



# Ivy Lane School

# PROSPECTUS

Educating the children of Chippenham  
for over 100 years



[www.ivylane.wilt.sch.uk](http://www.ivylane.wilt.sch.uk)

# Welcome to Ivy Lane

At Ivy Lane we believe in 'Learning for Life'. We are proud of our history and the fact that the school has been educating the children of Chippenham for over a hundred years.

We are a welcoming and supportive community – we value individual and collective achievement and encourage the development of positive attitudes to learning and healthy lifestyles.

We are a community school with 340 pupils, across 13 classes. We offer a broad and varied curriculum with an emphasis on enjoyment and outdoor learning.

We hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of 'Ivy Lane life' and some of the highlights of the school, as well as its welcoming atmosphere.

If you would like to arrange a tour or find out more, please do get in touch.

Best Wishes

*Chris Cannings*

Chris Cannings  
Headteacher

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# Introducing Ivy Lane

## The team

We're really proud of our teaching team here at Ivy Lane. Both highly experienced staff and more recently qualified teachers work closely together to create a dynamic and confident teaching environment. The team has a wide range of skills and interests which they use to make lessons engaging, and each member shares the school ethos of working in partnership with parents to support pupils to achieve their academic potential.

## Vision and values

Our school vision is based around our motto of 'Learning for Life'. We aim to equip every child with the skills to be successful beyond their primary years – and a life-long appetite for learning.

We have four school values which are core to all we do:

- Value learning
- Value others
- Value ourselves
- Value the environment



"The headteacher and governors have high ambitions for the school."  
Ofsted 2014

"Pupils make good progress in their learning and achieve well due to the good quality of teaching and support they receive."  
Ofsted 2014

## Facilities and grounds

Our school has a vibrant indoor environment with classes that are equipped with high quality resources, including the latest technology such as iPads and Chromebooks. By Easter 2016, all classrooms will have been refurbished within the last three years; we also have a dedicated childrens' kitchen area. Ivy Hall, our dining hall, was refurbished in Summer 2014 to provide a revamped area for children to eat, a new kitchen and indoor PE space. School meals are prepared in house – we aim to source as much local produce as possible.

Future plans include a school library.

We have wonderful outdoor spaces which include:

- Two playgrounds, one for younger children (with wooden play equipment) and one for older children
- a sports field
- a new treehouse
- an outdoor stage
- a meadow area with pond dipping platform
- a trim trail
- vegetable plots
- gardens
- early years outdoor area
- a natural play area.

There is also a quiet playground area with benches where comics, board games and other quieter activities can be enjoyed.

The cycle and scooter park installed in 2013 is regularly used by the many children who come to school on wheels and we hope to expand it – and to provide a welly park so that children are prepared for outdoor activities whatever the weather!



"I love learning outside"  
Jesse Russell,  
Year 4



"Teachers skilfully use major events and community resources to plan interesting lessons for the pupils"  
Ofsted 2014

"Staff regularly go above and beyond to make learning fun for the children. My son and I loved the recent Year 1 bedtime story evening – complete with hot chocolate and cookies!"  
Parent of a Year 1 child



# Learning at Ivy Lane

We want the children at Ivy Lane to enjoy school and learning. We aim to support the development of the 'whole child', including their well-being. There is a focus on developing self esteem, confidence and independence as well as on academic achievement. The staff have a wide range of interests, which we share as we encourage children to grow as learners and develop new skills.

As a child begins their journey in Reception they continue learning on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We support their learning through play, exploring, investigating and experiencing a wide range of activities. From Year 1 onwards, children's learning is guided by the new National Curriculum and our own school curriculum. There is a focus on local, national and worldwide learning topics.

## The Ivy Lane Curriculum

We deliver much of our curriculum through a variety of topics that link a number of subjects with one main focus, for example Nature Rangers, Fabulous Fireworks and Tractors & Turnips.

Maths and English are taught every day and the skills learnt are also applied in topics and wider learning.

- Much of our maths is taught through games and fun activities
- We are committed to children developing a love of reading, and have excellent links with the local library
- Pen and pencil licences and spelling passports are used to help encourage children to develop their handwriting and spelling and we have a strong focus on phonics.

We provide at least two hours of high quality PE (Physical Education) a week. This includes general sports skills; traditional sports such as football; dance and swimming lessons (Years 3-5).

Our broad curriculum also has a strong emphasis on learning about the local area.

## Learning outside the classroom

We recognise the benefits of learning outside the classroom and take advantage of the outdoors as much as possible.

- The school garden and nature areas are a great asset and one of our teachers has a Level 3 Forest Schools qualification
- Our location makes it easy for us to walk to Chippenham town centre for a range of activities, from 'shape hunting' to posting a letter to Father Christmas at the town hall!
- Reception children enjoy regular 'welly walks'
- The whole school is involved in Wild Weeks held each season, with each year group spending a day in each Wild Week at Lower Moor Farm doing activities such as fire making, coppicing and den building.

## National curriculum

All state schools began teaching the new curriculum in September 2014. To find out more – including curriculum overviews for each year group – please visit the 'About us' section of [www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk)

## Extra curricular activities and school trips

We offer a wide range of activities for children of all ages throughout the academic year. Recent clubs include:

- Art and craft
- Brilliant bloggers
- Chess
- Dynamic dance
- Ukulele club
- Football
- Gardening
- Hockey
- Let's get baking
- Netball
- Recorders
- Tag rugby
- Science club

A wide variety of trips provide enjoyable and educational experiences to support children's learning, for example trips to: Bristol Aquarium, the SS Great Britain and to Weston-Super-Mare.

## Behaviour for learning

We believe that children feel positive about learning when they learn through interesting activities taught in a variety of different ways. We encourage good behaviour and celebrate achievements in children's learning in many ways, including:

- praise
- high expectations
- house points
- sharing achievements in class, assemblies and with the headteacher
- Star of the Week awards.

Reception and Year 1 children are thrilled to take the class bear home for the weekend as a reward!



# Support

## Special Educational Needs

Some children may need extra support with their learning or school life. We have:

- a pastoral manager to promote every child's emotional and welfare needs so they can each reach their full potential
- a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)
- a range of support programmes available including Reading Recovery and Numbers Count, which provide a real boost to children's reading and maths.

We make sure that the impact of this extra support is monitored regularly and shared with parents.

## Gifted and talented

Some children excel in particular areas, learn faster than most or have real potential to achieve highly in certain subjects – not just academically, but also in art, sports, music or technology. We work hard to ensure that children get the support they need to make the most of their talents.

## Pupils with disabilities or medical needs

- We endeavour to fully meet the needs of any pupils with a disability.
- We have pupils with a range of medical needs and make sure we have staff trained to meet these needs.

## Equal opportunities

We are committed to promoting and developing equality of opportunity for all our pupils. To find out more about our equal opportunities policy – or any of our other policies – please visit the 'About us' section of [www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk)

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"Lessons are interesting and they give us a good challenge"  
Amelia McAveety,  
Year 2

"All members of the school community are committed to meeting the needs of all pupils, particularly those that may require additional support. The school has established a strong team for this purpose."  
Ofsted 2014

"My child loves going to Ivy Lane and is excited about going to school every day."  
Parent of an Ivy Lane pupil

# Joining Ivy Lane



## Joining reception

A child's first year at school is very special. Ensuring that new starters settle in and feel happy and confident at school is really important to us. We also appreciate that a child starting school can be a big change for parents and carers as well as children – we aim to make the transition to school life as straightforward as possible for families.

- We offer family visits over the summer for children to meet their class teacher, other children and explore the classroom and play area
  - Several sessions take place, at different times and on different days to try to make sure that every child can attend at least one
  - A lunchtime picnic and play with some of the school's sport equipment at John Coles park is a popular session!
- Local nurseries and preschools often visit Ivy Lane with pre-schoolers; this can be an additional opportunity for your child to start getting to know the school. In recent years we have hosted visits from New Road Nursery, Busy Bees and Happy Days.
- We hold a school information evening for parents of new starters in June. If you have questions before this time please do feel free to get in touch or refer to the website where you can view a range of information including the current parent handbook.

New starters attend part time for the first few days of reception so that they can get used to the new school environment gradually. Details of arrangements for the first couple of weeks of school – as well as for the summer visit sessions – are sent to parents in late Spring.

### A typical day in Reception:

- 8.40am Register; carpet time (where children can share their news); 'Wake and Shake' activity
- 8.50am fine motor skills session
- 9.15am Whole class teaching time
- 10.00am Playtime
- 10.15am Milk and snack time
- 10.30am Phonics
- 11.00am Whole class teaching time and play based learning activities
- 12pm Lunch and play
- 1.00pm Story time
- 1.15pm Child initiated activities (including play in our gardens and mud kitchen)
- 3pm Home time

## Moving Schools

Children transferring from another school can start part way through the academic year depending on circumstances. There is an agreement between head teachers of the ten Chippenham primary schools that children moving between our schools transfer at the start of a new term when at all possible (to ensure continuity in education).

All children starting at Ivy Lane have a welcome tour and a buddy to support them in the crucial first few days. We encourage parents to discuss how their child is settling in with their teacher.

# Working in partnership with you...

We are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers, updating you regularly on your child's progress and making sure that there are plenty of opportunities for families to find out more about school life and to get involved.

"We believe that it takes families and schools, working together, to educate children properly" (Department for Education, 2012).

- School newsletters are emailed weekly to parents, with text messages also used for key information
- Three parents' evenings and three 'open classrooms' sessions are held each year
- A written report is provided once a year; parents are given the opportunity to discuss this with teachers
- Sessions for parents – for example phonics and maths workshops for Reception and Year 1 children – show you what your child is learning and how you can support them
- The termly parents' forum provides an opportunity to share ideas and views on school life with the head teacher, and for the head teacher to share school developments
- We are often looking for parent helpers, for example to listen to children read or to help on school trips
- Parents are welcome to join Friends of Ivy Lane School (FOILS) who raise funds for the school
- There are also opportunities for parents to join the school's Governing Body.

# ...and your child

At Ivy Lane we ensure that children are given a voice and the opportunity to make decisions themselves:

- The School Council – made up of class representatives – takes all the children's ideas and makes suggestions for how we can improve the school.
  - Our author class names, healthy tuck shed and birthday book scheme were all our pupils' ideas!
- Older children are able to apply to be members of the Ivy Lane Squad – a group of Year 5 and Year 6 children who are role models for all. They help in the dinner hall and have three crucial roles at playtime:
  - Promote positive play
  - Look after children at the playground 'buddy stops'
  - Solve little quarrels
- Pupils also choose a charity to fundraise for each year.



"Pupils behave well and are polite and caring" Ofsted 2014

"Thank you for the lovely Mother's Day celebration in Reception – what a great idea! I love how creative this school is!"

Parent of a Reception child

"The school welcomes all pupils and supports any that find it difficult to fit in" Ofsted 2014

"It makes me proud to go to Ivy Lane School because everyone tries their best" Robyn Onslow, Year 2



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# Find out more

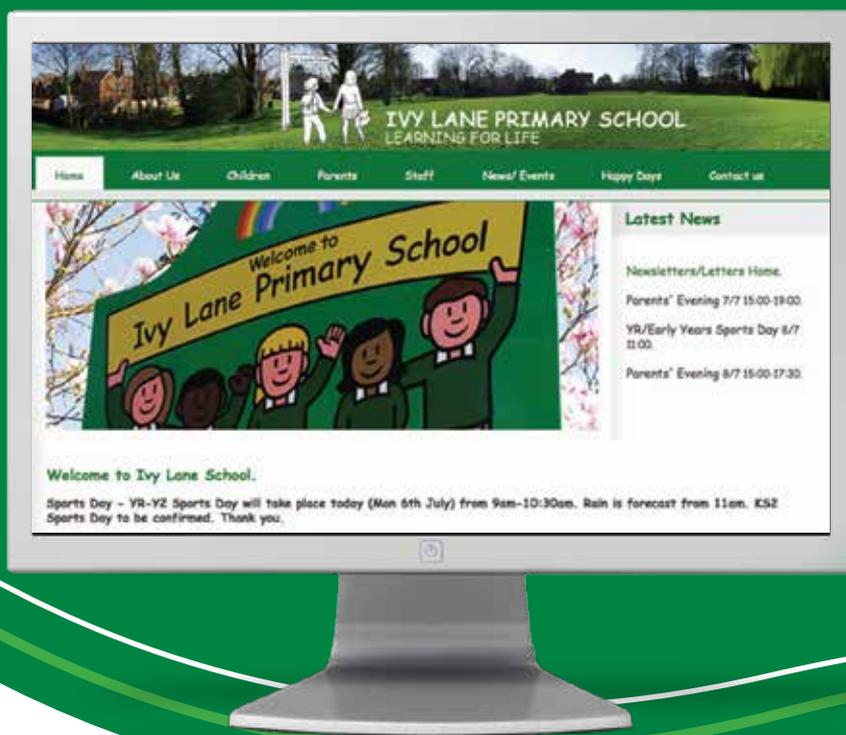
If you have any questions or would like to come and have a tour of the school, please get in touch:

**E** Email: [admin@ivylanewilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ivylanewilts.sch.uk)

**T** Tel: (01249) 652556

**W** Web: [www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk)

**P** Ivy Lane Primary School, Ivy Lane, Chippenham, SN15 1HE



Visit our website  
[www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk)

- to read the latest:
  - school news
  - school dinners menu
  - Wild Wood blog
  - parent handbook
- to find out more about:
  - clubs and sporting events
  - the curriculum
  - our policies
- and much more!

## Did you know

### Breakfast Club & Dragonflies After School Club

We offer a breakfast club starting at 7.30am, and New Road Nursery runs Dragonflies After School Club at the school from 3pm–6pm each day.

- To find out more about the breakfast club please contact the school
- To find out more about Dragonflies, please visit [www.newroadnursery.co.uk/our-school/after-school-club](http://www.newroadnursery.co.uk/our-school/after-school-club) or contact New Road Nursery on 01249 652004

