







Woodgate Primary Academy

Prospectus

Proud to be part of SUSSEX LEARNING TRUST

Welcome To Our School



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Woodgate Primary Academy.

Nestled beside the beautiful Tilgate Forest on the edge of Pease Pottage village, Woodgate Primary Academy is a small, nurturing school where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to thrive.

Each day, we welcome around 150 children into our six woodland-animal-themed classes, including our vibrant nursery. Our setting reflects our belief that learning should be imaginative, engaging, and rooted in curiosity.

At Woodgate, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that inspires a lifelong love of learning. We focus on developing the whole child, helping every pupil to grow in confidence, build strong relationships, and develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed - both now and in the future. Our aim is for every child to leave us feeling proud of who they are and excited for what comes next.

We are a close, supportive community built on the belief that we achieve the best outcomes when we learn together to be our best. We warmly invite you to come and see our school in action. Meet our dedicated team, explore our learning spaces, and experience the welcoming atmosphere that makes Woodgate so special.

Sarah Neller
Headteacher



Our Vision

At Woodgate Primary School, we aim to **inspire, challenge, and nurture** every child, celebrating their individuality and unique potential. Our goal is to equip pupils with the knowledge, confidence, and curiosity they need to succeed at every stage of their education.

We encourage high aspirations and a lifelong love of learning, preparing children not just for school, but for life beyond it. With high expectations for both learning and behaviour, we ensure that every child can reach their full potential through a broad and balanced curriculum.

Woodgate is a caring, inclusive school where wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We provide a nurturing environment that promotes resilience and independence, helping children to grow into confident, happy learners. Every child's voice is valued, and they are encouraged to share ideas, express opinions, and explore their curiosity through rich, meaningful experiences.

As our school continues to grow, we remain committed to our core values, including **respect, caring, and collaboration**. Working in partnership with families, governors, and the wider community, we strive to build a culture of honesty, openness, and trust, ensuring that every child can truly flourish.

Our School Aims

- To be a learning community that enables everyone to be and to do the very best they can.
- To create a caring, family atmosphere that allows this to happen.

We will do this by:

- building a community and an environment where children feel cared for, safe and happy.
- working in close partnership with children and home, recognising that education is a shared responsibility.
- challenging, supporting and motivating the children to become skilled, imaginative, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and independent learners.
- developing the life skills that will help them become confident individuals, successful learners and responsible citizens.
- respecting individuality and diversity.

It is our overall aim that our pupils leave us prepared and able to meet the challenges of their life ahead.

Our Early Years

At Woodgate, our Early Years team includes our Nursery class, Ladybirds, and our Reception class, Hedgehogs.

We know that children learn best when they are active, engaged, and interested. Our curriculum is designed to foster lifelong learning, with a strong focus on **learning through play**.

Play supports language, creativity, emotional, social, and intellectual development, and takes place both indoors and outdoors, where children can explore, take risks, solve problems, and develop new skills. Adults play a key role by providing time, space, and appropriate resources, observing and supporting learning while encouraging independence and imagination.

The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** is structured around seven areas of learning:

- Prime areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication and Language; Physical Development
- Specific areas: Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World; Expressive Arts and Design

We place a strong emphasis on the **Prime Areas**, recognising that they underpin all other learning.

Every child is treated as an individual and supported in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment.

Our Early Years classes have their own dedicated playgrounds, and learning is enhanced by hands-on experiences, outdoor exploration, and following children's interests.

Transition and Settling In

During the summer term, parents are invited to a welcome meeting, and children have the opportunity to visit Hedgehogs class. Teachers also visit nurseries/playgroups and conduct home visits.

In September, children usually start with half days, gradually building up to full-time, including lunch, ensuring a smooth and positive start to school life.



Additional Learning

Children with SEND

At Woodgate, we are committed to ensuring all pupils receive the support they need to thrive. Our SENCO is a qualified teacher with seven years' experience, including working across all primary age ranges. She holds the National Award for SEN Coordination (2018) and has completed additional training in dyslexia, dyscalculia, therapeutic thinking, and the West Sussex SENDCO development programme.

All class teachers and teaching assistants receive regular in-house SEN training, covering areas such as quality first teaching, therapeutic approaches, Zones of Regulation, phonics, dyslexia, autism awareness, safeguarding, and first aid. Some staff are trained in Makaton and positive handling, and we have a trained **ELSA** providing emotional literacy support.

We also work with specialist professionals, including a speech and language therapist and an educational psychologist, who visit the school regularly to provide targeted support. When additional expertise is needed, we collaborate with external agencies to ensure every child receives the help required to succeed.

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)

ELSA is an evidence-based, nationally recognised programme to help children with a range of emotional needs.

Our accredited ELSA has received specialist training from the West Sussex Educational Psychology team.

ELSA can support children with:

- Anxiety, strong emotions, and emotional regulation
- Friendship, relationships, and social skills
- Loss, bereavement, and self-esteem
- Bullying, conflict, and growth mindset
- Using social stories to develop understanding

Children can be referred to ELSA by class teachers, the SENCO, parents, the child themselves, or external agencies. Interventions are usually short-term, lasting from half a term to a full term, with clear goals to help children develop coping strategies and confidence.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

At Woodgate, we aim to create a safe and supportive environment where every child's mental health and wellbeing can flourish. We take a proactive approach to supporting children who face challenges, and our curriculum is designed to promote emotional wellbeing at every stage.

All pupils are taught about mental health in line with our RSHE policy, helping them understand and manage their emotions. Our teachers and teaching assistants are committed to listening, supporting, and guiding every child so they feel valued, understood, and able to thrive both academically and personally.

Extra Learning Opportunities

Forest School

All year groups get to enjoy our Forest School programme. Here, children learn about nature and get to try out a huge **range of skills** like building a campfire and survival techniques in a safe, nurturing environment.

Educational Experiences

At Woodgate Primary Academy, we aim to provide a broad range of experiences for every child which develops their knowledge and skills. Each class will aim to have at least one **off site** visit each year, linked with a theme being taught in the classroom. In addition to this, each class will aim to have a range of **themed curricular days**, visitors, and others experiences to further develop the skills and knowledge of the children.

After School Clubs

Our clubs are run by a mixture of school staff and external providers. Clubs include singing, chess, art, gymnastics, dance, and football.



Wraparound Care

Breakfast and After School Club

Woodgate Primary Academy offers Breakfast and After-School Clubs for all pupils in **Reception to Year 6,** run by our experienced Teaching Assistants.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am, with a healthy breakfast of cereal, toast, and drink provided for those booked in. Children then go to the playground at 8.40am before heading into class. **Prices start at £3.85.**

After-School Club runs from 3.15pm to 4.45/5.15pm, offering a range of activities including crafting, baking, reading, homework support, and outdoor play (weather permitting). A snack is also provided. P**rices start at £8.25.**

Bookings are made via School Gateway. For new Reception children, bookings open in September 2026 for sessions from mid-September, when full-time attendance begins.

Please ensure bookings and payments are made in advance by 3.15pm the day before for Breakfast Club and by 9.30am on the day for After-School Club.

For queries, contact the School Office on 01444 461329 or office@woodgateprimary.school.

Our Community

School Houses
All children at Woodgate belong to one of **four houses**: Blue Vikings, Red Romans, Yellow Saxons, and Green Normans. Points are earned for good behaviour, effort, and achievements, and each week the house with the most points wins the School Cup. The house system encourages teamwork, **friendly competition**, and a sense of belonging, giving every child the chance to contribute and be celebrated.

NEARS
Woodgate is part of the Network of Eastern Area Rural Schools (NEARS), which helps local rural schools share resources, activities, and expertise. The group also organises events and sports competitions, giving children opportunities to meet and compete with peers from other schools.

Rights Respecting School
As a Rights Respecting School, we value pupil voice and help children understand their role as citizens of the world. Guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, we promote respect, tolerance, and responsibility every day, creating a safe and inspiring environment where children can thrive and grow into happy, confident, and responsible young citizens.

Volunteering
We welcome parents and local community members to get involved in school life, whether hearing children read, supporting trips, helping in the library, preparing resources, or running clubs. All volunteers are DBS checked for safety.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
All parents and staff are automatically members of our PTA, which organises social and fundraising events, including fairs, cake raffles, and pantomime trips. Each autumn, a new committee is elected, and new parents are always welcome to get involved, offering skills, time, or resources to support the school community.



Sussex Learning Trust

Woodgate Primary Academy is proud to be part of Sussex Learning Trust (SLT), a Multi Academy Trust based in Cuckfield.

Sussex Learning Trust is responsible for the successful management and development of Warden Park Secondary Academy (aged from 11-16 in Cuckfield, West Sussex), Warden Park Primary Academy (aged 2-11 in Haywards Heath, West Sussex), Northlands Wood Primary Academy (aged 4-11 in Haywards Heath, West Sussex), Woodgate Primary Academy (aged 2-11 in Pease Pottage, West Sussex), Chichester Free School (aged 2-16), Billingshurst Primary Academy (aged 5-11) and The Burgess Hill Academy (aged 11-16).

The Trust aims to play an integral part in providing the highest possible educational opportunities for children and young people via a network of academies committed to partnership working for the benefit of pupils and students.

Led by a CEO who has had two successful headships with leadership judged to be “outstanding” in both, and a Deputy CEO who is widely regarded as an exceptional primary phase leader, the Trust consists of a small team of experts who are proud to be part of a Sussex Trust, run by Sussex people, for Sussex people.

Visiting Us

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