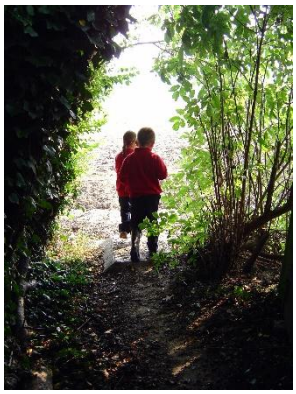
HERNE C.E.
Infant & Nursery
School

INFORMATION BOOKLET
YEAR R
SEPTEMBER 2026

CHILDREN'S ENTITLEMENT
AT HERNE C E INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

Our school is a Church of England school. Our Christian ethos is a firm foundation for the whole life of the school and will be evident to all who come here. We will ensure that the children enjoy their time with us. As they grow physically and mentally, they will also develop socially and spiritually, so gaining a real respect for themselves, for others and the environment.

- ✓ **TO HAVE FUN AND ENJOY COMING TO SCHOOL**
- ✓ **TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF WORTH AND HIGH SELF ESTEEM**
- ✓ **TO BE TREATED FAIRLY, KINDLY AND WITH SYMPATHY**
- ✓ **TO BE TREATED EQUALLY AND REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RACE OR ABILITY**
- ✓ **TO REACH POTENTIAL IN ALL AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT**
- ✓ **TO BECOME GOOD CITIZENS**
- ✓ **TO WELCOME AND ENJOY A CURRICULUM ENRICHED BY A VARIETY OF VISITORS**
- ✓ **TO EXPERIENCE HIGH QUALITY PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
- ✓ **TO GAIN A KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF FITNESS AND HEALTH**
- ✓ **TO BEGIN TO LEARN TO SWIM**
- ✓ **TO HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO PERFORM AND HAVE ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES**
- ✓ **TO GROW CREATIVELY THROUGH FIRST HAND OBSERVATIONS AND EXPLORATIONS OF THE ARTS**
- ✓ **TO EXPERIENCE A VARIETY OF VISITS BOTH LOCALLY AND FURTHER AFIELD**
- ✓ **TO BEGIN TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS**
- ✓ **TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER CULTURES**
- ✓ **TO LEARN THROUGH THE SENSES**
- ✓ **TO HAVE ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF I.C.T. OPPORTUNITIES**
- ✓ **TO INITIATE AND LEAD SOME OF THEIR OWN LEARNING**
- ✓ **TO LEARN A RANGE OF SKILLS TO SOLVE REAL LIFE PROBLEMS WITH CONFIDENCE**
- ✓ **TO ENJOY A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND TRANSFER FROM ONE STAGE TO THE NEXT**
- ✓ **TO NURTURE A SPIRITUAL AWARENESS AND TIME FOR REFLECTION**



Statement of Principles

Following the principles of Every Child Matters, our view is that education is for life. Following the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum Guidelines we aim to ensure that the children will achieve their full potential. Our aim is to create an environment in which everyone will feel valued, respected, happy and able to contribute to school life. As a Church of England School, we promote close links with the local church, fostering a Christian ethos.

All our policies and practice follow the Christian values of honesty, trust, forgiveness, love and respect.

Within this environment of mutual respect, children, staff and parents will feel safe, secure, confident and happy. The feeling of high self-esteem is encouraged through praise and self-appraisal. The awareness, appreciation and tolerance of others is encouraged. We all need encouragement and praise, some for the smallest of achievements.

We aim to promote a strong partnership with parents, colleagues, Local Authority, Diocese, local and wider community. We also pride ourselves on establishing and maintaining a global dimension.

Visitors are welcomed and given appropriate advice or information. The children's interests, development and well-being are uppermost in everyone's minds.

Rules are implemented to prevent accidents, bullying and any inappropriate behaviour. A quiet word to remind a child of this is all that is needed usually, but occasionally persistent or dangerous behaviour needs stronger methods. This will take the form of sanctions such as removal from an activity, group or, when necessary, dialogue with the Head. In certain circumstances parents are involved and appropriate strategies agreed.

We aim to create a calm, quiet atmosphere where shouting voices are discouraged.

Moving around school either alone or in large groups should be disciplined and quiet.

HERNE C.E. Infant & Nursery School

We aim to provide equality of provision and learning between race, disability, gender and age.

Home School Agreement

Our Christian ethos and values inform this agreement and guide how we live, learn and educate at Herne CE Infant and Nursery School. This agreement is underpinned by our belief that every child is loved, valued and respected.

The family will

- Make sure their child arrives at school on time and properly equipped.
- Make sure their child attends school regularly aiming for 100% attendance and provides a note of explanation if the child is absent.
- Attend parents' evenings and discussions about their child's progress.
- Get to know about their child's life at school.
- Let the school know of any concerns or problems affecting their child's school life (work or happiness) and **refrain** from publishing information and opinions on social media sites, or platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp.
- Support the school policies and guidelines as listed in the prospectus and available to view in the school office. Encourage all children, including pre-school children, to have respect for the school environment and others around them.

The school will

- Encourage children to do their best at all times and to reach their full potential.
- Encourage children to take care of their school environment and others around them.
- Arrange parents' evening and other informative meetings.
- Inform parents if there is a problem with attendance or punctuality.
- Inform parents about any concerns or problems that affect their child's work or behaviour.
- Be open and welcoming and offer opportunities for the family to become involved in school life.

Together we will

- Identify and support individual needs.
- Support children's learning to help them achieve their best.
- Encourage children to show consideration for others.
- Encourage high standards of behaviour.

Important Funding Information
Eligibility for Pupil Premium Funding

The government is currently allocating additional funding to schools in the form of 'Pupil Premium'. If you receive Universal Credit, your child will be eligible for this funding and may be entitled to additional support in school, such as specialised support, subsidised clubs, and enrichment activities.

Although your child will be entitled to a Universal Free School Meal it is important that you sign up for Pupil Premium Funding (called Free School Meal Funding online) if you are eligible, as registering could raise up to £1300 extra funding to support your child's learning.

Targeted Free School Meals

Your child can get targeted free school meal funding if you:

- have a household income of £7,400 or less (excluding benefits)
- get Universal Credit.

If your child is eligible for targeted free school meals funding they may also be able to get:

- a reduced cost KCC Travel Saver bus pass
- access to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Your school will also get more funding to support pupils' learning.

Expanded Free School Meals Funding

If your household income is more than £7,400 and you get Universal Credit, you can get extended free school meals funding from September 2026.

If you think you may be eligible to apply for this additional funding please visit www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals This link is also on the school website. If you would like support applying online please contact the school office.

Thank you.

We can check eligibility for you if you are happy to provide the following information:

Child's Name

Your Name

Your Date of Birth

National Insurance Number

Relationship to Child

Using Images of Children

As a member of the Herne Family images of your child will be recorded and displayed within the school setting for the purpose of teaching and learning.

We may take photographs for a number of reasons whilst your child is with us, including:

- documenting and recording education activities
- recording their learning and development progress
- recording special events and achievements
- individual, sibling group and class professional photographs available for purchase by parents/carers

Generally, photographs for school and family use, and those that appear in the press are a source of pleasure and pride. We believe they can enhance self-esteem for children and young people, as well as their families, and so are to be welcomed.

In an age in which digital technology has vastly increased the use and potential misuse of photography, and there has been publicity surrounding concern about filming school events, we believe you should be aware of the risks and weigh up the chances of a child being identified by a photograph in the local press or on a web site and as a result being targeted for abuse.

On advice from Kent Police, Kent Local Authority and others, we have taken the view that the risk of a child being identified by a stranger is so small that, with school procedures in place, the practice of photography for school events by families and the media, should continue. In any case, the widespread use of mobile telephones as digital cameras would make banning virtually impossible to impose and police.

The DfE broad rule of thumb for schools is that “if the pupil is named, avoid using the photograph. If the photograph is used, avoid naming the pupil”. For our own school publications, we will follow this advice for photographs to be used for circulation beyond the school. The press however like to reflect the local community by naming children who appear, and may decline to photograph events if this facility is denied to them.

We are mindful of the fact that for some families, there may be reasons why a child’s identification is a matter of particular anxiety, and if you have special circumstances either now, or at any time in the future which would affect or change your consent on this issue, please let us know immediately in writing.

Using Images of Children

Conditions of School Use

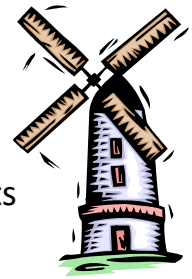
1. Consent is valid for five years from the date you sign it, or for the period of time your child attends this school or setting. The consent will automatically expire after this time.
2. We, the school, setting or service, will not use the personal details or full names (which means first name **and** surname) of any child in a photographic image on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in any of our other printed publications.
3. We will not include personal e-mail or postal addresses, or telephone or fax numbers on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in other printed publications.
4. If we use photographs of individual pupils, we will not use the name of that child in the accompanying text or photo caption, unless we have your agreement.
5. If we name a pupil in the text, we will not use a photograph of that child to accompany the article.
6. We may include pictures of pupils and teachers that have been drawn by the pupils.
7. We may use group or class photographs or footage with very general labels, such as “a science lesson” or “making Christmas decorations”.
8. We will only use images of pupils who are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of such images being used inappropriately.
9. **As the child’s parents/carers, we agree that if we take photographs or video recordings of our child/ren which include other pupils, we will use these for personal and family use only.** I/we understand that where consent has not been obtained from the other parents for any other use, we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 if we used our recordings for any wider purpose.

I understand the consent I give can be changed at any time by contacting the school office.

Health & Safety Consent

Local Visits

Our children enjoy an active and exciting curriculum, which is enriched by accessing the local community. Occasionally we will take the children on walks out of the school grounds, for example to the Junior School, the church, or Curtis Wood. Such visits would not involve any cost or travel.



As these visits are always dependent on the weather, there is not always sufficient time to obtain specific parental consent. In the event of visits further afield you will receive information prior to the visit.

Swimming

Although swimming is not a requirement of the Infant Curriculum we have always felt strongly that the children benefit enormously from swimming experiences. As we live so close to the sea we feel that you will share our concern that the children learn to swim as early as possible.

Over the course of your child's time with us we will engage in swimming lessons at at Heron's Pool in Herne Bay. These sessions are currently funded by the school and the children will travel by public bus.

Earrings & Jewellery

Due to the potential risk of injury we would request that children do not wear items of jewellery in school or the nursery. If earrings are worn to school only stud type earrings will be permitted. Earrings must not be worn during PE and, if worn to school, your child must be able to remove them independently otherwise s/he will not be permitted to take part in the PE lesson. We are aware that some children will wear earrings/jewellery for religious reasons. If this is the case, please ensure that the staff are made aware. Our staff are unable to remove/replace earrings therefore, children must be able to do this independently.

Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Under the Government's Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, each child aged four to seven in LA Maintained Schools is entitled to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day. Our school is participating in this scheme which reinforces our commitment to healthy eating.

Cool Milk

All children under five are entitled to free milk in school, funded by the Government. Children under five will be registered with 'Cool Milk' on your behalf and they will automatically receive free milk in school. *You will have the opportunity to pay a subsidised rate if you would like your child to continue to receive milk after their fifth birthday, more information can be found at* www.coolmilk.com

School Communication

The school communicates with parents via email and In-App messages through the Arbor App/Portal. An Arbor account will be set up for you and you will receive a welcome email once your child is registered in school.

To ensure you receive emails please add no-reply@mail.arbor-education.com to your email address book/safe contacts/safe senders list and download the Arbor App – you will receive further information regarding this.

Please be assured that we will always contact you by telephone if we need to speak to you urgently.

If you need to contact the school, please telephone 01227 740793, email office@herne-infant.kent.sch.uk or send a message through the Arbor App.

Information is also posted on the school website www.herne-infant.kent.sch.uk

Pupils Acceptable Use Policy

EYFS and KS1 Statements

- I only go online with a grown up when I am using the computers, I-pads or the interactive whiteboards in school
- I only click on links and buttons when I know what they do
- I keep my personal information and passwords safe online
- I only send messages online which are polite and friendly
- I know the school can see what I am doing online
- I keep information about me safe online
- I tell a grown up if something online makes me unhappy or worried
- I can visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk to learn more about keeping safe online
- I have talked about these rules at home

Think then Click

These rules help us to stay safe on the Internet

We only use the internet when an adult is with us

We can only click on the buttons or links when we know what they do.

We can search the Internet with an adult.

We always tell a grown up if something online makes us feel unhappy or worried.

We keep information about ourselves safe and don't share it with people we don't know.

We can only send messages online which are polite and friendly.

Parents/Carers Acceptable Use Policy Statements

1. I have read and discussed the Pupil Acceptable Use Policy with my child.
2. I know that my child will receive Online Safety education to help them understand the importance of safe use of technology and the internet, both in and out of school.
3. I am aware that any internet and computer use using school equipment may be monitored for safety and security reasons and to safeguard both my child and the school's systems. This monitoring will take place in accordance with data protection and human rights legislation.
4. I understand that if the school has any concerns about my child's safety online, either at school or at home, then I will be contacted
5. I understand that if my child discovers, discusses or seeks unsafe material on-line in school, immediate advice will be sought and parents informed.
6. I, together with my child, will support the school's approach to Online Safety and will not deliberately upload or add any images, video, sounds or text that could upset, threaten the safety of or offend any member of the school community
7. I know that I can speak to the school Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Lucy St John, my child's teacher or the Executive Head Teacher if I have any concerns about Online Safety
8. I will visit the school website www.herne-infant.kent.sch.uk for more information about the school's approach to Online Safety as well as to access useful links to support both myself and my child in keeping safe online at home
9. I will visit the following websites for more information about keeping my child safe online
    - www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents,
    - www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
    - www.internetmatters.org
    - www.saferinternet.org.uk
    - www.childnet.com
10. I will support the school and my child by role modelling safe and positive online behaviour (such as sharing images, text and video responsibly) and by discussing online safety with them when they access technology at home

Pixie – Our School Dog

Pixie is a wonderful member of our school family.

Pixie attends school three days a week and enjoys interacting with children, parents and staff.

Pixie is a CavapooChon and lives up to their friendly and sociable temperament which makes her ideal as a school dog. Her favourite things are tummy tickles, walks and doggy treats. Pixie enjoys every minute of being at school with the children.

With parental permission, children are allowed to interact with Pixie under supervision from staff. We do everything we can to reassure children who are fearful and under no circumstances will they be forced to meet with her. Pixie was particularly chosen for her breed. As part Bichon Frise and part Poodle she is classed as having a hypoallergenic coat. We appreciate that this does not mean she is allergen free however the risk to children with allergies is much reduced.

Whilst moving around the school, Pixie will always be on a lead with an adult who is responsible for managing her. Pixie will reside in Miss St.John's office when not with children or greeting you on the gate.

She cannot wait to meet you!

Information and FAQs

What are the benefits of having a school dog?

Numerous research studies have shown the benefits of therapy dogs in schools. Therapy dogs have been working in schools for the past 5 years across the UK. However, they have been commonplace in schools in the USA and Australia for many years.

Evidence indicates that benefits include:

- Cognitive – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game-playing
- Social – a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others
- Emotional – a school dog improves self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts mood, often provoking laughter and fun. Dogs can also teach compassion and respect for other living things as well as relieving anxiety.
- Physical – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists with pain management, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses

- Environmental – a dog in a school increases the sense of a family environment, with all of the above benefits continuing long after the school day is over.
- Reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop literacy skills and build confidence, through both the calming effect the dog's presence has on children as well as the fact that a dog will listen to children read without being judgemental or critical. This comforting environment helps to nurture children's enthusiasm for reading and provides them with the confidence to read aloud.

Some concerns you might have:

My child is allergic to dogs

It is understandable that some of you may be concerned about possible allergic reactions to a school dog. However, our dog will be subjected to the most thorough cleanliness and grooming regime. She will also only be allowed in situations with pupils who voluntarily wish to work with her and your permission is sought in advance. Pixie is part Bichon Frise and part Poodle therefore classed as having a hypoallergenic coat. We appreciate that this does not mean she is allergen free however the risk to children with allergies is much reduced.

Will the dog be properly cared for?

Pixie will be extremely well looked after. She will live with Miss St.John and will come to school three days a week. She is well established at school and very well behaved. Pixie will work with children when appropriate but will always be accompanied by a designated adult. Whilst she is in school she will have access to a dog bed in the office where she can 'chill out' during the day! Staff will ensure that she is not overwhelmed and has the opportunity to sleep and have quiet time. She will visit the vet regularly for all her injections as well as regular check-ups. If she is unwell for any reason she will stay at home.

My child is scared of dogs

Some children may have had upsetting experiences and thus have a fear of dogs (or another animal). Pixie will only be in contact with children whose parents have given their permission. However, her training will help her to be calm and gentle around children; she has a very loving and gentle nature. Experience and research have shown that, with proper guidance and handling, children can learn to overcome their fear of animals and grow in respect and appreciation for them.

The school has a 'no dogs' policy

Our school does have a 'no dogs on site' policy, however because Pixie is working in the school, the same rules apply to her as they do to other 'working' dogs. She is fully insured to carry out her role thus allowing her to be on the school site.

Ready for School

What is School Readiness?

School readiness is not about formal learning but it is your child becoming independent, communicative and curious about the world around them.

Your child learns and develops mainly through play and interaction with others.

You are your child's most important and ongoing educator. All the positive experiences that you have already given your child contribute towards them being ready for school.

Help develop your child's curiosity by…

- Being active everyday – run, jump, dance!
- Being creative and exploring messy play
- Trying new things, e.g. foods and activities
- Asking questions and talking about experiences

Encourage your child to…

- Dress and undress, including buttons and zips
- Feed themselves using a knife, fork and spoon
- Go to the toilet, wipe properly and flush
- Wash and dry hands
- Put on and take off shoes
- Talk about themselves, their needs and feelings
- Think for themselves and ask for help when needed
- Follow simple instructions
- Share and take turns when speaking and playing

School Uniform

The School uniform consists of **RED TOPS AND NAVY BLUE BOTTOMS**:

- **Red polo shirts with red sweatshirts**. Sweatshirts with our school logo are available from Barnums, in Herne Bay. Alternatively you may wish to buy a plain red sweatshirt, round-necked jumper or cardigan
- **Navy-blue trousers, joggers, or skirts** (with no top button please, particularly for Reception children who find top buttons very difficult)
- **Summer Uniform** – tops are the same as above, **shorts** are popular with both boys and girls, alternatively **red gingham dresses** may be worn
- Please note leggings **do not** form part of the school uniform and should not be worn in school
- **Black or navy school shoes** – Trainers should not be worn in school
- **Black, navy, red or white socks or tights**.
- **A plain red T-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls** are required for PE. PE kit should be kept in a named drawstring bag
- **Caps or hats** should be worn in strong sunshine
- **School Book Bags** are available from Barnums – No rucksacks please

Most of the uniform is available in local shops and supermarkets. Items of uniform with the school logo such as sweatshirts, cardigans and book bags, are available from Barnums.

Fleeces, knitted hats and baseball caps in the school colours are also available from Barnums.

We have a small amount of good quality second hand uniform on display in the main entrance. Please help yourself to any items that you need. If you can't find what you require, please ask at the office.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY NAMED

Each class has a Lost Property Box.

Barnums contact details: 01227365220
barnumsschoolwear@gmail.com
www.barnumsschoolwear.co.uk

School Website and Facebook Page

Please take the time to look at the school prospectus and information on the school website www.herne-infant.kent.sch.uk

Specific information can be found under the 'Starting School' tab.

There are lots of photos and videos for you to see on the school's Facebook page, Herne CE Infant and Windmill Nursery School.

Wraparound Care

West Faversham Community Association run a successful wraparound provision on our school site. We have worked extremely closely with the team for the past few years to ensure seamless high expectations and learning opportunities between the two settings. The club have use of many of the school facilities including the amazing outdoor areas and grounds.

Wraparound provision runs between 7.30am-8.30am and 3.10pm-6pm for Herne Infant children and their junior school siblings.

Please email schoolclub@invicta-cl.org for further information.

Herne Junior School also provides before and after school wraparound care for our children. Information about the services provided can be found on their website and you will need to contact them directly regarding prices and availability of places.

www.herne-junior.kent.sch.uk/school-clubs/
wendy.barwick@herne-junior.kent.sch.uk
01227 374069

WINDMILL NURSERY

at

Herne CE Infant and Nursery School

An Outstanding School and Nursery

My daughter is able to flourish because she feels happy and safe.

Windmill Nursery provides a beautiful, nurturing, happy and safe place for learning and adventures!

We provide:

- ✓ 15 hours fully funded nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds (please see website for session details)
- ✓ An exceptional, well-resourced nursery led by a fully qualified and experienced early years teacher
- ✓ A happy, safe and nurturing environment for all children to play, learn and develop

For more information, or to arrange a visit, please contact the school office 01227 740793

office@herne-infant.kent.sch.uk

www.herne-infant.kent.sch.uk

Palmer Close, Herne, Herne Bay, CT6 7AH