school - it is a tightly knit, harmonious community.
- Children benefit from small classes.

### EVERY CHILD MATTERS

- Every child is celebrated and known to all on a personal level.
- As a result of this, every member of the school community plays their part in nurturing and educating each individual on their journey through the school.
- Children's achievements are rewarded with merits. Milestones in achievement are marked in celebration assemblies.
- Children's talents are creatively extended.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING

- In conjunction with Woodpecker Pre-school, the school provides a seamless education for children from the age of three until they leave primary school aged eleven.
- There is a very positive atmosphere for learning in all classrooms, built on excellent relationships between teachers, pupils and teaching assistants.
- The quality of teaching is always good and occasionally outstanding.
- Pupils have positive attitudes to learning throughout the school.

### MEANINGFUL CURRICULUM

- Our curriculum is interesting, well considered and balanced, including direct subject teaching and learning through themes.

### FOREST SCHOOL

- Forest School increases pupils' appreciation of the natural world; they also grow in confidence as they gain new skills and have opportunities to take risks.

### P-D-R

- Plan-Do-Review is an explicit learning and teaching tool to support children in self-directed (independent) learning. It complements our creative curriculum. P-D-R is currently on our SDP – whole school commitment – we're currently learning how it will work best for Finstock.

## TALK FOR WRITING

- Talk for Writing, developed by Pie Corbett, is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. It is powerful because it enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally before reading and analysing it and then writing their own version.

## VALUES

- We are a values-based school – we seek to promote an educational philosophy based on valuing self, others and the environment.
- Christian values are lived out in the school's daily life and each child is seen as unique.

## LOCAL SCHOOLS' PARTNERSHIP

- As the smallest school in the Witney area, the local schools' partnership provides a mechanism for collaborative work and healthy competition (e.g. Pie Corbett *Talk for Writing* initiative, sports tournaments).

## MORE ABLE / SEN PUPILS

- More-able pupils make particularly good progress in the school. In 2013, 20% of Year 6 pupils gained Level 6 in reading, grammar and maths.
- Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs make consistently good progress because they receive effective targeted support either as individuals or in small groups.

## VIBRANT/SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

- We have an active Parents' Association (FoFS) – they have previously funded interactive whiteboards for every classroom and have recently paid for a travelling theatre company to perform to the children and put a significant amount of money towards decorating our central library.
- Children contribute well in many ways to life in the community.
- Many local people volunteer their time and talents to the school.

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Children benefit from an emphasis on developing healthy lifestyles – we promote healthy eating and provide regular opportunities for children to take part in physical activity.
- We make good use of the local schools' partnership (i.e. sports tournaments) and volunteers provide specialist sports coaching.