

Greatstone Primary School



In Year Admissions Information Pack



**School Tours are available upon
request.**

Please book via the school office:

01797 363916

office@greatstoneschool.co.uk



**National Nurturing
School Award**



**Platinum
Award**



WELCOME FROM ACTING HEADTEACHER



Greatstone School has a warm and friendly 'family feeling' where everyone is welcome. We understand that every child is an individual and is valued and treated as such, with a balance that ensures a nurturing approach is fostered by all, coupled with the confidence to have high expectations of themselves and others. We have a team of passionate staff who really care about the children and their families and strive to provide the best education possible for the children in their care.

Often described as a Tardis, Greatstone School is tucked away on the South East Coast. The children and staff are very fortunate to learn in this vast and unique area with an amazing school outside area that provides plenty of space to explore. The beach at the end of the road also provides a host of learning opportunities, particularly in the summer months. Greatstone School is a 1 form entry Primary school with a Nursery that welcomes children from the age of 2, sharing an Early Years Learning Zone with the Reception children, creating the perfect transition from Nursery to School when the time comes.

We would love to be part of your child's journey through primary school. If you would like any more information or would be interested in coming for a tour we would welcome you and your family.

Jaclyn Kay

Acting Headteacher

GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL VALUES



TOGETHER WE LEARN

OUR VISION

At Greatstone Primary School staff challenge pupils to be active and creative. We guide pupils to think independently and to be the best possible version of themselves - dreaming, daring and caring as they embark on their journey through from Nursery until they leave for secondary school and beyond.

OUR VALUES

We achieve our vision through our set of values which shape how we go about our learning each and every day and are reflected in our school rules:

Care, Dream, Dare

TOGETHER WE CARE – WE ARE RESPECTFUL

Our Greatstone Primary School family is part of a proud community. We recognise we all learn and develop in different ways as unique individuals. We value these differences and teach the children the importance of their uniqueness and their understanding of the individuality of others. We are devoted to learning together to achieve more. We teach the children to care for themselves, for each other, their local and global community.

TOGETHER WE DREAM – WE ARE READY

Children play, imagine and explore and these traits are essential to develop into intelligent, creative, practical and thoughtful young people. We have high expectations of ourselves and of the children and build capacity in our school family by setting ourselves, and our children, ambitious goals in all areas of development. A new and exciting curriculum reinforces basic skills and leads to high achievement for all. Skilled and professional teaching staff ensure children are enthused about learning by making individual steps clear through fun lessons inside and outside the classroom. We see children as individuals and as such they learn in a variety of ways, supported by a variety of teaching approaches. Their skills, successes and talents are embraced as individuals and celebrated in our school community.

TOGETHER WE DARE – WE ARE SAFE

We believe that all members of our school can thrive and flourish academically, socially, emotionally and physically to be the best they can possibly be. We empower our children and build their confidence in taking their next small or big step. Ensuring a child's self-confidence, self-concept and resilience is strong will equip them during their development throughout life. It is our commitment to teach our children to take these steps in a safe and nurturing environment.

THE SCHOOL DAY AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

Our school day starts at 8.45am (with gates opening from 8:30am) and finishes at 3.15pm. Our school week comprises of a total of 32.5 hours.

Our staff welcome our children into the school gates every morning at 8.30am, with a smile. Parents often comment on how lovely it is to see their children run into school as they are so eager to get in!

We have two school gates which are open at drop off and pick up times – our main school gate at the front of the building and another at the bottom of the parent car park towards the rear of the building.

It is really important that all of our children are in school every day that they are well and that they are on time to start their learning at 8:45am. Being in school and on time means that children do not miss 'chunks' of learning and that their lesson sequences, which our teachers plan meticulously, make sense to them and allow for maximum learning opportunities.

ASSEMBLIES

Every day we have an assembly.

These take a variety of forms:

- Class assemblies, where we discuss relevant topics and dedicate time to exploring 'life skills' with our class family.
- Opal assembly.
- Our parents are warmly invited to join us for Celebration Assemblies held each Friday, which are led each week by a different class. Our children enjoy leading these assemblies as they provide them with an opportunity to share their exciting learning with their parents and with the rest of the school. During this assembly, we celebrate children who have made it into the Golden book that week, the child from each class with the most house points (who are invited for a special hot chocolate after break), reader of the week and TTrack stars most improved.

THE SCHOOL DAY AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



MORNING PLAYTIMES

We believe that it is important for our school family to play together at various points throughout the day. Children in Year 1 to Year 6 have a morning break from 10.15am to 10.30am. Our Teaching Staff lead this playtime, all our playtimes are OPAL (outdoor learning and play) which means the children have access to the whole field and lots of extra activities are available.

LUNCHTIME

In the Summer term, Reception children join the children on the playground, to help them with their transition into Year 1.

Lunchtime runs from 12-1 and children in EYFS and KS1 eat in the hall, along with year 6, who act as their buddies during this time, assisting them when needed. Once the children have eaten in the hall they go outside to their OPAL play at lunchtime. The older children in year 3, 4 and 5 go outside first, come in to eat and then, if time permits go back outside for some more play before the afternoon lessons begin.

We also offer a lunch club where children can choose to come and participate in activities lead by our pastoral assistant if they would like to.

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

Parents are encouraged into the school at the beginning and end of the school day.

Class Teachers will always endeavour to make themselves available for parents to chat to after school. This helps to build up a close relationship between home and school – we want to have good links with all parents.

If normal arrangements have to be altered (for example, you are delayed or another person is collecting your child), please let us know via the school office. This avoids any confusion or upset for our children.

Some of our children are allowed to walk to and from school by themselves and their parents will have signed an electronic permission form to allow this.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Walking is definitely the best option for getting to and from school! There are many benefits: it's healthier than travelling by car, it improves the safety of pedestrians and road-users, and it respects nearby residents and parking regulations. Alternatively, we have bike and scooter racks at school.

If you do need to travel by car, we are lucky enough to have a large carpark next to the school. We urge parents to make use of as it avoids traffic congestion in the road immediately outside of our school. We ask all parents to please park considerately to our local residents.

CLASSES AND SCHOOL HOUSES AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCHOOL CLASSES

Greatstone is a one form entry Primary School with a Nursery that welcomes children from the age of 2.

Nursery – Starfish Class

Year R – Turtle Class

Year 1 – Seahorse Class

Year 2 – Dolphin Class

Year 3 – Seal Class

Year 4 – Penguin Class

Year 4/5 – Orca Class

Year 6 – Shark Class

SCHOOL HOUSES

Children are sorted into one of four houses. Family members belong to the same house.

Fire House – Red

Water House – Blue

Air House – Yellow

Earth House – Green

PASTORAL AND SAFEGUARDING AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Greatstone Primary School we are committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all the children in our school. You can find out more about our safeguarding policies by asking for a copy at the school office or visiting our website and you can contact a member of the safeguarding team using the email addresses below.

Hannah Ferris – Safeguarding and Pastoral Director

(spd@lightyear.kent.sch.uk)

or one of the Deputy Safeguarding Leads;

Jaelyn Kay – Acting Headteacher (kayj@greatstoneschool.co.uk)

Fiona Roberts – Deputy Headteacher (robertsf@greatstoneschool.co.uk)

Kate Bovingdon – Early Years Lead (bovingdonk@greatstoneschool.co.uk)

A welcome from our pastoral assistant:

Hello! I'm Mrs Heath, Pastoral Assistant – Helping children feel happy, safe and ready to learn – you can reach me by emailing :

heathk@greatstoneschool.co.uk

I am delighted to introduce myself as the Pastoral Assistant here at Greatstone Primary School.

My role is focused on supporting the wellbeing and personal development of all our pupils. I work closely with teachers, parents, and carers to ensure that every child feels safe, happy and ready to learn.

Whether it's helping children settle into school like, supporting them through challenges, or simply being someone to talk to – I am here to listen and help.

I also support with attendance, behaviour, and emotional wellbeing- because we know that when children feel good inside, they do well in school.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know all of our wonderful pupils and families. Please feel free to come and say hello or reach out if you ever need support or guidance. Together, we can help every child shine!



NURTURE AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



WHAT IS NURTURE?

Nurture is a tried and tested way of relating to children that helps them develop vital social skills, confidence and self-esteem. By developing and nurturing these skills children are then more likely to engage with learning, show improved behaviour and achieve higher attendance levels. The concept of nurture highlights the importance of social environments – who you are with and not who you are born to – and their significant influence on social and emotional skills, wellbeing and behaviour. The nurturing approach to education offers a range of opportunities for children and young people to engage with missed early nurturing experiences, giving them the social and emotional skills to do well at school and with peers, and to develop their resilience and self-confidence. It encourages pupils to take pride in achieving - addressing the social and emotional needs that can hamper learning.

We are always continually developing the nurturing culture within our school and aim to make sure our learning environment makes all our pupils, staff, parents and visitors feel happy, safe, valued and cared for. We are extremely proud to say that Greatstone Primary School received the National Nurturing Award in March 2025. The programme aims to enhance teaching and learning and promote healthy outcomes for our children. It focuses on emotional needs and development, as well as academic learning in a whole school environment. We constantly revisit these practices to make sure we are maintaining a higher level of nurturing provision.

We have also created a new nurture classroom. This space provides a stimulating and welcoming learning environment for children who may at times benefit from undertaking some of their learning in a small group. Mrs Harman and Mrs Heath, along with other adults will support the learning that will take place within the nurture classroom.

THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF NURTURE

Everything we do has been based on and guided by the Six Principles of Nurture including our National Nurturing Schools Programme.

The Six Principles of Nurture have successfully underpinned nurturing approaches for over 50 years and can be seen below:

Safety – Making sure our school is a safe place to be

Wellbeing – Believing in ourselves and promoting good self esteem

Language – Using words to express emotions and communicate

Transitions – Learning coping strategies to deal with changes

Learning – Understanding that everyone learns in their own way and in their own time

Behaviour – Understanding that behaviour can be a reflection of our feelings

The ZONES of Regulation

			
Blue Zone Sad Bored Tired Sick	Green Zone Happy Focused Calm Proud	Yellow Zone Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Red Zone overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

THE GRADUATED APPROACH TO NURTURE

Our graduated approach to nurture ensures that every child in the school has the opportunity to flourish in their education. It ensures that every child has access to the support they need, when they need it. Through this approach, we work to measure and support the social, emotional and mental health of all children, so no child falls through the cracks.

The graduated approach focuses on: early identification of need, making sure the nurture approach is embedded throughout the whole school and then implementing interventions, group work or extra help where needed.



At Greatstone, we use Boxall Profiles to identify the SEMH areas of need so we can put strategies in place.

The Boxall Profile® is an evidence based tool supporting a whole school approach to assessing and addressing children and young people's social, emotional and behavioural development to positively impact learning, behaviour, attendance and wellbeing.

Each classroom is welcoming, has a cosy space (book corner), visual timetable and Zones of Regulations display.

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



At breakfast club the children improve their independence by self-serving their own cereals, fruit and yoghurts. Toast is also available upon request via a member of staff. We encourage the children to help write the shopping list so that there is something for everyone. At after school club there are a range of activities available for the children to choose from such as, board games, Hama beads, card games, arts and crafts as well as outside play (weather dependent). At 4:30pm we have a light snack usually consisting of sandwiches, toast, bagels etc. Fruit and water are also available throughout the evening. On a Friday evening, after a long exhausting week of learning, we enjoy a movie with movie snacks to bring a relaxing end to the week.

We asked the children what they enjoy about coming to club:

I like helping the little nursery children.

I like learning new games.

I like seeing people from different classes that I don't normally play with.

I like making my own breakfast

There's so much to do.

Session Prices

Breakfast Club - 7.30am-8.45am	£ 5.00
After School Club - 3.15pm-4.30pm	£ 5.00
After School Club - 3.15pm-5:45pm	£ 10.00

COMMUNIATION WITH PARENTS AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We post regularly on ClassDojo to keep parents up to date with school news. We also use Arbor to send important communications and to book appointments for parents'/carers' evenings, sell tickets to events and register children for clubs and trips. Arbor is also used for booking and paying for school dinners and wrap around care.

OPAL CLUB AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are embarking on a project to improve our playtimes for all children at Greatstone Primary School. We have signed up to the Opal (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme in order to support us with this.

Did you know that playtime is about 20% of every child's day at school? That's 1.4 years of every child's life while they are at primary school.



Playing outdoors in rich play environments is one of the best ways for children to develop social skills, build resilience, make more friends, be more creative and care more about the planet. Right now, this is more important than ever.

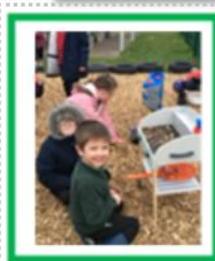
For these reasons, improving our children's playtime and making them the highest quality that they can be is crucial to us.

We are very excited to participate in the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) primary programme, which is endorsed and supported by Sport England and runs in hundreds of schools across the UK and worldwide.



This is what our
lunchtimes look
like now....

 **OUTDOOR PLAY**
AND LEARNING 



UNIFORM AT GREATSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are proud of our uniform and the sense of belonging it instils. We expect **ALL** children to wear uniform and all parents / carers to support the school in this matter. Our uniform is simple, comfortable and flexible.



School Uniform

Bottle Green V-neck jumper or cardigan - **not sweatshirts or hoodies**

Bottle Green polo shirt **or** White shirt and school tie - **not white polo shirts**

Dark grey/black formal school trousers/skirt/shorts

(leggings & joggers are not school uniform and should not be worn)

Green gingham summer school dresses

Cycling shorts can be worn under school skirts and dresses but must not be worn on their own.

Sensible, plain black school shoes/trainers or sandals (socks to be worn) – **No**

Crocs

School Fleece are for outdoor wear only.

Embroidered/logoed uniform is available to order via our uniform suppliers, Brigade.
Details on how to order are noted below.

PE Uniform

Indoors:

Plain black shorts, Coloured T-shirt (House colour), bare feet or plimsolls

Outdoors:

Plain black shorts, Coloured T-shirt (House colour)

Sweatshirt or tracksuit for colder weather. (No slogans or big logos)

Plimsolls for indoor use and trainers (separate from everyday wear) for outdoor, footballers must have boots and pads.

UNIFORM ORDERING SERVICES

You can order our embroidered/logoed uniform from Brigade clothing.

To order school uniform

You can follow the links on our website

<https://www.greatstone.kent.sch.uk/parents/uniform>

or alternatively visit <https://www.brigade.uk.com/parents/school/GR8298DS/>

Simply go to the website address, then select either 'Find My School' or select Greatstone Primary School from the list and follow the order instructions

OPAL Play

Children are required to take part in outdoor play in all weathers so they will need: Wellies, Waterproof Coat, Warm hat & gloves in the colder months
Sun hat – in warmer weather.

It is also advisable to provide them with waterproof trousers/puddlesuit or change of clothes and socks that can be kept in a named bag at school.

All items of clothing must be clearly marked with your child's name.

Hair

Long hair must be tied back and no extremes of fashion are allowed. Large hair accessories are not permitted.

Make-up & Nails

Make-up is not allowed to be worn to school. Nails must be kept short and nail varnish/false or acrylic nails are not permitted.

Jewellery

No jewellery should be worn except for stud earrings or small sleepers for those who have pierced ears, which must be removed by the child for PE.

Second hand uniform

Can be enquired about at the school office. Second uniform can be purchased with a donation.

To order logoed PE T-shirts you can do so from Top Banana in New Romney. You can contact them directly on [01797 363694](tel:01797363694) or via their email address: sales@top-banana-services.co.uk

House colours: Green (Earth), Red (Fire), Yellow (Air), Blue (Water)

Each PE T-shirt costs £7.99 and can be collected direct from them at the address below once your order has been fulfilled:

Unit G Mountfield Ind Est, Learoyd Rd, New Romney, TN28 8XU

**School ties are available to from the school office via Arbor.
Please note we are a cashless office and hold no change.**