



www.cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk

School Prospectus

Telephone: 01258 837306







‘Inspiring a Lifetime Love of Learning’

A very warm welcome to Cheselbourne!

Our school is situated in the centre of Cheselbourne, a charming little Dorset village with an active Village Hall, the picturesque St Martin’s Church and the newly-renovated River’s Arms. Cheselbourne, and the thriving village communities of Ansty, Melcombe Bingham and Hilton, support our little school. Our school can accommodate up to 50 children drawn from these villages, as well as from further afield.

At Cheselbourne we are excited about learning and pride ourselves on our extremely passionate staff, who take advantage of our smaller classes to provide creative, stimulating and exciting learning opportunities designed to support every child in achieving their full potential. All of this is done in a nurturing, safe and fun environment, where strong friendships are forged and children gain a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

In 2017 OFSTED graded our school GOOD and our positive report states that:

‘Pupils are enthusiastic about learning. They welcome visitors warmly, are keen to share their work and speak confidently about their learning and what they need to do to improve further. They focus well in class and are respectful of others’ views and responses. Pupils enjoy school. One parent, typical of many, commented that her children ‘run into school in the morning’.



I hope you enjoy finding out about our school and how we work together to ensure our pupils are happy, secure and successful. Please come and meet us, visit our website, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, phone or email! We look forward to hearing from you.

Jyotsna Chaffey

Headteacher

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www.cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk

/@cheselbournevs/<https://www.facebook.com/cheselbournevillageschool>



Our Values



CHESELBOURNE RESPECTS

We treat people, our school and the environment the way we want to be treated.

CHESELBOURNE CHALLENGES

We try, try and try again to push our limits, because can't is not in our vocabulary.



CHESELBOURNE NURTURES

We nurture young, enquiring minds in a fun and caring way to inspire a lifetime love of learning.

We are proud to be a small school.

We feel that our size is one of our strongest assets as it allows us to do things differently and offer the children who attend our school a unique, happy and successful start to their school experience.



Everyone at our school gets to know everyone else and this leads to everyone having a strong sense of belonging. All our children care and look out for one another and the all-round nurturing sense of Cheselbourne Village School means our children feel safe, acknowledged and respected. These attributes are vital ingredients in the recipe that enables children to succeed. To succeed in their learning and (through working alongside families) succeed in developing as well-rounded young people, and later down the line, adults.



Having fewer children in a class (or school) means there are more opportunities afforded to each child; rather than having to pick just a few children to take part in activities, often a whole year group or class can participate.

One particular aspect of this is our ability to offer all children the chance to speak or perform publicly in school assemblies and services, particularly during our end of year production where every member of our school is involved. This enables children to develop self-confidence and self-esteem, both so important for a successful education journey.

Being a small school also means we benefit from teaching our children in Mixed-Age Classrooms.

Knowledge and Understanding of Your Child's Needs...

In mixed-age classes children usually stay with the same teacher for two years, which allows a teacher to really develop a deep understanding of a student's strengths and needs.

This in turn helps ensure the right support for a child's learning is put in place to enable them to reach their full potential. During the second year, the teacher already knows them so time doesn't need to be spent on assessment of a child's abilities, learning can begin right away. Mixed-age teaching also ensures teachers view students as unique individuals rather than a member of a group. More attention is paid to individual needs and as a result, teachers can focus on teaching each child according to his or her own strengths.



Sense of Community...



Children enjoy being taught in mixed-class groups and love the sense of responsibility that grows across the two years. Older children have the opportunity to serve as mentors and take on leadership roles as they nurture and motivate the younger ones. Younger children are able to accomplish tasks they could not do independently or without role-modelling from the older children. This ultimately leads to a growing sense of independence as learners develop confidence in their own abilities. All learners also develop familiarity with their classmates and learn to mix confidently with a wide range of age groups from a young age, creating an environment that encourages learning from and with others which reflects 'real-life' outside of the classroom.

Messages from the children at Cheselbourne



The Staff Team

Teaching Staff		
<p>Mrs Jyotsna Chaffey Acting Headteacher Coordinator for: SEND and Assessment Subject coordinator for: Literacy & PSHE (RSE) headteacher@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk</p>		
<p>Mrs Jacquie Mowlam Early Years and Key Stage 1 Teacher/Coordinator Subject coordinator for: EYFS, Humanities (RE/History/Geography/MfL) butterflyclass@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk</p>	<p>Mrs Liz Price Early Years and Key Stage 1 Teacher Subject coordinator for: Science, PE School Council Leader butterflyclass@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk</p>	<p>Mrs Emma Collett Key Stage 2 Teacher Subject coordinator for: Maths, IT The Arts (Art, Design and Music) kingfisherclass@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk</p>
Support Staff		
<p>Mrs Sandy White</p>	School Secretary, Financial & Admin Assistant, Head’s PA & Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) office@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk	
<p>Miss Fiona McIntyre</p>	Cover Supervisor Teaching Assistant, Pre-School Leader and Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) fiona@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk	
<p>Miss Amy Gatrill</p>	Teaching Assistant / SEND support	
<p>Mrs Penny Price</p>	Higher Level Teaching Assistant / Covid catch-up support	
<p>Miss Claire Bagwell</p>	Breakfast Club Leader, Teaching Assistant and Lunchtime Supervisor	
<p>Mrs Linda Allsop</p>	EYFS Childcare Worker	
<p>Mrs Sue Mullet</p>	Lunchtime Supervisor	
Regular Peripatetic Staff		
<p>Mrs Vicki Freeman</p>	Supply Teacher	
<p>Mrs Claire Platten</p>	Forest School Teacher	
<p>Mr Steve Treble</p>	PE Teacher	
<p>Mr Ian Crowe (Premier Sports)</p>	PE Teacher	
Regular Volunteers		
<p>Mrs Nerys Cattermole</p>	Teaching Assistant placement	
<p>Mr Rowan Woodhouse</p>	Forest School Parent Volunteer	

"They help us learn."

"They keep us safe."

"The teachers are nice."

"The teachers let us do lots of fun lessons!"

Our Governing Body

Governors are a group of volunteers who work alongside the headteacher to set the aims and objectives for the school and set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher.

Some of our governors are appointed and others are elected. Our Governors have important responsibilities in the successful running and conduct of the school and its relations with the community. The whole Governing Body meets at least twice each term and the minutes of these meetings may be viewed in the school office. In addition to our main meetings, smaller groups of Governors meet regularly to focus on particular areas of responsibility such as Finance and Staffing, Premises and Curriculum. Each governor has an area of responsibility, such as Literacy, Maths and EYFS and they liaise with the appropriate teaching coordinator. Governors spend time in school getting to know the children and the staff, often working alongside them. When appropriate, Governors are invited to share in staff professional development sessions and they are always welcome at school functions and events.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Name	Governor Status
Anna Bendall (Chair)	Co-opted 23 Nov 2020 (previously Parent)
Jon Moller	Parent
Dave Riddell	Parent
Emma Pick	LA
Carol Hallam	Co-opted
Mary Buckley	Co-opted
Graham Waters	Co-opted
Chris Thomas	Parent
Jyotsna Chaffey	Headteacher
Emma Collett	Staff
Sandy White	Clerk

Please see our website for an updated list of current governors at our school. The chair of governors is elected at the beginning of the school year. Governors can be contacted by parents should they have any queries regarding school governance.

Cross-School Collaboration

All schools are now expected to extend their links with other schools of a similar size and type. Clustering of schools is an excellent way to continue to develop and extend the provision for children and to support staff to deliver the very best education for all children.

The Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP)

Cheselbourne Schools is a member of DASP. This group comprises thirteen first schools, three middle schools, one special and one upper school.



When your child attends Cheselbourne, you will quickly realise just how exceptional this partnership is and how much your child will benefit from being a DASP citizen. Some of our shared activities

- DASP peripatetic music teachers
- Children participate in joint musical, creative, sporting and residential activities
- Additional funding for PE, musical and creative initiatives

Children participate in many projects through DASP that it would be difficult for us to do on our own and which support transition. The children also have the opportunity to participate in activities in the middle school and upper schools which supports their transition to middle school after Cheselbourne.



If you would like to find out more about DASP and the schools that your child would be involved with, take a look at the DASP website at www.dasp.org.uk.

The Learning First Alliance (LFA)

The Learning First Alliance is a progressive alliance of First Schools in and around Dorchester. The schools work together in the interest of their children to promote a positive and inclusive approach to learning.



Beginning the Education Journey...

At Cheselbourne Village School we also offer a supportive route into the main school via our two settings for Pre-School age and younger children.



Scarecrows – Adult and Toddler Group

Scarecrows meet on Tuesdays during term time in the Village Hall between 9.00 and 10.30am. Babies and toddlers up to school age attend this group and their parents or carers remain with them. The group is organised by Miss Fiona McIntyre who is also our Pre-School leader. Sessions always have a variety of activities include crafts, singing, games and indoor and outdoor play activities. This is a great opportunity for young children to have fun and be gently introduced to school staff whilst their grown-ups also get the chance to meet other parents and begin forming their own networks too.



Caterpillar Pre-school – for children from 2 years and 9 months

Cheselbourne Village School Pre-school, Caterpillars is situated in the grounds of our lovely, friendly first school. Children benefit from a well-resourced learning environment with exciting indoor and outdoor play activities alongside opportunities for transition experiences getting younger children ready for their next adventure at 'big school'. Caterpillar Preschool runs every day in term time from 9am – 3pm. Children can attend from as soon as they turn 2 years and 9 months old. For further information- please see our separate 'Caterpillar Pre-School Welcome Pack' (available online and from the school office).

At School

Admissions Policy

Cheselbourne Village School Catchment Area is Cheselbourne, Hilton, Melcombe Bingham and Ansty and the surrounding villages. However, if parents wish their children to attend Cheselbourne they can opt to bring their child to our school regardless of where they live providing there is a place available. Children in our catchment area who live more than three miles from the school will be offered free school transport.

All enquiries concerning admissions to our school should be made in the first instance to the school office please.

Classes

Class sizes will vary according to the number of children in the school or the numbers in any one year or Key Stage group. We arrange children between Reception year and Year 4.

The school building dates from 1909 and retains its attractive exterior whilst offering spacious class bases and a mix of modern technology and flexible learning environments. The school building is the main teaching area and we are privileged to be able to utilise the village hall, across the road from the main building. This is used for PE, drama, concerts and other activities that need more space. We also have use of the field adjacent to the Village Hall which we use for games, lunch and break times and some of our after school clubs.



In the Reception Year

Starting school is a very important time in a child's life and at Cheselbourne Village School we aim to help both children and parents feel confident and secure at this key time. Following on from Caterpillar Pre-School, children enter in the Reception year. We also welcome children from other pre-school settings (as well as children who transfer from other schools and areas in any year group). There are many opportunities for parents and children to meet with us before school starts and we have established an induction programme to ensure that each child's introduction to school is a happy experience. In their Reception year children begin school for just the morning sessions and lunchtimes for the first few days and then attend all day after this.

The year before a child is due to start school parents receive an information booklet on Education in Dorset and a leaflet about DASP (Dorchester Area Schools Partnership). Later you will receive a letter inviting you to a New Parents' Meeting in July. Arrangements are made for each child to be visited by the staff in their pre-school setting and home before they begin to help us get to know your children better and for them to feel comfortable with us before they start.



We are keen to establish strong and positive working relationships with parents at Cheselbourne to enable us to best support your child in school and in their learning. Parents are welcomed into the school and usually there is time for a quick chat with the class teacher after school – if not, an appointment can be made. It is essential that we work together to ensure the best for the children. During their first year at school staff will carry out an assessment, currently called the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFS). Parents are informed what this involves and of the findings.

Teaching methods



We have high expectations of the children and they are encouraged to take a pride in their work and their achievements. A variety of teaching methods are used in the school depending on the needs of the children and the type of activity or task involved. We believe that it is important for children to become enthusiastic learners and independent and creative thinkers. In the course of a week the children are likely to have been taught in a whole class, in large and small groups and individually; inside and outside school as well as in whole school team teaching situations.

With this in mind many tasks are targeted at offering the children the opportunity to explore and develop their own ideas. This will be balanced by more formal lessons and teacher directed tasks.



The Curriculum

We follow the National Curriculum, the subjects we cover from this are English, Maths, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Music, Art, Design Technology, Modern Foreign Language, RE and PE. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum comprises seven areas of learning – Physical, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Literacy, Maths, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design. In addition PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and Citizenship are taught to all children. We have a two year rolling programme reviewed each year by staff which incorporates a creative, whole school topic approach

At Cheselbourne we are committed to a curriculum that has the needs of the children at its centre. As a state school, we adhere to the National Curriculum as required by the Education Reform Act and follow the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage for the children in the reception class.



We believe that the children learn best by engaging in first hand experiences that help them make sense of the world around them. Our curriculum offers a balance of practical, oral and investigative activities and opportunities for writing and recording. We also acknowledge the importance of parents in the development of a child's skills and we actively promote links through the reading record, attendance at regular parent workshops and helping in school.

English

Through English (or Literacy) we aim to promote and encourage enthusiastic, independent learners who are able to speak, listen, read and write effectively. We encourage the development of good communication skills that will assist our children in communicating socially. We help them to become responsive to the needs and feelings of others. We value the opportunities for children to become reflective thinkers who are able to evaluate the many complex messages in our society. A big emphasis is placed on Reading skills. Children will experience daily group reading sessions where the skills of decoding the text lead on to reading for meaning and to fully engage with the text.



Children are offered a wide range of reading materials in school and are expected to take home books to read and share with parents or carers. We are proud to have a small library on the school site where children change their reading books and get the chance to borrow a range of fiction and non-fiction books too. Emphasis is placed, throughout the school, on learning the phonics that support children when reading, spelling and writing. A systematic phonics scheme is used in school and all children have a daily phonics session. Given our small school numbers, all children are provided with opportunities to develop their confidence in speaking in public and performing.

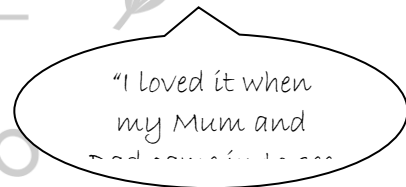
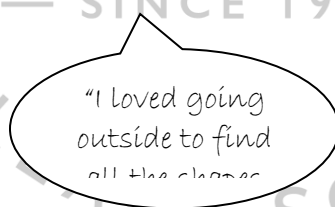
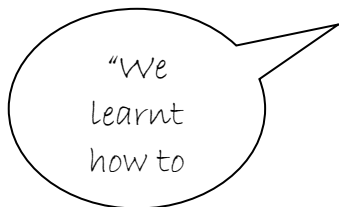
Maths



The main aim in our teaching of Mathematics (Numeracy) at Cheselbourne Village School is to enable all children to feel confident in their understanding and application of numbers. We teach in a variety of ways - small group, whole class, in pairs and independently, using a practical and fun way to inspire the

children to learn. We use a stepping stone approach to getting the children confident in their understanding of Maths called CPA. This concept starts with teachers modelling and children using counters, blocks and the like to represent numbers. As confidence grows this develops into using pictures and in turn moves to just using the abstract concept numbers themselves. This helps build a solid foundation of understanding for children which enables them to access more complex concepts as they move through their time in the school.

Times Tables play a big part of our learning and using the same CPA strategy children develop their understanding of times tables throughout the school. We are keen to explore creativity in our maths teaching and learning and the children enjoy using both indoor and outdoor environments, as well as additional learning opportunities, such as cooking club, to enhance practical applications of maths strategies. We also hold regular Maths Workshops to share our learning with people at home and to give parents a chance to get to grips with some of the newer concepts of maths lessons.



Science

Science stimulates and excites children's curiosity about phenomena and events in the world around them. It links direct practical experience with ideas, and therefore engages children's interest at many levels. Children are taught to discriminate, classify, recognize and understand relationships and select information from a variety of sources. They develop skills in formulating, testing and evaluating ideas, and communicating using scientific language, drawings, charts and tables.

Computing

We currently have a comprehensive array of networked computers and netbooks which link to our central wireless network. In addition we have iPads and netbooks which children regularly use. Each device has

vast array of educational programs. Each of our teaching areas has digital projector and a SMART board to ensure the children have every opportunity to work, interactively, during teaching sessions as well as developing their individual skills.



Children are offered a range of ICT opportunities. They use word processors, graphic and data handling packages, simulations and control programs with a wide range of games to support other curriculum areas. We also have digital cameras and digital video cameras.

"I like writing code!" "The computers are cool because they have games on them to help me learn!" "I like the iPads!"

Humanities – History and Geography

History and Geography are taught across the whole school- as discrete subjects in Year 3 and Year 4 and as 'Topic' at the lower end of the school. In Geography children develop their geographical skills by learning about specific concepts such as mapping and use this to learn about the world around them; extending from our Local Area to far-away places such as South America. Using a 'creative curriculum' approach lessons can be fun as well as instructive and the children have been known to make scale models of mountains and volcanoes as well as Pirate Ships for exploration.

We use a similar approach to learning about the past in History. The classrooms are used creatively and at various times through the year house a subject-inspired role play space, such as an air-raid shelter or Celtic Roundhouse which help to bring 'history' to life and inspire children to want to know more. Children learn about people from the past and find out how their lives are different between then and now. School trips to places of local interest help to bring 'reality' to the past.

"We made masks like

"It was great fun to dress up like an evacuee.

"We made a time machine on

Art and Design and Technology (DT)

The children learn-design by drawing plans, writing and following instructions and using simple tools. They use the skills learned to produce various articles using a wide variety of materials such as fabrics, wood, paper, clay, and construction kits. Children also learn about influential designers, inventors and apply their skills to simple mechanics. We also try to provide opportunity for the children to cook using our school kitchen.



Through art children learn to express their ideas and feeling using a variety of media. The children are taught a variety of skills including drawing, painting, collage and model making and they are given opportunities to experiment and develop skills learnt. The children are introduced to the works of influential artists both local and worldwide and are encouraged to discuss and evaluate their own work.

"It helps my creative side!" "I love painting and making things." "I love painting tractors."



Music

Singing, composition and instrumental work start with the youngest children and is developed throughout the school. As well as discrete music assemblies we also have a weekly whole school music assembly. Whenever possible children are given the opportunity to hear and listen to 'live' music from professional and semi-professional musicians and to participate in 'live' sessions with others. Through the DASP pyramid the children participate in a wide range of musical activities. Year 3 and 4 children take part in the annual DASP concert and both Year 3 and 4 learn instruments in the summer term through the Dorset Music Service Musicianship Programme. The pyramid also supports individual and group instrument tuition. There are many opportunities to learn to play an instrument. We can offer flute, clarinet, guitar, ukulele, piano/keyboard, saxophone, trumpet, cornet, trombone, violin or 'cello.

"We do lots of singing!" "Music time is fun!" "We play lots of different instruments."

PE

For Physical Education, the school has the use of the playground, the village hall and the adjacent field. We believe PE is an essential part of our curriculum so we can help our pupils to develop a healthy attitude to life. The school aims to ensure each child develops skills in PE appropriate to their own individual ability. We believe physical exercise should be enjoyable and we encourage an awareness of the importance of developing a healthy body. Our PE curriculum includes games, gymnastics, dance, athletics, swimming, outdoor and adventurous activities and multi-skills.

As part of DASP we have support from a designated PE specialist, Mr Dailey, who teaches all year groups at points throughout the year. He also organises Year 7 sports leaders to visit and help with competitions and our annual Sports Day. We often have ex Cheselbourne pupils return to help the younger children. Through Sports Premium funding we are also able to provide two weekly PE sessions led by PE specialists. We also offer specialists to run our extra-curricular after school sports clubs. The children themselves choose the clubs they wish to have provided. The qualified coaches lead the children in sports such as football, gymnastics, tag rugby, athletics as well as the more alternative sports such as dodgeball and archery.

Religious Education



Through our RE lessons we aim to teach an awareness of the important spiritual and cultural aspects of Christianity and other religions. Children will explore the major celebrations from a variety of religions and have opportunities to reflect on these findings.

"I like the Bible stories." "You can learn about Jesus."

"We made lamps for Diwali."

Personal, Social and Health – Sex and Relationships Education

Our school is a community where we live and learn together. Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship enables children to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. We believe that it is crucial for the development of young children that they should be given an increasing measure of responsibility for themselves, others and their environment and community. We aim to promote a healthy lifestyle at Cheselbourne. Health education plays an important role in developing the physical, mental and social wellbeing of our children. We promote and encourage positive relationships.

"I know what healthy food is!" "I have lots of friends."

Collective Worship

Collective worship is an important part of our school. It is an opportunity for the whole school to get together to celebrate and support all aspects of our school life, to promote a spiritual viewpoint and to provide a time for stillness and reflection in what is often a busy, active day for our children. Each week there is a different Thinking Focus which is discussed in assembly and displayed throughout the school. This forms a focus for the week's assemblies.



There are also frequent visits from other clergy and speakers in assembly.

Throughout the year there will be special occasions to which parents, friends and villagers will be invited. These may include our Remembrance Day service, Leavers' Service, Harvest and Christmas concerts, Sports Days and Open Days. Throughout the year there are also opportunities to share in the children's learning at our Open Assemblies.

"We have lots of different assemblies." "I like singing in assembly." "We go to the Hall."

Home Learning

We believe that Home Learning enhances and reinforces the learning in school whilst at the same time develops children's skills of independence and provides opportunities for children to share learning with those at home. Depending on the age of the child, children will bring home spellings, times tables, phonics sounds, Maths and Literacy activities. Individual reading is encouraged as much as possible at home with adult comments and feedback noted in the Reading Record Book.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Our school has been consistently graded highly for good behaviour. Members of the public frequently comment on and praise the excellent behaviour of our children. Our School Values are intended to promote positive learning attitudes and these are frequently referred to in assemblies and classrooms. Good behaviour and good work is also praised in our weekly Celebration Assembly.



School Houses



Cherry House



Sycamore House



Willow House



Copper Beech House

All children are put into one of our four house groups as soon as they start school. We award House Points for good behaviour or good work and points are tallied up each week to go towards rewards for reaching point thresholds such as earning a house extra break time.

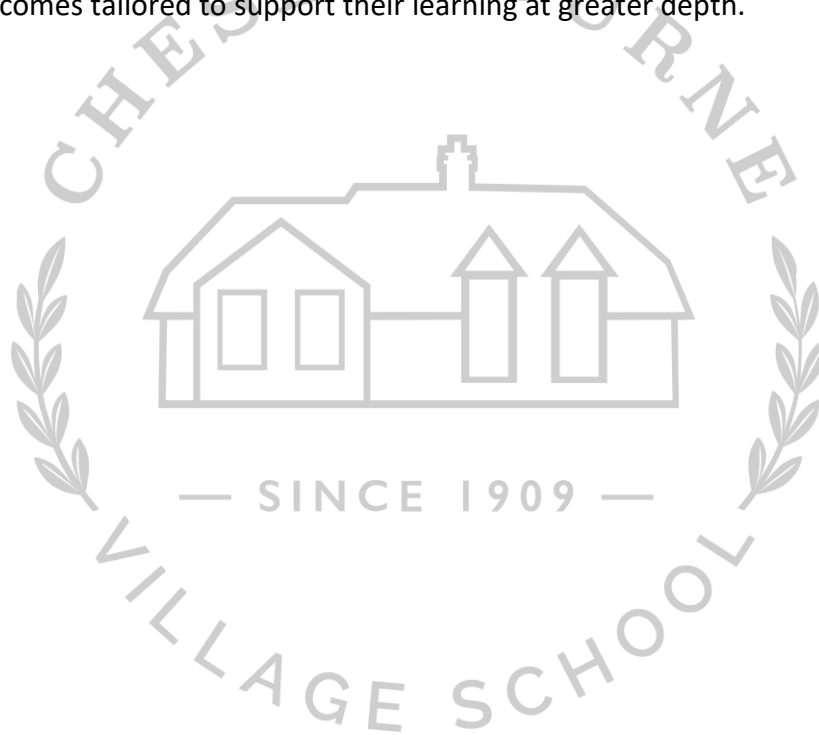
We have policies stating our guidelines for behaviour that can be viewed in the school office. The Governing Body has given their enthusiastic support to these policies.

Special Educational Needs

We aim to offer all children the highest level of education acknowledging that some children need more support. Children with SEND (Special Educational Needs Disabilities) are well supported according to the DfE's Code of Practice with input from teachers, the SENCO (Special Educational Need Coordinator) and external agency consultants. When teachers are concerned in any way, parents are consulted and invited to speak with the class teacher and the SENCO. The support offered is outlined on an ILP (Individual Learning Plan) or for more low-level support a Provision Map (PM). This is regularly reviewed by staff, parents and child.

More Able Children

More able children are those that display greater depth of understanding or aptitude to learning in a particular subject. These children are offered enrichment activities both in school and within the pyramid and have learning outcomes tailored to support their learning at greater depth.



The School Day

School session times

Morning	Afternoon
8.45am to 12.00 noon (Pre-School starts 9am)	1pm to 3.15pm (Pre-School until 3pm)

The school day begins at 8.45 for all children. (9am for Pre-school) The main door is opened at this time and a teacher is there to greet the children. In the classrooms, focussed independent activities are provided. These activities are carefully planned to ready the children for the day ahead. In addition, the teacher shares the outline of the school day with the children and addresses any pastoral concerns at this time. All children should be in their class areas by this time ready to start lessons.




All children have a mid-morning break. The younger children (up to Year 2) also have a short break in the afternoons.

The school day finishes at 3.15pm. The children are brought to the front playground to be collected by their parents or carers. If your collection arrangements for you child need to change, please advise the office in the morning.



A lot of children travel to and from school on the school bus. They are supervised as they get on and get off the bus by a member of staff. Children who live within our catchment area qualify for a free bus pass if they live beyond a certain distance. Please apply to County Hall for this.

Wrap Around Care

 Breakfast club	7:45 – 8:45 am	£5 to include breakfast, supervision and a range of play activities.
 Drop Off	8:30 – 8:45am	£1.50 for before school supervision.
 AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	3:15 – 4:15pm	£5 to include snack, supervision and range of play and craft activities.

Clubs and after school activities

A varied range of extra-curricular clubs (predominantly after school but sometimes at lunchtimes) are offered at Cheselbourne throughout the year. These are ever changing depending on the time of year and the availability of staff. A letter comes out each term for parents to sign their children up to clubs which are charged at an additional fee.

School Information

Absence from School

County authorities state that parents have a legal duty to inform the school about all absences for whatever reason. To do this we appreciate a telephone call, note or email before 9.30am on the first day of absence. If we are not informed of the reason for absence we are bound, by law, to mark an illegal absence in the register.

We are bound by The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 for our rules on Attendance. This act has been amended and from September 2013 Amendments to the 2006 Regulations remove reference to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. **Holidays in term time will not be authorised.** Information about attendance expectations is issued to parents each year and is available in the school office and on our website at all times.

Drinking Water, Breaks and Lunchtimes

Children need a packed lunch or to book a school meal in advance using the online booking system from Local Food Links – our meal provider. Lunch is eaten in the Village Hall or outside in the summer, weather permitting. Two lunch time supervisors care for the children during the lunch break. Drinking water is provided. Drinks brought from home must be in a spill proof flask or carton with a straw. Cans, glass bottles and fizzy drinks are not allowed. Please make sure lunch boxes are clearly labeled with your child's name on the outside. In the playground children are encouraged to drink from the fresh water drinking fountains or from their bottles of drinking water.

School Milk

Children in Reception who are younger than 5 are entitled to free school milk at morning break time. Other children can purchase this at £1.50 per week. Please contact the school office.



Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 receive a free Healthy Snack as part of a Government Scheme. Children in Years 3 and 4 may bring in their own fruit snack from home for morning play if they want to.



Parents in receipt of benefits or Income Support may be entitled to claim a Free School Meal or packed lunch for their children. Please ask in the school office if you need more information about how to apply.

Universal Free School Meals

Children from Reception up to and including Year 2 are entitled to receive Free Hot School Meals under a Government initiative begun in September 2014. Parents order food online and then meals are delivered into school and served by our Lunchtime Staff. There is a wide choice and the food is of a good, balanced and healthy standard. In addition, the children are able to learn about eating together with other children and staff. Full details for Universal Free School Meals will be provided by the School Office.

Medical Treatment

County policy is set out as follows:

It is occasionally necessary for children to receive medication during the school day.

In all cases when medication (tablets, syrups or inhalers) is required to be taken when the child is at school it is essential that:

- The School has a written request from parents stating the name of the medication, the dose to be administered and the time the drug needs to be administered.
- The medication should be handed to the **member of staff with responsibility for administering medicine** and be clearly labeled with the child's name. **Only enough medicine for one day together with dosing instructions should be sent in to school to prevent possible overdosing.**
- The medication (tablets, syrups) should be in childproof containers.
- The medication will be stored in a locked childproof cupboard.
- If the medication is an inhaler for treatment or prevention of asthma, on the request from parents for the child to use the inhaler, it should state whether the child can self administer and whether s/he should have unlimited access for use of the inhaler.

The school has an emergency supply of blue Asthma inhalers (prescribed to the school) which may be administered to children who use inhalers and whose parents have consented to this. The purpose of this is in case the child's own inhaler has expired or is missing.

School Uniform

- Cheselbourne Logo Sweatshirt
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Grey school trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Black shoes with flat heels and nonslip soles (not trainers)
- Grey, Navy or White Socks or Tights



Summer Options

- Grey shorts
- Blue & White Gingham Dress

PE Uniform (to be kept in school in a separate, ideally draw string bag)

- Pale Blue Polo Shirt
- Navy Blue Shorts or Skirt
- Navy Blue Sweatshirt & Tracksuit bottoms (if needed for colder weather & clubs)
- Trainers or Plimsols

Forest School

All children from Reception to Year 4 do Forest School each week so need old, long sleeved clothing and shoes to wear for this. In wet and cold weather they also need wellies, waterproof trousers and a warm waterproof coat, hat and gloves.

Hair and Jewellery

- All hair should be neat and tidy for school. Long hair (for safety and hygiene) should be tied up please.
- For the safety of all children, the only jewellery allowed in school is a small stud earring. Children will be asked to remove these for PE lessons.
- School uniform (including Cheselbourne logo sweatshirts) can now be ordered online. Please ask in the office or see the website for information about ordering.

Please ensure you mark these and all other items of clothing with your child's name.

Charges for school activities

Activities and visits made to places outside school premises will be of educational value. Parents will normally be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost and visits will only be able to go ahead if sufficient contributions are received. No child will be prevented from taking part because parents have not made a contribution. Please speak with the Headteacher if you have a problem concerning visits. We do reserve the right not to take any child whose behaviour could put themselves or others in danger.

Bad Weather

We have a clear protocol for bad weather which is issued to parents annually and is on our website. If getting to school is going to be a problem because of snow or ice, please check the school website, Facebook page or Dorset Council website before setting out to ensure the school is open. Dorset Council site - <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices/schools>

Communications between Home and School

We issue a Home-School Agreement at the start of each academic year, or when a new child starts with us. This has been devised with the rest of the 17 DASP schools and is in line with the statutory government requirements. Please read it carefully and return a signed copy to the school which will be kept on your child's file. We encourage parents to be positively involved in the development of their child's education. If any parent has a concern please speak with the class teacher before it becomes a worry, similarly if the school is concerned about a child we will contact you. Brief, informal chats are often manageable or an appointment can be made in the first instance with the teacher. Contact details for all parents are securely kept in school and updated each September. **Please will parents be sure to update the school if any details should change – particularly mobile telephone numbers.**

Our website gives you lots of information and is a window to our school. The website is updated often to ensure all information is correct and relevant. There are photographs to enjoy and website links to support parents and take children forward in their learning. We also have a Twitter and Facebook page which is regularly updated with what's going on in school.



Twitter- **@cheselbournevs**



<https://www.facebook.com/cheselbournevillageschool/>

Newsletters are sent out every Friday to keep you informed of what is happening in school. In addition, these are posted on the school website on Friday evening. Each month the school submits an article for the local 'Village News'.

Annual Reports and Formal Meetings

In line with Government and County policy, parents are presented with a written report on their child's progress in all curriculum areas annually in the Summer Term. Parent consultations are held each term with Autumn and Summer being optional for Parents whereas Spring Term being expected so we can provide opportunity for you to view your children's work and to discuss progress with the class teacher. We have also hold open school events where parents are invited into school and children have the opportunity to share their work with parents.

Please be aware that there is a legal responsibility for all schools to share information and liaise with all who have parental responsibility, not just the parent who the child lives with. We will automatically send school information to both parents (where the address has been provided).

If there is a legal reason why information should not be shared or that access is restricted, then a copy of the court order (or other legal document) must be provided so that the school is fully aware of any restrictions.

The Cheselbourne School Friends (CSF)



The Cheselbourne School Friends are our parent organisation who volunteer their time and work extremely hard supporting the school by raising funds for us. Fund raising takes various forms and is a means not only of raising money, but also of coming together socially. The money raised helps to pay for things such as educational visits, entertainments and extra equipment. Meetings happen every half term to share information about fundraising, spending and upcoming meetings and events.

Links with the Community

We believe that our links with the local community are very important and these help the children to feel proud that they are part of this community and can positively contribute to it. We attend the local church regularly, inviting villagers



and the congregation to join us. Often our celebrations happen in the church or Village Hall such as a Remembrance Day Service.

Complaints Procedure

We sincerely hope that you do not need to use our Complaints Procedure. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are unhappy about anything so that we can talk through, and deal with any problems before things get worse. Should this not resolve the problem, the school has a Complaints Policy that can be viewed in the school office.

Exclusion from school

Law governs exclusion from school. Should it become necessary, only the headteacher can exclude a child and certain procedures, detailed in the school documents, must be followed. School Governors are required to review exclusions that exceed five days. Due to our positive and consistent approach to behaviour, there have been no exclusions at Cheselbourne for at least 20 years.

Safeguarding

The safety of all children is of paramount importance at Cheselbourne Village School. We have Safeguarding Procedures securely in place at Cheselbourne School and you are welcome to view our policies on site. All staff are regularly trained and are fully aware of Safeguarding policies. All our staff, governors, volunteers and helpers are DBS cleared (DBS is the Disclosure and Barring Service, formerly the CRB).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the Headteacher, Mrs Jyotsna Chaffey. In her absence, the Deputies are Mrs Jacqui Mowlam and Mrs Emma Collett.

Pupil Premium

Pupil premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children. This is based on research showing that children from low income families perform less well at school than their peers. The pupil premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates.

Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium money, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible. Please speak to the school office if you think you could be eligible for this.

Dorset Local Authority

The Local Authority is very supportive and works closely with all its schools. As well as providing excellent legal and personnel support it has a comprehensive team of experts that provide professional development for staff and advice and provision for Special Educational Needs. In addition we have a **School Evaluation Partner** who visits every term to ensure that we are providing the very best education for all children in our school.

Next Steps

The final year in first schools is Year 4 when children are 9 years old. Following this they transfer to middle school and then to upper school. We work closely with our feeder middle school, St Mary's Middle School in Puddletown to ensure a smooth and well managed transition for children moving up into Year 5.



**St Mary's Middle School
Puddletown**

From Cheselbourne our children usually transfer to St Mary's Middle School in Puddletown and then on to The Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester.



**The Thomas Hardy School
Dorchester**

Cheselbourne Village School is here to serve the needs of your child and the care of each individual is our primary concern. The links established between home and school are of great importance in a young child's life. We will do our utmost to establish and maintain these firm links and hope that you will support us in this.

Everyone at Cheselbourne is very proud of our school. We firmly believe that children at Cheselbourne are safe, happy and secure and that we get the very best from each and every child. We hope that you will take the time to visit us and see for yourselves!

Jyotsna Chaffey
Headteacher
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Current Version - May 2021

The information contained in this prospectus is correct at the time of printing. It must not be assumed, however, that no changes will be made during the school year or in subsequent years.