

BE YOUR BEST



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THINKING  
SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST

"A family of schools  
that are stronger together"

# Welcome

## Dear parents/carers,

We are very excited to welcome you to one of our Portsmouth Thinking School Academies.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) is a non-profit making charitable trust that has successfully grown over the past few years. The lead academy is the Rochester Grammar School which is not only an outstanding school but has a rich history and inspiring reputation as one of the country's leading state schools.

As TSAT has grown our ambition of what we expect to achieve has grown with us.

From the outset we have been a cross phase Academy Trust and our success is due to our excellent understanding of thinking, learning and outstanding teaching.

We believe our greatest asset is our children and young people and we are proud of their many achievements and their personal growth. Our pupils develop into responsible, happy and confident young people. Through the high quality of education they receive and the support and care from home and school working together they will literally have the best life chances possible.

We believe that children only thrive when they are happy and feel safe in their environment. Therefore all our primary, junior and infants schools are dedicated to ensuring;

- There are high expectations for every child
- Every lesson matters therefore they should be exciting and motivate children to think and learn
- Every child is treated as an individual and with dignity

Children learn to play and learn together understanding moral values of mutual respect, tolerance and personal responsibility.

[Claire Stevens, Executive Headteacher \(Portsmouth Schools\)](#)

[Denise K Shepherd, Chief Executive Officer](#)

## Welcome to Newbridge Junior School:

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, we are committed to an ethos of excellence and a whole school approach to the teaching and learning of thinking skills.

At Newbridge everyone is valued and their unique set of skills and talents developed so that they can 'Be Their Best'. We pride ourselves on providing a safe, stimulating, challenging and caring environment where children can develop intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially to be prepared for their future lives.

I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of Newbridge Junior School and of the children and staff who contribute so much to the life of the school. If you would like to find out more about the school or arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I look forward to welcoming you to Newbridge.

[Anna Webb, Headteacher](#)



# OUR VISION: BE YOUR BEST

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At Newbridge Junior School the children, parents and carers, staff and governors have a common vision and six core values which reflect a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners.

The six core values are:

- Work well with others
- Be independent
- Be healthy and safe
- Show respect
- Aspire to be better
- Be resilient

## High Aspiration for all children

We have an ethos of high expectations, where every child flourishes intellectually, personally and morally. We teach our children to be successful, independent learners who concentrate, persevere, take risks and have a willingness to make mistakes and learn from them. We want all our children to make accelerated progress and achieve well.

## Making Learning Irresistible

We want to make learning irresistible so that your child comes to school every day happy and eager to learn. We know that children are naturally inquisitive and we aim to develop this curiosity by providing a curriculum that engages and excites but also provides challenge at the correct level.

As a Thinking School, we teach our children to become creative, analytical, adaptable and resilient thinkers which we believe is a vital skill needed for life in the rapidly changing 21st Century.

Above all, we want to give even the youngest children the behaviours that will enable them to become successful lifelong learners.

## A Nurturing and Safe Environment

Children learn best when they are in an environment which makes them feel happy and safe. We pride ourselves on our high quality learning environment which is calm, purposeful and promotes children's independence.

There are high expectations of behaviour and everyone in the school community has a responsibility for maintaining a relaxed, calm and happy atmosphere. We recognise that all behaviour is communication and that sometimes children need support to make the right choices.

Throughout the school, we will nurture your child's social development, to support them to recognise and deal effectively with the different emotions that they experience. Through our school values we will equip our children with the skills which will enable them to be polite, confident, hardworking members of society.

Newbridge Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. Staff work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe and secure. The curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse. Children know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent supportive response.



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# OUR CURRICULUM

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We believe that children learn best when learning is linked in a meaningful way. Our topic based curriculum is designed to capture children's interests, excite their imagination and ensure that everything they learn has a purpose. This helps prepare them for life in modern Britain and empower them to achieve success in the future.

Children are taught according to developmental level and are either learning something new, practising or applying skills in a variety of contexts. We regularly assess in all subjects to ensure all children are making good progress and give extra support when necessary.

## National Curriculum

Your child will gain a range of knowledge and skills, following the National Curriculum, in English, Maths, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Religious Education, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Emotional Education. Your child will also have the opportunity to study a foreign language. We encourage a cross curricular approach to ensure secure links between subjects, allowing children to develop their skills in real life situations.

## Thinking Skills

Our curriculum promotes cognitive education and thinking skills by providing our children with a range of tools and techniques to structure their thoughts. Thinking maps are embedded within our curriculum, used within pastoral work and help with decision making at

different levels throughout the school. We are also currently developing other thinking tools to further embed these skills.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

School staff run a breakfast club from 8am every morning where the children can socialise with friends before learning begins.

Newbridge staff and outside agencies run after-school clubs to give children experiences outside of their learning within the curriculum. These include football, cookery, art, music and gardening.



# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

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At Newbridge, parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning and to have high expectations of the school.

We value you as your child's first educator and ask you to work with us to ensure that your child is achieving as much as possible. We encourage you to help your child complete the homework set by the class teacher.

Parents are regularly invited into school for Curriculum Evenings, Sport's Days, performances and other events and there is also an opportunity to look through your child's work with them every Friday, to ensure you are fully involved in their learning. We encourage parents to become involved in the life of the school as we recognise that your support and expertise can be used in many ways and is greatly valued. DBS checks are carried out on all adults working in school including regular volunteers. If you are able to help, please talk to your class teacher.

There are regular opportunities throughout the year for parents to meet with staff to review their child's progress and a detailed written report will be provided half way through the year.

We pride ourselves on being very approachable and are always keen to talk about any concerns you might have. We have an open door policy, so if you have any queries about your child's education, please make an appointment to see the class teacher.



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# BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

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At Newbridge, we believe that children learn best in a well-organised, calm and secure environment where purposeful and self-disciplined behaviour is expected. We want every child in our school to feel confident, happy and safe. We have the highest expectations in terms of learning, behaviour and attitudes, and encourage our children to develop similar beliefs in their own potential, together with pride in their achievements. The aims of the school, and the rules of behaviour consistently promoted in each classroom, are ones that emphasise positive behaviour and collaboration in striving for excellence.

Whole school systems emphasising praise, recognition and reward exist to promote and celebrate sustained effort and hard work, and contributions towards the school community.

Our academy trust provides support and challenge through an Executive Headteacher who oversees all trust schools in Portsmouth.



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