

Welcome to J H Godwin Primary School

It is very important to us that your child is happy and experiences the best education possible. We value strong links between home and school and recognise the importance of trust and shared responsibility in education.



If your child is to join us for the first time, we welcome you as parents and look forward to a happy and successful partnership over the next few years. If you already have a child/children with us, then we are pleased to continue the links between us.

This prospectus is designed to help you to find out some information about our school and to provide you with an insight into the daily school life here at JH Godwin Primary School.

We are proud of our reputation of being a caring and friendly school with a good academic record of achievement. It is important to us that we nurture individuality and that your child feels safe and valued as part of our school community. We provide a stimulating environment where children's imagination is inspired by highly motivated, dedicated and talented staff.



We place great emphasis throughout our curriculum on Building Learning Powers for life (for example collaboration, perseverance and managing distractions- all really important life skills); outdoor learning including forest schools; increasing happiness through building strong mental health (My Happy Mind) and careers and future aspirations.



Please contact me to arrange a visit to the school, discuss any aspects of your child's education, or share achievements that could be celebrated across our school community.

 Join us on Twitter:
@jhgodwinschool
...to see photos of your children during the week, loving learning.

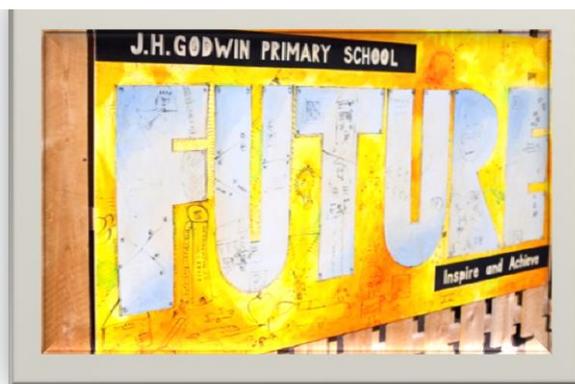
Childcare 7:45 -5:00 pm
We offer places in breakfast and after school club each day for children aged 2-11 years old in conjunction with Stepping Stones Nursery.

Check out our website:
www.jhgodwin.cheshire.sch.uk
...for information, letters, twitter feed, policies, uniform, term dates, menus, community events and more...

www.jhgodwin.cheshire.sch.uk

Follow us on twitter  @jhgodwinschool

Call us: 01244 981003 email: admin@jhgodwin.cheshire.sch.uk



Many thanks for your time,

Mrs Nic Wetton

(Headteacher)



Vision:
“Inspire, Aspire and Achieve”

Our values are:
Care, Respect, Honesty, Commitment and Celebration.

Mission Statement

We ‘Inspire and Achieve’ by motivating children to be the best they can be, creating happy memories through exciting learning opportunities. In our nurturing environment, we develop countless skills and a life-long love of learning. Valuing each child’s journey, we empower every individual to follow their dreams, reach their goals and make a positive contribution throughout their life.

J H Godwin Primary school is a successful, vibrant school situated in Blacon, which benefits from new state of the art school accommodation, catering for children aged 4 – 11. It is surrounded by an extensive outdoor environment including a large field, woodland area and pond.



The main school houses light and airy classrooms, shared learning spaces that encourage collaboration and peer reflection, a sensory room, speech and language room and a spacious sports hall that is fully utilised and serves as a dining room at lunchtime. J H Godwin is a well-resourced school that provides every child with the opportunity to enjoy and achieve in order to reach their full potential.

The school’s extensive grounds offer an amazing, outdoor learning environment. There is a large playing field, hard-surfaced play areas with extensive outdoor play equipment, Multi Use Games Areas that are used after school and at lunchtimes to extend our sports provision, a pond and garden area for growing vegetables. An area of the playing field has been developed into a woodland learning zone, where forest schools is taught.

Stepping Stones pre-school nursery is situated within the school and their 2-3 year old provision is in a large purpose built modular accommodation behind the MUGA pitches . The school values its close relationship and liaises effectively to ensure continuity for the children transferring from the pre-school setting to school.

We have strong links with the community and are very involved in many local initiatives.

At J H Godwin Primary School we view a child’s education as more than simply the content of the curriculum, and how it is delivered. We place equal importance on the personal development of our children as well as academic knowledge and understanding.

Working in Partnership

It is important to us that parents and teachers work together to ensure that your child’s development is successful. We actively encourage our parents to come into school. Please complete a Home/ School agreement which shows the responsibilities of all stakeholders.

When visiting the school for the first time, families are shown around the school and have the opportunity to discuss the school’s vision and values with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

For prospective children starting in our Foundation Class, parents are invited to an open evening to discuss school life and to meet each other. The Foundation class teacher will also be willing meet your child at home to get to know your child on an individual basis.

We hold two parents’ evenings a year which provide opportunities for you to discuss your child’s progress and to view his/her work and an annual report is written in the Summer term.

Timetable

The school day is divided into two sessions:

	Morning	Afternoon
Infants	8.50 - 11.50pm	12.45pm - 3.00pm
Juniors	8.50 - 12.15pm	1.00pm - 3.00pm

All children have a 15 minute break in the morning.

The teaching time each week is:

Infants- 26 hours 5 minutes

Juniors- 27 hours 30 minutes

This does not include break times and assembly times.



School Organisation

The school is organised as follows into seven classes:

Early Years Foundation Stage (4-5 year olds): Reception

Key Stage 1: Years One and Two (ages 5-7) : Two classes: Team 1 and Team 2

Key Stage 2: Years Three, Four, Five and Six (ages 7-11): Four classes: Team 3, Team 4, Team 5, Team 6.

Assemblies

Assemblies take place every day and are either in the school hall or in the classroom. They are broadly Christian based but also join the school together to celebrate achievements as well as encouraging positive relationships and tolerance of others. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.

Monday: Whole-school assembly led by Headteacher

Tuesday: Class based worship

Wednesday: Music and Singing assembly

Thursday: Class based worship with visits from local organisations including Holy Trinity Church

Friday: Whole-school celebration assembly led by the Senior Leadership Team

The school benefits from strong community links with the local churches and church members regularly lead our assemblies in school. In addition, the Holy Trinity Church is used for school Christmas and Easter Services.

School Uniform

Our pupils enjoy wearing our school uniform because it gives them a sense of pride, ownership and unity within the school.

All the children at JH Godwin Primary School are asked to wear the following (all clearly marked with your child's name):

- ✓ Black or navy trousers/shorts
- ✓ Black or navy skirt/pinafore/trousers
- ✓ Navy blue polo shirt with school logo
- ✓ Jade green school sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
- ✓ Black shoes
- ✓ During the summer months green gingham dress

Please contact the school office for information on our uniform supplier. Please note PE coloured T-shirts can still be purchased from the office in school.

PE Kit

For health and safety reasons we require children to bring a change of clothing for PE and games. We provide a PE bag to hold these items. All clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name.

For P.E. children should bring the following:

- ✓ Team T-shirt, navy blue shorts, pumps/trainers
- ✓ In winter, tracksuits and sweatshirts can be worn.

Children who attend swimming are required to bring along a named swimming costume and towel. A swimming hat must be worn by all children. Goggles can be worn provided a letter is received from parents.

Jewellery

One pair of stud earrings and a watch may be worn for school. No other jewellery should be worn. All jewellery must be removed during PE lessons, including swimming activities.

Our Curriculum

Our aim is to provide a creative, broad and balanced curriculum which promotes learning, personal growth and development. We endeavour to ensure that the children develop emotionally, intellectually, spiritually and physically, reaching their full potential through a range of learning styles. It is organised within a creative model designed to enrich and excite all learners.

We deliver a skills led curriculum based on a programmes of key skills. These skills are developed across all the National Curriculum subjects; English, mathematics, science, art and design, design and technology, music, history, geography and physical education. The skills based curriculum is based upon the National Curriculum six key skills:

- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Working with others
- ✓ Application of number
- ✓ Improving own learning and performance
- ✓ Information Technology
- ✓ Problem solving

Creativity

As a school we believe that creative work can be developed through all subjects. We strive to be imaginative and creative in all our planning and delivery of lessons, using a variety of media, contexts, equipment, resources, people and places. The children are part of the planning process at the design stage and their questions and curiosities lead the curriculum planning alongside the statutory National Curriculum requirements.

It is important to identify key skills throughout our creative curriculum to ensure that the meaningful activities enable the children to practise their skills and apply them to a series of circumstances.



Building Learning Powers

We place great emphasis on developing the skills for learning for life, such as resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness, reciprocity; these include 'powers' such as collaboration, managing distractions, noticing and perseverance. The current learning power can be found on display in each classroom and is referred to in learning, marking and celebrated in weekly assemblies. For more information please consult the school website.

Foundation Stage

Starting school is one of the most important experiences of a child's life. It is a step into a new world with new people to meet and different routines to learn. At J H Godwin we aim to make this transition as easy as possible and to ensure that it is a happy time for both children and families.

Children in the Foundation Stage follow guidelines outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which provides continuity of education for children from birth to five years. Activities, opportunities and experiences are planned to meet children's learning needs and styles to take account of their prior learning.

The curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning-

Three prime areas: Communication and Language; Personal, social and emotional development; Physical development.

Four specific areas: Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design.

Throughout the year the class teacher and teaching assistant gather observations and assessments summing up each child's progress and learning needs. You are invited to support this by providing observations from the home environment. This information is shared with you at Parents' evenings throughout the year.

Through the use of a well organised and high-quality learning environment, it is our aim to create a warm, welcoming place where children feel happy and secure. The layout of the room has been designed to create zoned areas of learning where children can move about freely and where they can develop independence and use a wide range of resources. The learning environment continues into a large outdoor area adjacent to the classroom. Children have continual access to the outdoors and this is a vital part of their learning experience.

Organisation of the Curriculum

Our children are taught English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Information and Communication Technology, Geography, History, Art, Music, French and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education). Where possible, these subjects are linked to provide learning experiences based on real-life and contextual experiences. Key skills are taught, which can be transferred into all areas of the curriculum.



My Happy Mind

Using an online scheme called myHappy Mind all the children in our school spend at least half an hour each week learning about their brain and how to care for their brain and their mind by developing the tools for life long happiness. It also teaches the children how they respond in difficult situations, for example times of stress and how to manage and control their reactions through 'happy breathing'. Through this learning we aim to develop children with strong mental health who can tackle all the pressures of modern society.

Philosophy for Children (P4C)

In every class throughout the school P4C is taught on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Children will take part in a whole class activity or stimuli and then will generate a question for discussion within the class. They will develop skills of empathy, listening to others' points of view, discussion, justifying, explaining and develop their knowledge and understanding of issues across the world that affect them and other children.

Online Safety

We place great importance in online safety and equipping children with the ability to develop and flourish whilst using the internet in a safe and respectable manner. We have a carefully planned curriculum from R-Y6 that tackles the issues of staying safe online and this changes and adapts in line with current developments. We utilise the local authority fire wall in keeping children safe whilst searching the internet in our school and also use *Imperio* software to report any inappropriate searches or allow children to report any worries, issues or online bullying.

English

We have a good range of reading books which are banded for the children. All children are provided with a reading bag and homework diary. Reading standards are consistently good. We have a Learning Hub which houses a range of exciting fiction and non-fiction books. Classes use this area for group research/ encourage reading for pleasure or independent research topics. We also have an outdoor reading 'cave' to further develop a love of reading in the outdoors. The skills of writing for a variety of purposes are taught throughout the school and writing is taught through a mastery approach which concentrates on skills, language, grammar and self and peer editing. Children are encouraged to develop their use of cursive handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation to achieve high standards in the quality and presentation of their work.

Mathematics

At J H Godwin we encourage children to develop a range of mathematical skills. These are related to every day experiences through practical lessons. A great emphasis is placed on developing mental and written strategies which children gain first-hand experience of. Having grasped these skills we place importance on reasoning and explaining using mathematical vocabulary and justification. Children have regular targets set in Mathematics, which are assessed to enable teachers to track individual progress and provide records of their achievements.

Religious Education

Religious Education encourages children to explore their own beliefs, values and experiences. We look at the religious beliefs, practices and values in the Christian tradition and other world faiths.

Science

Our science curriculum is taught through an investigative and hands-on approach. Children are taught to plan, set up and evaluate their own investigations. In particular children are encouraged to question, to reason, to think and to enquire. We have received the Primary Science Quality Mark due to our outstanding work in science.

Computing:

Computing is taught throughout the school developing the vital skills needed to be prepared for the ever changing world of technologies. A clear progression in the skills of computing is integrated into the curriculum with exciting ways of teaching coding, research and presentation skills. Each classroom has 6 iPads, 2 desktop computers and a number of laptops to ensure that computing is fully integrated to all aspects of learning. The whole school is equipped for Wi-Fi. All classrooms have a touch screen board, which has an impact on providing quality teaching and learning.

Art

Every class blocks a unit of art each term and through this approach has a chance to study an artist and a range of their works, develop techniques in a particular area, create a final piece of work and evaluate and reflect on their own and other's practice. All our children have opportunities to work with a range of materials, using a variety of artistic techniques and skills. Pupils' artwork is displayed creatively to provide a learning environment which is stimulating, inspiring and rewarding.

Music

We encourage children to participate and enjoy a wealth of music across the school through performing, composing and listening. Children sing on a weekly basis in Key Stage assemblies, which inspires them to join our school choir. Our termly productions give all children the opportunity to sing for an audience and we are currently developing the provision of individual and group music lessons for children in school.

Geography

Children study the local area and use this knowledge to compare and contrast other areas. They develop skills of physical and human geography, whilst gaining insight into areas and localities around the world. They are encouraged to develop geographical skills through a range of activities including educational and residential visits.

History

People and events of the past are researched using books, computers, discussion and ICT. The children use primary and secondary sources of information to develop an understanding of the chronology of events locally, in Britain and across the world.



Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

The school places great emphasis upon a child's personal, social and health education. This is delivered through a range of carefully mapped out lessons and programmes and includes sex and relationships education using the Christopher Winter programme and diversity/ inclusion learning relating to LGBT+ empathy and understanding.

Modern Foreign Languages

In Reception, Years 1 and 2 we offer an introduction to basic vocabulary. We deliver Spanish lessons to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 for one hour every week. A variety of teaching methods are used including action songs, games, role play and use of soft toys to demonstrate the language. Learning a foreign language also contributes to cultural education as the children learn about Spanish customs and listen to children's stories.

Children as Leaders

We firmly believe that developing children as leaders gives them the opportunities to practise life skills and skills to be used in future employment in a safe and nurturing environment. Children in every class in our school are given opportunities to become leaders; those with natural abilities as well as those who need to develop further their skills of independence and initiative. We have class leaders from each class, a Head Boy and Girl appointed from year 6 each term, a Pupil Council, Communication leads, Building Learning Power leads and much more.

National and whole school assessment

Children are formally assessed at the end of the Foundation Stage, in Year 2 and in Year 6. The school assesses each child's progress formally on a termly basis and through marking and feedback throughout the day by teacher assessment.

Special Educational Needs

The progress of every child at J H Godwin is continually monitored and we aim to identify any special educational needs at an early stage, in order that support may be given as soon as possible. There may be occasions during a child's development when extra support is necessary. In this case, a special programme is developed to help your child overcome these difficulties and extra support is provided where appropriate. In consultation with parents an Individual Education Plan is written to help your child progress.

For more information, please see the Special Needs Information Report on our school website or contact Stephanie Graham, who leads this area in school via the school office.

Homework

At J H Godwin Primary School we consider homework to be an essential and valuable element of learning.

Purpose of Homework:

- ✓ To support and consolidate learning from school through fun and worthwhile activities;

- ✓ To reinforce and extend skills in English and maths;
- ✓ To develop an effective partnership between the school and home in pursuing the aims of our school;
- ✓ To make use of resources available for learning at home;
- ✓ To encourage confidence and self-discipline in becoming independent learners;
- ✓ To prepare children for the requirements of high school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The children's education is enhanced by many visits into the community and beyond, to study at first hand, aspects of the children's topic work. Parents are asked for a voluntary contribution to help meet the cost of a visit where necessary.

We organise a number of residential trips for children from Year 2 to Year 6 including overnight stays at Culmington Manor in Shropshire, Beeston and FoxHowl. All visits and activities are subject to thorough risk assessments.

A range of activities are provided by members of staff, parents and external agencies both in and out of school hours. They include football, netball, basketball, art, choir, chess, gardening, cooking, gymnastics, tennis and Spanish. We also enter a range of sporting competitions against local schools. Some of the clubs incur a small cost where they are provided by organisations other than the school staff.

Governors

Our Governing Body is a group of supportive representatives who assist in the strategic direction of the school. This group consists of: Parent Governors; Staff Governors; Co-opted Governors and Local Authority Governors. The full Governing Body meets termly. The Governing Body is keen to build on the recent successes of the last Ofsted report and works in partnership with the staff of the school through supporting and challenging the leadership team.

Communication with parents

The school communicates with parents in a number of ways, recognising that effective communication is vital for the partnership between home and school, as well as the local and national community:

- ✓ The Head/ Deputy Headteacher can be found on the playground every morning from 8:35am.
- ✓ Monthly newsletters
- ✓ Text messages are sent to remind parents of upcoming events
- ✓ Twitter and Facebook
- ✓ The school prospectus and other important documents are available on the school's website to download
- ✓ The school operates an 'open door' policy, where parents are welcome to speak to the teachers and Headteacher. Other appointments are available upon request.
- ✓ The children have a personal logon/password to the school's website and virtual learning environment, enabling their participation in learning activities.



“Friends of JH Godwin” FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Part of what makes our school so special is the active involvement that we, as parents and families have with the school. This involvement has enabled the “Friends of J H Godwin” to provide extra equipment in and around school, as well as many enjoyable events, all of which our children directly benefit from. We all have the ability to make a difference, however small our contribution may be. The “Friends of J H Godwin” committee is here to facilitate the needs, hopes and wishes of the whole school community, so the more input we have, the more we can do. We have worked very hard in the past year to buy many things for the school which would not otherwise be possible. These include: playground equipment, microphones for school productions, the ongoing costs of the school minibuses and many more. If you are interested in joining or offering your support for particular events, please speak to the school office, who will pass on your details.

School Meals

Quality cooked meals are prepared on the school premises. To ensure that the children get their choice of food, they pre-order their meal at the beginning of the school day. We have a rotating menu which our children vote to choose the most popular menus and these are changed termly. A deli bar for a range of sandwich options are now available. All children up to the end of year 2 are provided with a free school lunch. Children can bring a packed lunch to school.

Money should be sent in for school dinners on a Monday for the week, or children can pay on a daily basis.

For those children who are eligible for free school meals, you can now apply directly over the phone by contacting the School Meals Helpline on 0300 123 7039 or ask the school office for information.

At break times children are offered the option to purchase a snack which could be milk, apple, toast or a bagel and children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are given a piece of fresh fruit everyday- this is free.

If your child is not in school

If your child is unwell it is essential that you inform us on the first day of illness by telephoning the school office (01244 981003) by 8:50am. We encourage you wherever possible to arrange routine appointments for outside the school day. However, in the rare incident of pupils with hospital, dental or medical appointments during the school day, a parent must collect from the school office. You will be required to show the appointment card to the School Bursar. Please sign your child in and out using our computerised system.

Holidays During Term Time:

Holidays taken during term time are not authorised other than in exceptional circumstances. The Local Authority will issue fines to parents who take their children out of school during term time. If you wish to book a holiday during term time you will need to book an appointment with the Headteacher or Children and Family Wellbeing Lead.



Medical Conditions

It is very important that the school knows about any medical conditions that may affect your child's learning such as asthma or allergies. If prescribed medication is to be administered by school staff on the premises you must complete a form giving us correct details and your permission to do so. Please consult the Business Manager or Admin Lead should you require such medication to be given, in order to complete the form.

Emergency Contact

From time to time accidents occur or children become ill. It is important that the school has an address and telephone number where parents can be contacted in an emergency. Please inform the school office if there are any changes to your emergency contact details.

Admissions

Application forms for Reception places must be completed online and returned in January. These are available on the admissions website, where you can also apply online. If you have any queries regarding School Admissions contact the Admissions Team on 0845 1110304 or visit the Cheshire West and Chester's website. Within school year transfers can be applied for by completing a form at the school office.

Complaints Procedure

J H Godwin Primary school is a caring school and if you have a problem we encourage you to come and talk to us immediately. An informal chat with the class teacher usually sorts things out; if further discussions are required, please talk to Mrs. Wetton (Headteacher).

The school has its own policy relating to complaints. Detailed information is available on the website or from the school office on Stages 2 and 3 (below) but it is hoped that any complaint will be resolved at Stage 1.

Stage 1 Settling the complaint informally with a teacher or senior leader in school.

Stage 2 Formal referral in writing to the Headteacher.

Stage 3 Formal referral in writing to the Chair of Governors

For assessment results across the school and our latest OFSTED report please consult our website.

For any further questions you may have please contact the school office to make an appointment with the Headteacher.

Many thanks for your support and partnership with J H Godwin.

Mrs Nic Wetton