Be Your BEST
Believe – Excellence – Safe – Team

THE PINES PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Pines Primary School
Hanworth Road
Bracknell
Berkshire

Headteacher:
Mrs Kate Davies

Welcome to The Pines School in Bracknell.

I am honoured to have been appointed Headteacher of this fabulous school. Our vision is to have a vibrant school where everyone (children and adults) is challenged to be their BEST. This vision builds on our school values of Believe, Excellence, Safe and Team. I believe that our school can be at the heart of the community and I want to develop a “family feel" where we can all work together to ensure that the needs of all children are valued and met. The Pines Primary School is a primary school in the heart of Bracknell with its own 30 hour Nursery. Our focus is on developing the whole child and ensuring that all children achieve their best and our curriculum is developed with that in mind. Our amazing staff team are committed to ensuring that we provide children with a wide range of opportunities to ensure they are prepared for the next stage in the learning journey. Please come and see our amazing school for yourself - you will be made very welcome.

Kind Regards,
Kate Davies
Headteacher

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Contact Us

Visits to our school are warmly welcomed and additional information can be found on our website:

https://www.thepinesschool.org.uk

The Pines School
Hanworth Road
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 7WX

01344 426413

You are welcome to contact us by e-mail:
admin@thepinesschool.org.uk

We also regularly Tweet updates and news using our Twitter account:
@thepinesprimary

"I love The Pines because the teachers spend their time thinking about our education and our futures ahead of us."

Year 6 child, 2024

School History and Environment

The Pines School is situated within Hanworth, a Southern suburb of the town of Bracknell. The Hanworth estate was originally built on the site of the wooded Hanworth Plantation and The Pines School was first opened in 1973. Originally the school existed as a separate Infant and Junior School but, following a successful amalgamation in 2002, the two schools became a primary school. Due to falling pupil numbers across Bracknell, the school reduced to being one-form entry from September 2022.

The school is fortunate to have extensive grounds including a large field and several playgrounds. The indoor space is also ample and includes two halls, a gym, a newly refurbished library, a specialist computing room and a sensory room.

The school's Nursery is housed adjacent to the Reception classroom and together they form the EYFS phase.

Our Vision and Values

At The Pines we strive to be the BEST version of ourselves:

Believe: We are a community who inspire all to believe in themselves and hold courageous aspirations.

Excellence: Through a fun and engaging curriculum we develop the skills to excel as lifelong learners.

Safe: We take responsibility for the safety of ourselves, others and the environment.

Team: We nurture a culture of respect, kindness and collaboration so that we can be the best team.

Our vision is to be 'A vibrant school where everyone is challenged to be their best.' This is at the heart of all that we do at The Pines and we believe that every child and adult can develop and succeed. We want all members of our school community to have high aspirations and to feel confident about the future, looking forward to the opportunities it will bring.

"It is a pleasure to come to work every day. I feel well supported and SLT are accessible and approachable."

Member of staff, 2022

Safeguarding

The well-being and safety of our children is the top priority for all staff at The Pines and takes precedence over all other activities and tasks.

All staff have completed up-to-date Safeguarding training and are expected to ensure that school policies and procedures are followed. We use an electronic database system to record any safeguarding concerns, involvement with external professionals and outcomes of any meetings.

Within our staff team we have three Designated Safeguarding Leads who oversee the support offered to our vulnerable families and to whom any concerns should immediately be reported. They are:

Mrs Kate Davies (Headteacher - Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Claire Chandler (SENDCo - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Rachel Evans (SBM - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Access to the school building once the gates are closed is via the Main Entrance only. All members of staff and visitors wear lanyards and external doors require 'fobs' for entrance and/or exit. Visitors who do not have a current DBS clearance are expected to be accompanied by a member of school staff at all times.

Admissions

All admissions to The Pines School are dealt with by the Admissions Department at Bracknell Forest Local Authority apart from Nursery Admissions which are dealt with by the school.

Parents have the right to express a preference for the school they wish their child to attend. Children living in the catchment of the school are more likely to be offered a place but there are a number of other criteria taken into consideration as well.

Full details can be found on the Bracknell Forest website.

Nursery Admissions

The Pines School Nursery is open to children the term after they turn three years old. We are very lucky to have our own Nursery, where many of our school pupils have started their learning journey.

Our Nursery is led by a fully qualified teacher, Mrs Thomas, and a team of highly experienced support staff. Morning drop off is 8:50am.

All children are entitled to 15 free hours in the Nursery. In addition to this, from September 2017 some children have been entitled to 30 hours. We are pleased to be able to offer 30 hours provision, although children are welcome to only attend for mornings or afternoons.

Our Nursery Admissions policy can be found on our website:
https://www.thepinesschool.org.uk/nursery-1/

"The children were a real credit to the school. They asked amazing questions and were so well behaved."

Visitor, 2022

Staffing

At The Pines we have a very strong, committed staff team who all work extremely hard for the benefit of our whole school community. They are led by our headteacher who has been in post since September 2019 and the rest of the leadership team. Together we believe we can inspire change and drive improvement to ensure The Pines School is the 'hub of excellence' we know it has the potential to be.

All our staff are listed on our website but key individuals are as follows:

Headteacher: Mrs Kate Davies
Assistant Headteacher EYFS/KS1: Mrs Becca Taylor
Assistant Headteacher KS2: Mrs Emma Whitehouse
School Business Manager: Mrs Rachel Evans
Office Manager: Mrs Marianne Salmon
SENDCo: Mrs Claire Chandler
Family Support Advisor: Mrs Tracy Williams
Site Controller: Mr Mal Baker

Kate Davies

"I like The Pines because all of my friends help me."

Year 2 child, 2024

School Organisation

Our school is organised into three phases :

Early Years (EYFS)

Nursery & Reception

We have our own Nursery as well as a full time Reception class.

Key Stage 1 (KS1)

In Key Stage 1 we have one class in Year 1 and one class in Year 2.

Key Stage 2 (KS2)

In Key Stage 2 we have one Year 4 class but two classes per year in Years 3, 5 and 6.

We also have a 20-place Special Resource Provision (SRP) for pupils with specific Special Educational Needs.

Children are taught in mixed-ability classes throughout the school. Although ability groups may be used in some lessons, we do not use ability sets or 'streaming' in any subject and any groupings used are flexible.

School Day

8:40am Doors open
Learning begins
8:55am Doors close
8:55am Registers taken
10:30am KS1 and KS2 Morning Break
10:45am Learning continues
11:45am EYFS Lunch Break
12noon KS1 and KS2 Lunch Break
1:00pm Learning begins
3:10pm End of school day

Assemblies are held at different times across the week and take place as classes, phases or the whole school.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear our school uniform and to be well presented for school, including wearing suitable school shoes.

Our uniform is an emerald green sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo that can be worn over a plain white polo shirt. Children can wear grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafore dresses and in the summer a green checked dress is permitted.

Hair that reaches below the shoulders should be tied back and the only jewellery allowed is a watch and/or small stud earrings.

School uniform can be purchased from 'School Trends' or 'My Clothing'. Further information can be found on our website.

Meals

Hot school meals can be ordered in advance or on the day and are provided by Harrison Catering. They operate a 3 week menu and every day there is a choice of a meat/fish option or a vegetarian option. Filled jacket potatoes are often available and there is a salad cart from which children can select their own salad.

Hot meals have to be paid for online. Children who are entitled to a Free School Meal and all children in EYFS or KS1 can have a meal provided free of charge.

Any child can bring a packed lunch to school. We request that fizzy drinks, chocolate bars and sweets are not included in packed lunches.

Due to the presence of severe allergies, we are a Nut-Free School.

Special Educational Needs

Our current SENDCo is Mrs Claire Chandler although all teachers are aware of the procedures for identifying, assessing, monitoring and making provision for any child with a special education need.

At The Pines, we recognise that some children will find a school setting and learning more challenging than others. At times in their school journey, many children will need some additional support in one or more areas of learning. However, some children may need special education and provision made for them as a result of having Special Educational Needs or a disability.

At The Pines, we strongly believe that every child, including those with special educational needs, should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential in school. Our aim is always to be fully inclusive, meeting the needs of every child in the most appropriate way.

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Highgate (one of our Teaching Assistants) who has completed ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training. She works with a small number of individual children who need some extra support in our dedicated nurture space: The Retreat. This safe space away from the classrooms can also be used by other members of staff to work with individual children or small groups and is also used for parent meetings.

Claire Chandler

Specialist Resource Provision

We are very fortunate to have a 20-place Specialist Resource Provision as part of our school called The Orchard which caters for children across the primary age range.

This provision is for children with Special Educational Needs who have, or are likely to have in the future, an Education and Health Care Plan. The Orchard has full time teaching and support staff, enabling our children to have additional support tailored to their needs whilst also accessing lessons in their mainstream classes and socialising with their peers.

For further information, please see our website.

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is a grant provided by the government to schools to support the development of and provision for disadvantaged pupils.

At The Pines, Pupil Premium funding is used to facilitate pupils' access to education and to the curriculum. It is also used to provide alternative support or intervention within school.

Pupil Premium expenditure is reported annually to governors and parents.

Any parent who thinks their child may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding should contact the school office or apply directly online: https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals and the school will be notified.

Behaviour

We know that children can only succeed in their learning when behaviour is positive and that good behaviour stems from clear, consistent expectations. When children meet these expectations, they receive praise and sometimes rewards. If a child does not meet these expectations, the situation will be addressed and sanctions may be applied.

At The Pines, we use the Zones of Regulation to support children in recognising and responding positively to a range of emotions. Children are reminded of behaviour expectations and opportunities are given for children to reflect on their choices. This creates a common language when responding to children's behaviour and enables the vast majority of instances of poor behaviour to be dealt with quickly and effectively. There are a range of whole school reward systems that relate to academic learning, our school values and behaviour. Consequences are given when poor behaviour continues or when there are more serious incidents.

Full details can be found in our Behaviour Policy.

Anti-bullying

At The Pines, we take pride in living out our school values of 'Be Your BEST' and encourage all members of our community to treat each other with respect and kindness. Children are actively taught about appropriate behaviour towards others and also the difference between bullying and unkindness. However, we recognise that bullying can take place in any organisation and that it can have many different forms.

Any reported incidents of bullying are treated seriously and responded to immediately. They are dealt with by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and all incidents are recorded.

Full details can be found in our Anti-bullying Policy.

Curriculum

At The Pines, we have planned our curriculum carefully to ensure that our children's learning is relevant, engaging and accessible. From Early Years through to Year 6, a clear progression of skills and knowledge is taught ensuring coverage of National Curriculum objectives as well as providing the Cultural Capital necessary for our children to be successful in the future.

Our curriculum is comprised of topics that are focused around a 'Big Question' and incorporate learning from a variety of the foundation subjects such as Science, Geography and Art. Where possible, links are made between these subjects so that knowledge is acquired in context and skills can be applied across subject disciplines. Learning takes place in a wide variety of ways and we encourage practical learning, use of the outdoor environment, collaboration and creativity as well as more formal approaches.

English

The teaching of phonics is begun in Nursery and continues throughout EYFS and Key Stage 1 using the Little Wandle scheme. This links with the development of reading skills which are taught throughout the school with a focus on encouraging a love of reading as well as using texts for a purpose.

We use the Talk for Writing approach to the teaching of writing and model texts are often chosen to link with the overall curriculum topics being taught. Children learn model texts and imitate their features in their own writing. They are then given the opportunity to be more creative, developing language and sentence construction skills as they move through the school and learn about different genres of texts.

Maths

Our approach to teaching Maths is to develop Maths Mastery and we use the White Rose Maths scheme to support this. In all year groups, mathematical skills are taught first using concrete means (i.e. using practical resources), then pictorial methods before progressing to a more abstract approach. Children are encouraged to problem solve and to reason mathematically and therefore discussion forms an important part of our maths lessons. We recognise the importance of number fluency and employ a range of strategies to ensure children leave The Pines able to confidently manipulate numbers.

Curriculum Drivers

Our four Curriculum Drivers are:
~ Our Place in Our World
~ Language and Oracy
~ Learning Skills
~ Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

In order to achieve the aims of our curriculum, we have identified four Curriculum Drivers that are reflected through all topics and themes across the school. Curriculum Drivers should reflect the needs of our school, our pupils and our community.

Teachers' planning ensures these drivers run coherently across the school and through every subject.

Assessment

Children's skills, knowledge and progress can be assessed in a wide variety of ways. Teachers and support staff continuously assess the needs of the children they are teaching and adapt their approaches accordingly. This form of assessment is used to plan future lessons as well as to adjust, simplify or extend teaching 'in the moment'. Children are also encouraged to self-assess in order to develop a reflective approach to learning and to increase independence.

At times, formal assessments are necessary and at The Pines we use a variety of standardised tests in order to gain comparative information about children's recall of knowledge and their skills at one point in time.

Children in Year 1 complete the statutory Phonics screening check while children in Year 6 complete SATs tests. We also complete the Reception Baseline Assessment in the first few weeks of a child's year in Reception and in Year 4 children complete the national Multiplication Tables Check. These are all used as standardised tests to analyse children's progress, inform future provision and provide comparative Local Authority and National data.

Homework

The most important learning that children can do at home is to read regularly. This applies to children from when they first learn to read throughout their time at primary school. We also encourage children to practise their times tables from Year 2 upwards. Children are set short weekly homework tasks to consolidate learning from in the classroom.

Each half term, children are also asked to complete a Homework Project linked to their current topic. These take a huge variety of formats, are very child-led and are often shared at our Learning Showcase Events. Examples include posters, models, powerpoint presentations, cooking, factfiles, artwork and information writing.

"The new leadership team has been great at turning things around."

Parent, 2020

Continuous Provision

Within EYFS and KS1, we use Continuous Provision as our approach to delivering the curriculum. This means that children receive teaching input from adults in small groups and as a class but also engage in a wide range of learning opportunities that are provided for them within their learning environment. This promotes high levels of engagement and independence and we are excited to be developing this area of our provision.

Trips and Visitors

Our curriculum is enhanced by educational trips and visitors wherever possible. This not only provides more varied learning experiences but also fosters community links and enables us to benefit from the skills, knowledge and beliefs held within our community.

Children in Year 6 attend a residential trip that includes Outdoor and Adventurous Activities.

All trips are fully risk-assessed in advance.

"I like The Pines School because everyone is accepted for who they are."

Year 6 child, 2024

Houses

Upon joining The Pines, children are assigned to one of four houses. Our house names were chosen by our Year 5 & 6 children during Spring 2021 to represent our diverse society and inspire our school community. They are:

- Sir David Attenborough
- Emma Watson
- Malala Yousafzai
- Marcus Rashford

House points are earned for high standards of learning and for positive behaviour choices/ consideration towards others. Each week they are collected by Year 6 House Captains and announced in our weekly Celebration Assembly.

The house will the most house points each half term is rewarded with a non-uniform day or an additional break time.

Communication & Parental Involvement

At The Pines, we aim to work closely with parents and carers regarding all areas of school life. We seek to communicate regularly and clearly with families, ensuring that information about school events, curriculum content and any changes to provision or policy is passed on in a timely manner. We welcome feedback and are always willing to listen to the views of parents and carers and to answer any questions.

Parents and carers are welcome in school. We are excited to be able to re-start our regular Learning Showcase events and also hold other events where parents and carers are invited. We are always keen for parents to volunteer in school; this can be to hear readers, to support particular events, to enable projects to be completed, to accompany children on trips and many more activities.

"There has been great communication and pastoral care."

Parent, 2021

Formal Complaints

If you, as a parent, are not happy about any element of the provision we offer at The Pines, we would ask that, in the first instance, you come and speak to a member of staff. If your concern is not resolved, you can make an appointment to see the Headteacher and can then approach the Chair of Governors if you are still not satisfied with the response you have received. There is also a formal complaints department at Bracknell Forest Council if you feel that the school have not resolved your concern satisfactorily.

Attendance

School attendance is important and we work closely with families to ensure that children are in school whenever possible. Attendance is monitored by our Attendance Officer and any absences must be notified by 9:30am on the first morning of absence. We operate a 'first day contact' whereby we will contact parents if there is an absence for which we have not been notified.

Collective Worship

Each day, children from Year 1 to Year 6 participate in a form of collective worship as a class, phase or whole school. These focus on the school values and key national and international events as well as reflecting the varied religious beliefs of our school community. Parents may exercise their right to withdraw their child from elements of collective worship by putting their request in writing.

PTA

Our Parent Teacher Association is called 'Friends of the Pines' and is comprised of a group of enthusiastic volunteers who support the school by organising a variety of fundraising events throughout the school year. We are very grateful for the contribution they make to the school and the support they offer to our school community.

"My son has always been safe and very happy at The Pines."

Parent, 2020

"I have never worked for anyone who considers their team's wellbeing as much as our SLT."

Member of staff, 2022

Governors

We are very fortunate to have a very supportive, conscientious Governing Body who hold the school leadership team to account and take a key role in making decisions affecting the overall running of the school. The governors are a group of individuals who have experience of a variety of employment sectors and bring a range of skills to their role. They meet half termly as a Full Governing Body and also in smaller committee groups.

Our Chair of Governors is Mr Chris Pine.

I recently moved to Bracknell Forest having lived in the area previously for 10 years. I work in IT as a Project Manager and have been contracting for the past 12 years. I am an experienced governor and worked with Central Bedfordshire council as a Governor with three local schools. I joined the Governing Body at The Pines last academic year and have just been elected Chair of Governors. In this role, I am looking forward to working with the rest of the Governing Body and the leadership team of the school to help move the school forward.

Chris Pine

E-mail: clerk@thepinesschool.org.uk