

Welcome to Ightham Primary School



Ms Earl— Head Teacher
Mrs Godbold – EYFS Leader

During this presentation, we shall aim to.....

- Share our school values, vision and aims.
- Explore learning in our reception class.
- Introduce the Kent Admissions process.



The Pioneer Academy

Vision

- We put children first, pioneering excellence and championing each and every child.
- Safe – Happy - Learning



Our School Vision

- Ightham Primary School is nestled in the heart of the community where every child belongs. All our children will feel safe, happy and heard as we nurture their curiosity and inspire them to develop a life-long passion for learning.



Our Aims...

As a highly inclusive school we aim to:

- foster attitudes that will instil self-confidence, a sense of personal worth and wellbeing, and help children to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to life and work in a changing world.
- provide an environment where children are safe, happy and healthy so that they are able to enjoy their education and build positive, lasting relationships.
- assist children in developing intellectual, personal, spiritual, social and moral values while also sharing respect for all life's diversities.

Our Aims....

As a highly inclusive school we aim to:

- give children the opportunity to be creative, make decisions and choices, and to take responsibility for their actions, learning, environment and the resources made available to them.
- identify each child's particular strengths and aspirations and to enhance them in the school and community.
- encourage a close working partnership with families and the wider community.



Our School Values

- Respect
- Tolerance
- Caring
- Honesty
- Aspiration
- Responsibility



Our School Values

Our Ofsted report, March 2020, said:

“The values of caring, respect, tolerance, responsibility, aspiration and honesty are evident at every turn. Pupils know what these values mean. They show this in the way they learn, behave and treat others.”

Our School Context

- Ightham admits up to 210 children in total.
- We are a one form entry school, which means that we have seven classes in total made up of thirty children in each class.
- Ightham has a stable and experienced staff team.
- Approximately half the children that attend Ightham live in Ightham village. The rest travel from the surrounding villages and local areas to attend.



Our Strengths

- Child centred ethos;
- Last Ofsted inspection was in March 2020 when we were graded as “**Outstanding**” in all areas;
- Willing, well-behaved and enthusiastic pupils;
- Committed and skilled staff with a range of expertise;
- Broad curriculum;
- Parent School Association (PSA);
- Community Links (e.g. Parish Council, Ightham Mote);
- Very supportive and experienced Governing Body;
- Woodland setting – second largest in Kent;
- School partnerships and collaborations.

Our Strengths

- Exceptionally high academic standards across the school;
- P.E. and sport;
- Swimming
- Forest School
- Music – Young Voices, music lessons;
- Drama – various productions;
- School dog
- Trips and visits
- Global links
- Whole school/key stage events



Our Strengths - Behaviour

Our Ofsted report, March 2020, said:

“Pupils’ behaviour is impeccable. They feel safe and extremely well cared for. If they are concerned about something they say they can talk to any adult as they trust them all. Pupils work and support each other to learn very well. Parents and carers are extremely positive about the school.”

Our Strengths - Behaviour

Ofsted, March 2020:

“Pupils’ behaviour and attitudes to learning are exemplary. They are highly motivated in all lessons. They display a thirst for knowledge and the utmost commitment to learning. They are eager to challenge themselves and take risks.”



Wraparound Care

- We run a daily Breakfast Club which commences at 7.50am.
- We run our own After School Club between 3.20pm and 6pm.
- Both clubs are very well used by our parents.



Clubs

Clubs that have been offered in school over the last couple of years:

- Cricket
- Cross-country
- Rugby
- Football
- Multi-skills
- Netball
- Gymnastics
- Drama Club
- Choir



**SCHOOL
MEMBER**

School Meals

- Unlike many schools, our school dinners are cooked on site.
- Nourish provide our food in school.

<http://www.nourishcontractcatering.co.uk/>

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year.
- It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning.
- Learning for young children should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience in which they explore, investigate, discover, create, practise, rehearse, repeat, revise and consolidate their developing knowledge, skills and understanding and attitudes.

The EYFS is based on 4 themes

- **1 A Unique Child**
- **2 Positive Relationships**
- **3 Enabling Environments**
- **4 Learning and Development**



The 7 areas of learning

Prime Areas

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Communication & Language
- Physical Development



The 7 areas of learning

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design



The aims of Foundation Stage

To develop effective learning characteristics which include children:

- being willing to have a go;
- being involved and concentrating;
- having their own ideas;
- choosing ways to do things;
- finding new ways; and
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do.



Teaching in Foundation Stage

- Teaching in the Foundation Stage is taught through a combination of Child Initiated and Teacher Directed Activities .

Child Initiated Activities

- Free-flow between inside classroom and our own outside area.
- Called 'Challenge Time' to encourage children to challenge themselves within their play – children often take new learning into their play.
- Observations are recorded using Tapestry (online journal) and shared with parents.



Teaching in Foundation Stage

Teacher directed activities

- Teacher planned activities that take the children's learning forward in all 7 Areas of Learning .
- Phonics is taught daily.
- Daily maths/counting activities based on our whole school mastery approach.
- Children read with an adult regularly.
- Weekly Forest School sessions.



The Admissions Process

Ightham Admission Criteria

- Looked after children
- Siblings
- Distance

Reception Common Application Forms (RCAFs)

- Kent RCAFs are for Kent schools only
- Parents will only complete one Kent form per child
- Up to three preferences in priority order
- Closing dates for all applications, both online or paper forms, is **15th January 2026** to the Local Authority (kent.gov.uk/ola)

Online Applications

Parents may apply for their school place using the Kent Online Admissions System at www.kent.gov.uk/ola

Offers will be sent by e-mail on **16th April 2026** after 4pm.

Note: parents who apply online must not submit a paper RCAF as well.

The LA only accept one application, as checking duplicates slows the process down. Parents will be able to print off confirmation that a successful online application has been made.

Key Dates for Parents

Important dates to remember:

- **15th January 2026** – closing dates for all applications online or paper forms
- **16th April 2026** – emails sent to those who applied online with a valid email address and letters sent to those who applied by paper application via first class mail

Contact Details

- If you have any questions following your visit, please don't hesitate to contact us:
- Telephone – 01732 882405
- Email – admin@ightham.kent.sch.uk
- Further information may also be found on the Kent website: www.kent.gov.uk

Thank you for listening – do you have any questions?

