



PROSPECTUS

Crossacres
Primary
Academy



WELCOME TO OUR OUTSTANDING SCHOOL!



We are a growing school in the heart of Wythenshawe with around 500 pupils, and making sure each and every one of them leaves us having reached their full potential is at the heart of everything we do.

Our aim is to spark curiosity, feed eager minds and set challenging targets, and we are a school about new experiences. Whether that's learning in an innovative way through our rich and creative curriculum, discovering the wider world through our great series of school visits, or the freedom to experiment in a safe environment, our children are part of an exciting programme of learning that values first hand experience. It is designed to help them to reach high standards of literacy and numeracy, and to develop them as caring, confident and inquisitive young people.

Our latest OFSTED report says we are outstanding, and we are rightly proud of the hard work of our staff and pupils in achieving this status. Such plaudits are important, but our pupils' happiness is the best indicator of how well we are doing. We asked them what they love about Crossacres, and they responded! "It is safe and gives me opportunities to learn and play", "everyone can get involved in great projects, like our green forest", "the topics are amazing", "teachers care about me", "we go on amazing school trips", and "I have the best teachers so I know I am getting a great education".

There is nothing better than hearing such rich praise from the most important people. Our children are excited about coming to school and excited about what happens here.

Community links are integral to the success of the school, and we offer many opportunities for parents and carers to engage with us. We have also forged some great partnerships with companies such as Manchester Airport and Manchester City FC, and their staff deliver a range of exciting projects for our pupils.

Whether your child is beginning their journey in Nursery, or is about to spread their wings in Year 6, our nurturing and supportive environment ensures that all pupils receive the care and individual attention they need to become the best they can be.

We'd love you to come and see us, and you are welcome to pop into school to have a look around. We can tell you all about us in these pages, but it's important to see first hand all of the wonderful things we do, and to see for yourself just how happy our children are.

Suzanne Blay, Headteacher

OUR COMMUNITY

We have around 500 pupils aged three to 11, and a two form system with 60 children in each year group. Some of the younger year groups have 90 children in each year.

Children are taught by outstanding teachers with the support of experienced teaching assistants, all of whom know children very well. Ofsted judged our teaching to be excellent, commenting: "Care, guidance and support are also outstanding, reflecting the high levels of commitment and skill among the staff in ensuring pupils' safety and well-being". Indeed, our staff are called upon to support staff at other schools within the Manchester area; testament to their skill and experience.

Our school covers a large site, with extensive outdoor space. Teaching is not confined to the classroom, and we take opportunities to use our fantastic grounds to extend pupils' learning.

The school has gained Healthy School silver status, Activemark silver, Artsmark silver, ICT mark, ECO schools, Sing Up gold and the International Schools Award.

High expectations are set and self-evaluation is rigorous, which leads to plans for raising achievement. Best practice in teaching is effectively shared and staff are constantly seeking out ways to make pupils' learning even more engaging and stimulating.

Children embark on a great learning journey here at Crossacres, and we strive to ensure they are happy and secure, and leave us as confident and competent individuals, keen to continue their learning at senior school. We equip children with skills for the future. They love school...



A group of young girls in school uniforms are working in a garden. They are using tools to plant yellow daffodils. The girls are focused on their task, and the scene is set outdoors with a green fence in the background.

“Everyone can get involved with projects, like our green forest.”

Georgia. Year 5



“We have an amazing curriculum, with a wide range of opportunities.”

Sam, Year 5

FIRST STEPS IN LEARNING

Literacy and numeracy are taught from when the children start in Nursery, and our youngest children learn through carefully planned and adult led activities. They have access to a great range of resources that promote learning in a structured way, and our teaching methods adapt to fit with individual children's needs.

Our experienced staff deliver the curriculum through exciting and interesting topics to appeal to all children. Each half term the children focus on a different topic, which is carefully planned to ensure they have a meaningful and enjoyable experience that they can relate to, and gain more knowledge and skills.

Nursery is staffed by two teachers and three teaching assistants, and each Reception class

has a teacher and a teaching assistant. All children are assigned a member of staff who is their key worker, and who is responsible for their individual development and progress. This is an important point of contact for parents, and key workers are able to offer valuable and insightful feedback about a child. This is due to the close bond they have with individual children, and their ability to tune in to the specific needs of each child. They know the children's personalities and emotional needs, so are able to offer support and guidance.

If your child needs some additional support from time to time we are able to offer tailored guidance through, for example, speech and language groups.

"The leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage are outstanding. There is a very strong sense of commitment and energy which is shared by all staff." OFSTED

NURSERY

Children learn through interaction with the different curriculum areas in their classrooms. They develop their literacy skills through learning to love books, sharing stories, learning letter sounds and learning how to use a pencil to write their names and other words. They develop their numeracy skills through counting, recognising numbers, looking for shapes and measuring.

RECEPTION

Our older children begin more formal learning whilst still experiencing their time with us as fun. Reception is their transition to 'big school' and they begin to learn more about phonics and how to read and write. Through exciting activities the children learn how numbers can be used to solve problems and calculations. They also learn about shapes and measuring objects.

WHAT WE DO ALL DAY

A TAILORED APPROACH TO LEARNING

We are fortunate to have the very best staff, who plan a curriculum that puts the wellbeing of our pupils at the foundation of their academic success, and treats all children as individuals with different emotional and learning needs. This tailored approach gives every child the opportunity to reach their potential.

We set high expectations for all pupils' learning through detailed monitoring and focussed priorities to ensure good progress for all. Pupils leave our school well prepared to continue their educational journey and for the challenges of high school.

“The curriculum provides memorable experiences and rich opportunities for good quality learning, which enables pupils to have a wide range of first-hand experiences.” OFSTED

ENGAGING TOPICS

We follow the national curriculum, and tailor programmes for a wide range of learning styles and abilities. Our curriculum is designed to engage pupils and we focus on giving children real life contexts in which to work, use themes and topics that make subjects jump off the page, and really get them involved.

The curriculum consists of literacy, mathematics, science, computing, religious education, geography, art, design technology, music, physical education, modern foreign languages, and PSHE. Each term these subjects are organised and taught as topics, and recent examples include 'Food Glorious Food', 'Journey down the Nile', 'Smashing

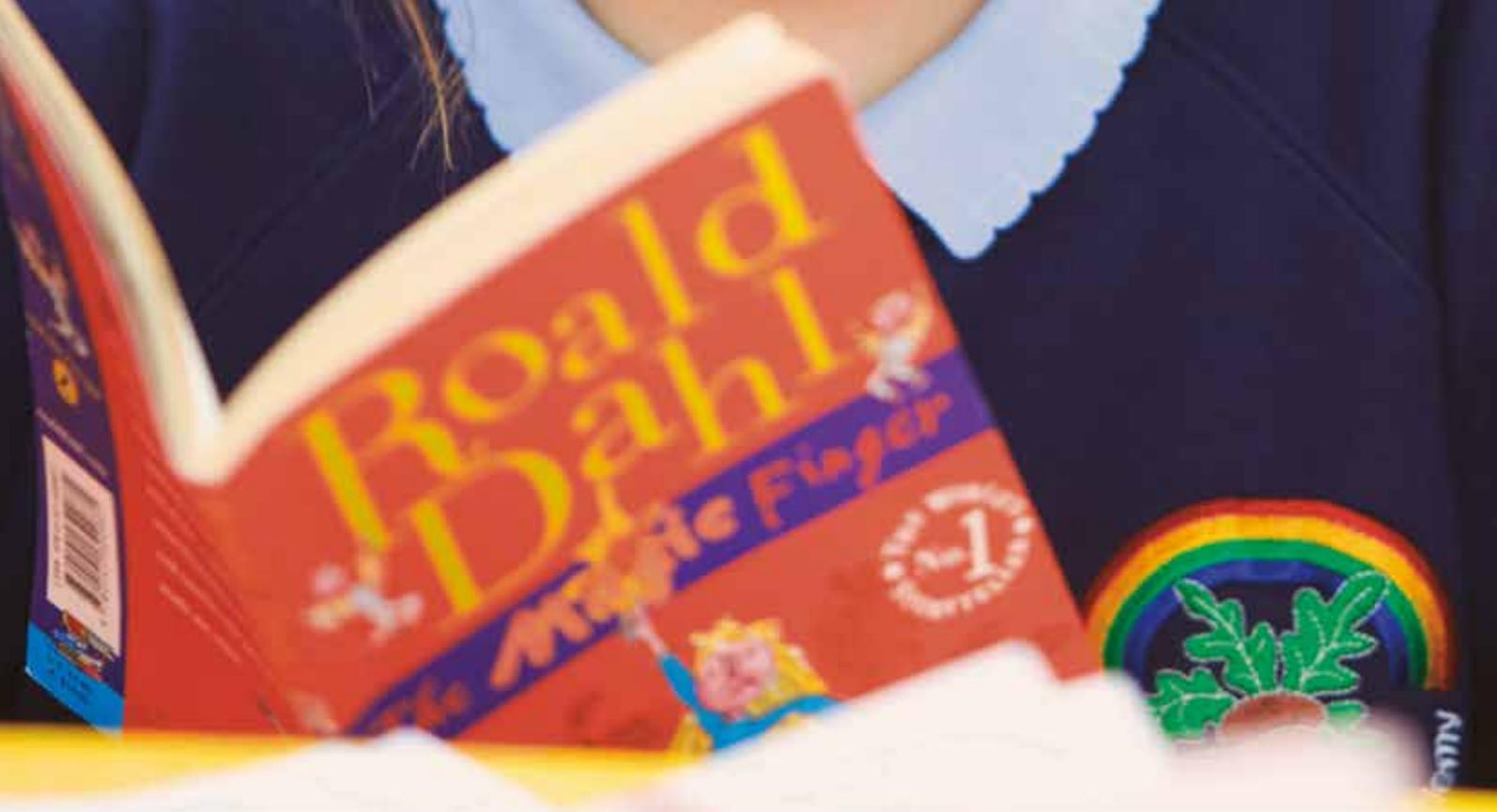
Saxons', 'Sunny Day, Starry Night', 'Splish Splish' and 'Some Like It Hot'.

Pupils are given the chance to choose their own topics once a year, generally on subjects linked to other countries and cultures. We know that when children feel involved in decisions they participate more and gain a better understanding, which gives them a richer learning experience; something we are very proud of.

Literacy and reading are high priorities for us and all pupils, and each year group follows a reading programme designed to make sure each child makes the best possible progress.

“We have such lovely
books to read.”

Tegan, Year 5





**"I have made friends easily,
I have the best teachers, and I
have great lessons."**

Amber, Year 4



PASTORAL

A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

We have robust systems in place to help children who may need additional support through tailored programmes of extra help; whether that is short or long term. We work with parents to assess needs, and monitor progress regularly. For example, our reading recovery scheme matches specialist teachers with a small group of pupils, and works with them on a daily basis. We are also able to offer support to children with specific language difficulties, and have a specialist teacher who can deliver the support they need.

“Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding, as is community cohesion, developed through a curriculum which promotes an excellent understanding of cultural diversity.”

OFSTED

Provision is also made for gifted and talented pupils, who are challenged to develop a deeper learning and higher understanding of topics with the guidance of our staff.

Our Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum includes sex education as part of a wider topics that address growing and changing. We follow the recommendations of the Manchester Healthy schools Partnership.

Religious education is part of the national curriculum, and topics covered aim to help children understand themselves and others, as well as to learn more about differing cultural practises and beliefs. Collective worship is based on Christian values, although does encompass other religions, and allows the whole school community to come together. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from RE and collective worship.



“I learn something new every day, and people encourage you to do something!”

Uchechekwu, Year 6



EXTRA CURRICULAR

WHEN THE BELL RINGS...

Our commitment to pupils doesn't finish at the end of the school day, and we have many programmes in place to extend the school day from 8am to 6pm.

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We offer a breakfast club every school day from 8am where children receive a nutritious breakfast and are looked after by trained staff. A small charge applies.

Children can attend our after school club from 3.25pm to 6pm, and take part in activities, as well as having a healthy snack. Places must be booked in advance through the school office.

Staff provide a wide range of interesting and challenging play opportunities that complement children's learning in school" OFSTED

HOLIDAY CLUB

Everyone is welcome to take part in our holiday club, which runs throughout the school holidays from 8am to 6pm. We design an active programme of activities, which changes regularly. Again, places must be booked in advance through the school office.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

We organise and run a diverse and entertaining array of extra curricular clubs, which includes drama, science, football, netball, art and crafts, swap shop, gardening, maths, athletics, speed stacking, knitting, archery, yoga, phonics and multi sports, most of which take place after school, with some organised for lunchtime. Whatever their preference, we have it covered.

BEHAVIOUR

SETTING HIGH STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

Pupils are expected to follow strict codes of behaviour, and we are proud of our well behaved and caring children. Pupils are rewarded for good behaviour and for being kind to each other through schemes such as 'pupil of the week' and through earning house points. They are aware of what is expected of them, and their good behaviour is celebrated in weekly assemblies, to which parents are invited.

"Behaviour is exemplary and systems to manage it are very well embedded across school." OFSTED

The school has its own set of rules which the children are aware of, and we follow a traffic light warning system in each class. Although rare, incidents of bullying are treated very seriously, and are dealt with by the Headteacher using the 'team work approach'.

Pupils are encouraged to become active members of the school community through initiatives like the school council, which has been instrumental in changing the lunch menu, building a new bike shed and redesigning the school playground. Being a part of this group gives pupils an important role, as well as the chance to express their views, and the views of their peers, and make positive changes. They are also invited to tea with the Lord Mayor!

Our system of 'playground pals' trains Key Stage 2 children to play games with younger pupils, to listen to them, to be role models, and to encourage positive playtime behaviour.



A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform with a light blue collar and a colorful crest on the chest, is shown in profile. He is holding a red plastic bucket with a yellow handle. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**“We do fun
activities and
the teachers
care about me.”**

Jayla, Year 3



**“It helps me get a
good education so I
can get a good job.”**

Kirstie, Year 5



COMMUNITY LINKS

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS...

We can only continue with the great work we do through the help and support of you, our parents and carers, and the community at large. As a school we look for ways to extend our pupils' learning through fostering partnerships with our community. This includes having an open door policy for parents and carers, so you can come in and discuss any aspect of the school or your child's progress, as well as offering classes for parents and carers. These range from weekly mathematics classes for adults to 'getting ready for school' classes for the parents and carers of our youngest pupils.

"Partnership working is outstanding and contributes strongly to pupils' learning and outstanding personal development." OFSTED

We have been fortunate to develop great working relationships with some of the region's biggest organisations, most notably Manchester Airport, which have resulted in some fantastic initiatives and projects. They sponsor our annual 100% attendance party, fund our reading initiatives, and pay for an artist to work with the children to produce a plaque which is displayed at the airport.

We also have partnerships with Manchester City Football Club, who run coaching and after school clubs for pupils, and Styal Mill with whom we work to enhance learning in school.

ADMISSIONS

To register for a place you must apply through the local authority. The application process relies on strict deadlines for submission, so please carefully check these dates for the year you wish your child to begin at this school. You must place Crossacres Primary Academy as your first choice if you would like your child to attend the school.

Further details may be obtained by visiting www.manchester.gov.uk/admissions.

Parents and carers who are thinking of sending their children to Crossacres Primary Academy may make an appointment to come and see the school by contacting the school office.

THE SCHOOL DAY

8.40 - 9.00	Registration
9.00 - 9.30	Assembly
10.30 - 10.45	Break
12.15 - 1.15	Lunch
3.15	End of school day

UNIFORM

Children take pride in their appearance and our uniform is smart and easy to maintain.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Sky blue polo shirt, navy blue jumper with school badge (available from school), grey skirt or trousers , black school shoes

PE KIT

Sky blue t-shirt, navy blue shorts, black pumps

More information is available on our website.





“I love doing exciting experiments.”

Kayne, Year 2

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