



# Prospectus 2022-23

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School. We have written this prospectus to give you an introduction to our school, its activities, aims and ethos. It can only give a small snapshot of what we do, but we hope you will find the information useful. We have divided our prospectus into 3 sections:

Section 1 ABOUT US - information about the school, staff and the classes.

**Section 2 WHAT WE DO** – Our curriculum, activities, partnerships with parents/carers

Section 3 PRACTICAL INFORMATION – School times, uniform, PE kit, term dates etc.



## **SECTION 1. ABOUT US**

*Letter from the headteacher:* 

Dear parents/carer,

Our school is situated in the village of Wheldrake which is within the City of York (CYC) unitary authority. The school is a Church of England primary school catering for pupils between the ages of 4 and 11. Most of our pupils live in Wheldrake and Thorganby but some of our children come from surrounding areas. We converted to academy status in July 2018 and we are a member of the South York Multi Academy Trust alongside Fulford School, Archbishop of York CE Junior School, Bishopthorpe Infant School, Dunnington CE Primary School and Escrick CE Primary School.

We are a one form entry primary school with a strong sense of family and community. We are delighted that visitors often comment on how happy, friendly and welcoming our school is. We have strong ties with the local church and we try to live up to our Christian values in everything we do. We are a fully inclusive school serving our local community and we warmly welcome children of all abilities and from families of all faiths, and of none.

The school was constructed in the mid-1970s and we are fortunate to have benefited from major improvement work with a large extension and remodelling of the building being completed in 2008. We have had an ongoing programme of work on our school building and as a result, we have a super environment to enhance our teaching and learning.

We are proud of our team of dedicated and enthusiastic teachers and support staff who are committed to helping every child flourish academically, socially and emotionally. We are also proud of the achievements of our children in the arts, sports and academic subjects. Our expectations are high and our pupils usually meet, or even exceed them, with standards in Year 6 assessments that are consistently above the national average.

We work hard to ensure that every child feels happy and secure in school and is encouraged to achieve their best. Parents/carers are most welcome to come and have a look around – please ring the office to arrange a visit. We hope that your child will enjoy their time with us.

If you have any further questions about the school please do not hesitate to contact me.

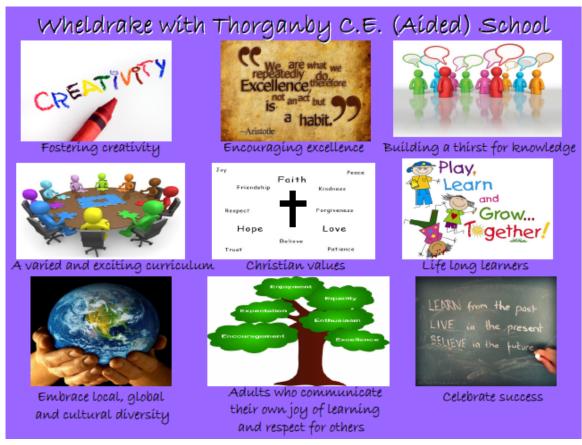




Ethos statement of the Church of England for its schools:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.



## Wheldrake with Thorganby C.E. Primary School Vision and Aims

#### **SCHOOL STAFF - 2020/21**

Headteacher Deputy Headteacher Pastoral and Wellbeing Lead Teaching Staff

School Business Manager Administrator Higher Level Teaching Assistant Teaching Assistants

Miss A. Shaw Mrs C. Thompson Miss S. Tams Mrs T. Childs Mrs N. Clark Mrs A. Coleman Mrs N. Jackson Mrs K. Ollerenshaw Mrs G. Sagaas Mr A. Thomas Mrs L. Wainwright Mrs C. Pearce Mrs D. Butterfield Mrs K. Buttery Ms K. Bartyla Mrs N. Clinton **Miss K Collyer** Mrs K. Darlow Mrs E. Miller Mrs A. Reynolds Mrs L. Thorn Mrs T. Hall

#### <u>CLASSES</u>

We have 7 classes in school:

CLASS	TEACHER(S)	YEAR GROUP	KEY STAGE	
Reception	Miss Tams	Reception	Foundation Stage	
Class 1	Mrs Wainwright, Mrs Sagaas	Year 1	KS1	
Class 2	Mrs Coleman, Mrs Clark	Year 2	KS1	
Class 3	Mr Thomas	Year 3	KS2	
Class 4	Mrs Childs, Mrs Ollerenshaw	Year 4	KS2	
Class 5	Mrs Jackson	Year 5	KS2	
Class 6	Mrs Thompson	Year 6	KS2	
SCHOOL HOURS				
The school hours are:		a.m 12.00 noon (KS1)		
	08.55	a.m. – 12.15 p.m. (KS2)		
	1.10	p.m. – 3.20 p.m. (KS1)		

1.10 p.m. - 3.20 p.m. (KS2)

Playtimes are:	10.45 a.m. –	11.00 a.m. (KS1 and KS2)
	2.30 p.m. –	2.40 p.m. (KS1 only)

Children are asked not to arrive at school before 8.45am. (or 1.00p.m. if they go home for lunch)

#### SECTION 2 - WHAT WE DO

#### **OUR CURRICULUM**

Our team of enthusiastic and creative staff have children's learning and the development of life skills at the centre of everything we do. Teachers, teaching assistants and support staff all work together to encourage children to achieve their potential.

Our curriculum covers all the subjects of the National Curriculum for primary schools, – English, maths, science, religious education (RE), computing, history, geography, design and technology (DT), music, art and design, physical education (PE), personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) and languages.

In addition to covering the content of the national curriculum we believe that our job in primary school is to help children acquire a range of skills for learning and for life. Throughout all our teaching and learning we have four key drivers:

- Developing resilience
- Being kind
- Being aspirational
- Being happy

#### <u>ENGLISH</u>

The English curriculum is delivered through daily lessons when children are introduced to all aspects of language including speaking and listening, reading, writing, drama, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Phonics is taught from Reception. Literacy skills may also be taught within topic work.

Children are taught the necessary skills in whole class shared sessions and in smaller guided reading and writing groups.

#### Reading

From first starting school children are taught phonics and it remains an important element of our teaching throughout Key Stage 1. The reading scheme has a full range of fiction and non-fiction texts for use during independent and guided reading. It is supplemented by a wide variety of books by well-known children's authors. As part of our homework policy we encourage parents/carers to find a quiet time to hear children



read, or to read to them every night. We really appreciate the time that parents/carers devote to this and have no doubt about the positive impact it has in helping our children become such confident and competent readers.

As children move into KS2 they will continue to work on guided reading texts in small groups or as a class, with the teacher, and may be set reading tasks to be carried out at

home in advance of the next group session. Once again, parents/carers are asked to encourage their child to read every night at home.

Please ask in school if you would like more advice on ways of helping your child with this vital area of the curriculum.

**Library** -\_We are fortunate to have a well-stocked library and all classes visit the library at least once a week to choose and exchange books. The library is also open after school one day per week for parents/carers to visit with their children.

#### <u>MATHS</u>

In our teaching of maths we put a large emphasis on mental strategies and oral work. A wide range of practical equipment and published materials, are used to support pupils' activities. Children receive a daily maths lesson although they also practise mathematical skills in other curriculum areas through their topic work. We set regular homework tasks, often practical, to back up and develop the learning that the children are experiencing in class.



Children are taught methods for calculations which may be unfamiliar to parents/carers or other adults who are helping children with maths at home. We have a calculations policy on our website which outlines these methods, and staff are always happy to talk with parents/carers and go through anything which seems a bit strange!

#### <u>R.E</u>

As a voluntary aided church school, religious education is a core subject. All children gain an understanding of Christianity, as well as other world faiths, through lessons, daily collective worship, visits to places of worship and the regular weekly collective worship which is led by the local vicar. We are mindful that we

have many children of different or no faith and our teaching reflects this.



#### **CROSS CURRICULAR TOPICS**

We have designed our curriculum to link subjects together in a series of exciting and varied topics which children experience throughout the year. The topics include work in geography, history, science, art and design, design and technology and computing. Through these cross curricular topics we can:

- Relate learning to real life
- Plan opportunities for children to use and develop competences, such as teamwork and communication,
- Apply and practise literacy and numeracy skills in more meaningful contexts
- Create purposeful experiences for the children
- Make learning varied



#### **Languages**

Children in KS2 have a weekly French lesson. The main emphasis is on developing good oral language skills, using games and songs, with some basic grammar for the older children.

#### **Physical Education (PE)**

All children have two PE lessons a week. Swimming lessons are provided (usually in Years 3 and 4) and children are taken to a local pool to be taught by specialist staff. We are part of the York Schools Sports Network and specialist teachers come and work alongside our staff to deliver some PE sessions and offer extra-curricular activities.

#### Computing

The computing curriculum is designed to help prepare pupils for the future. By KS2 children are taught a range of skills including designing, writing and debugging programs and learning about safe use of technology. We have a bank of iPads and 3 class sets of Chromebooks which are used to support learning across the curriculum using the Google G Drive.

#### Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) and Sex and Relationship Education

Our whole curriculum covers many aspects of health education, R.E. and personal and social education, and aims to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life.

In Upper Key Stage 2 the older children are taught a number of sessions specifically dealing with the aspects of sex and relationship education which have not been covered in these other curriculum areas. Reproduction is an element of the science national curriculum. Our policy for sex and relationship education is available from school or on the website and gives more detail about what is covered in the lessons. Children may be withdrawn from these sex education lessons at parental request, but we would ask you to discuss any concerns about this aspect of the curriculum with the class teacher or the headteacher before deciding to do so.

"Every child is valued and cherished as a Child of God through the compassionate pastoral care, which is a strength of the school." SIAMS inspection May 2019

#### THE WIDER CURRICULUM

We aim to give children first hand and purposeful experiences to enrich their learning. These include:

- A wide range of curriculum based educational visits, including a residential trip for Y6 to an outdoor activity centre to develop team working skills
- Opportunities to join after school clubs covering a variety of artistic, musical and sporting interests
- Lots of visitors to school to enhance the curriculum eg. dance groups, theatre companies, representatives from community groups such as the police or fire brigade



- Themed days or weeks which also bring the whole school together around one topic such as Science Days, Arts Week, International Day etc.
- As a Global Learning Expert Centre we undertake a range of activities helping us learn about citizenship in a global context.

#### SCHOOL VISITS

Throughout the year we arrange educational visits for the children. These visits are an extremely

worthwhile part of the curriculum. They are often project-related. We do ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions towards the cost of these trips as no other funds are available for this purpose. However. if parents/carers are not able to meet the cost involved you are asked to contact the Headteacher as **no child will** be excluded because his/her parents/carers are unable to pay. (The full policy on charging and remissions has been drawn up by the Governors, and is available from school.)



We are very grateful to parents/carers who volunteer to help out on school trips. On most visits the teacher in charge will allocate a small group of children to each adult. Please note that parents/carers will not usually be asked to supervise their own child. Parents/carers who would like to help on trips are asked to contact the office for information about completing the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check.

#### PASTORAL CARE

Children are cared for, primarily, by their class teacher/s, with support from the Headteacher and other staff. We believe that a strong home/school relationship is fundamental to pastoral care. Parents/carers and carers are always welcome in school to discuss any problems. Please let us know if there are any circumstances that may affect your child's happiness. Our Pastoral and Wellbeing lead is able to support staff and families and signpost/facilitate resources and support.

## The level of care the school provides is very good

Ofsted Jan 2014

#### **COMMUNITY LINKS**

We have close links with the local churches, local schools in the South York MAT and other community groups. We welcome visitors from the community to share their experiences with the children. Our pupils are encouraged to play an active part in the community e.g. through carol singing to local elderly residents and fundraising for local, national and international charities. Our weekly newsletter, the Wheldrake with Thorganby Gazette is also used to share community news.

#### PERSONALISED LEARNING

We are an inclusive school supporting all children's needs and abilities, including the most able, gifted or talented.

If a child experiences difficulty and needs extra help they will usually be taught within the normal classroom setting, sometimes with additional support from one of our team of experienced teaching assistants. Some pupils may also be withdrawn for specialised individual or small group help. We sometimes set additional homework to address children's specific difficulties and we greatly appreciate the support that parents/carers can give with this.

Our Special Educational Needs and Disability policy is based on the latest Special Needs Code of Practice and has a staged approach to the identification of pupils with Special Needs. Our experienced Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) can be contacted through school. Where appropriate, and in consultation with parents/carers, we may seek the help of other professionals who specialise in supporting children with learning or behavioural difficulties. Parents/carers will be involved and kept fully informed at each stage.

The Governors have nominated a governor, Mrs B Urwin, to have responsibility for Special Needs and Disability provision.

#### **HOMEWORK**

We developed our homework policy in consultation with parents/carers, and the amount and frequency of the homework varies according to the age of the child. At the beginning of each year class teachers will publish a timetable for their own class, setting out how much homework the children will be asked to complete, which days it will be set and when written assignments should be returned to school. Activities are related to the topics that the children are studying that half term and we hope that children and parents/carers will enjoy extending their learning further.

We greatly value the time and effort that parents/carers put in to supporting their child's learning. There are many ways in which you can help such as reading to your child, hearing them read, playing number or word games, baking with them, practising spelling and helping them learn their number tables. Please contact the teacher if you would like ideas on working at home with your child - it can be lots of fun!

#### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

In accordance with the 1988 Education Act, all children take part in a daily act of Collective Worship which is of a broadly Christian nature. The school is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school and a member of the local clergy/ lay reader leads a weekly act of collective worship.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from religious education and/or collective worship and they are asked to notify the Headteacher in writing should they wish to do so.

#### SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

We have special assemblies each Friday when we celebrate pupils' achievements. Parents/carers may send in certificates/medals to celebrate children's achievements out of school, in activities such as music and sport. We have celebrated everything from Blue Peter badges to scuba diving!

Every class leads one assembly a year when parents/carers are invited to join us and see some of the work the children have been doing. These are popular events and you are encouraged to come early to get a seat!

#### **CHILDREN'S PROGRESS**

Assessment of children's knowledge and understanding is important so that we can plan their future learning.

During the Reception year children are closely observed so that we can build up a clear picture of their social and academic development. At the end of the year this information is used to complete a Foundation Stage Profile for each child.

In Key Stage One and Two children's progress is assessed by their class teachers throughout the year, backed up by occasional tests. There are national assessments that we are required to undertake. Children in Year 1 take the national phonics assessment in June. Pupils in Years 2 are assessed by their teachers and use KS1 SATS papers to aid this. In Year 4 there is a multiplication screening for pupils. Year 6 pupils complete statutory end of Key Stage Tests (SATs) in May.

Formal parent consultation evenings are held twice a year, in the Autumn and Spring terms. These meetings focus on children's progress against the individual targets that have been set for them, as well as their general well-being. Towards the end of each school year parents/carers will also receive a full written report of progress, including the results of any statutory tests. In the Summer Term we hold an open afternoon where parents/carers may come and see their child/children's work, speak to the teachers and go to visit the classroom and teacher that their child will be with in the following September.

Parents/carers/carers will always be informed if we have any major concerns about their child, and we hope you will contact us if you notice any problems at home. Meetings with the class teacher can be arranged before or after school, and the Headteacher is usually also available during the day. Unless the matter is very urgent we would ask parents/carers to call in or ring to make an appointment with the member of staff they wish to see. Thank you.

## "Attainment and progress in core subjects for all pupils, including vulnerable, are in line with or above national average."

SIAMS inspection May 2019

#### **BEHAVIOUR REGULATION**

We encourage and expect good behaviour. Simple school rules enable the school community to live and work together successfully and it is expected that each child will show care, consideration and respect for the other members of the school. We recognise that understanding our emotions is a key aspect of understanding and managing behaviour. Through emotion coaching and being attachment aware, both children and adults are able to both manage their behaviour and to create an environment that is conducive to learning. We understand that part of our role, in partnership with home, is to help pupils to understand what is right and wrong.

Where a child's behaviour causes serious concern parents/carers will always be informed so that we can tackle any problems together. Copies of our full Behaviour Regulation Policy are available from school on request. Or may be seen on our school website.

It is most helpful if parents/carers can inform school of any factors at home which may be causing distress or worry to a child, so that any resultant changes in behaviour can be dealt with appropriately and with understanding.

### Pupils are very friendly and polite; they work together well and are kind to others. They say that they feel safe and that they are looked after well.

Ofsted Jan 2014

#### PARENTS/CARERS

We are grateful for the active support of parents/carers many of whom give freely of their time and skills to help in the classroom and on whom we depend for many of our out of school activities and visits. Volunteers are always welcome! Please ask in school for information about the necessary DBS checks.

All parents/carers are automatically members of the PTA who organise a wide range of social and fund-raising events that we hope you are able to support. Their assistance is invaluable in providing additional books and equipment for the benefit of all our pupils.

#### Section 3 - PRACTICAL INFORMATION

#### **<u>UNIFORM</u>** Please see attached sheets.

Sweatshirts printed with the school logo, bookbags, water bottles and PE bags are available to buy from School Shop (online or from the shop in Elvington), but items without a logo can be purchased from high street retailers or supermarkets. The PTA has some items of nearly new clothing.

Jewellery and make up should not be worn in school. If a child has pierced ears, only sleepers or studs

should be worn and these must be removed during P.E. to prevent injury to the wearer and to other pupils. If children are unable to remove studs from newly pierced ears they must bring tape to cover the earrings to prevent injury, either to themselves or other pupils. For this reason, we ask parents/carers to delay having their children's ears pierced until the beginning of the summer holiday which allows time for the ears to heal, and for the child to learn to take out and replace earrings themselves.



#### PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

#### **VALUABLES**

Children are not encouraged to bring items of value to school as we cannot accept responsibility for personal possessions. We do not allow pupils to use mobile phones or other personal electronic equipment on the premises.

#### **LUNCHES**

Freshly cooked meals, including vegetarian options, are prepared daily in the school kitchen. Menus are planned to encourage healthy eating and comply with the latest food standards, and can be adapted to cater for special dietary requirements. Payments for meals may be on a half-termly or weekly basis - please contact the office for current prices. Online payments are made via ParentPay. New parents/carers will be sent information to register to use this

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free meal. If you think your older child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact the office for an application form. All such matters are dealt with in strict confidence and we can give you information which may help you apply. If you are eligible for free school meals we would encourage you to apply even if your child chooses to bring a packed lunch. The school receives additional funding in its annual budget for each pupil who is registered as eligible for free

meals regardless of take up, and it saves time for you if your child suddenly decides they want to have hot dinners!

#### PACKED LUNCHES

Children may prefer to bring a packed lunch - please ensure all lunch boxes are clearly named. All the children sit together at tables in the hall at lunchtime, regardless of whether they have a hot meal or a packed lunch and are supervised by our lunchtime staff. For safety reasons parents/carers are requested not to send in glass containers, hot food in thermos flasks, or knives. Please be aware that we are a nut free school.

#### **HEALTHY EATING**

As part of a government scheme pupils in the Reception and Key Stage One classes receive a free portion of fruit or vegetable at playtime each morning. Key Stage 2 pupils are allowed to bring in a piece of fruit or raw vegetable as a playtime snack.

Children are encouraged to drink plenty of water during the day. Each child can bring a small water bottle (or we can provide them if required) and they can refill these from the taps in the classrooms as necessary.

#### **HOLIDAYS**

Absence from school can be very disruptive to your child's education and the law (September 2013) prevents parents/carers from taking family holidays during term time. If there is an exceptional circumstance for an absence, a form is available from the school office which must be completed giving dates for which your child will be absent and requesting authorisation for the absence. Attendance data is closely monitored by the Local Authority (LA) and MAT and any absence which is unexplained or taken without permission will be recorded as unauthorised and fines may be issued by the LA.

#### **ILLNESS AND MEDICINES**

When children have to be absent from school because of illness please let us know as soon as possible – a quick telephone call is appreciated. When they return to school we will also need a written note explaining the reason for the absence, as we have to keep detailed records of all absences and without this they will have to be recorded as unauthorised. Thank you.

- In cases of sickness and/or diarrhoea we ask that children are kept at home until <u>48 hours after the</u> <u>symptoms have ended</u>. This is inline with public health guidance.
- If your child is well enough to return to school but it is essential that they still take medicine during the day, parents/carers may come in to school and administer their children's medication by arrangement with the Headteacher. If necessary, we are able to administer **prescribed** medicines in line with school policy, but complete written and signed instructions from parent/carer are required (forms are available from the school office). Medicines will not be accepted anywhere in school without prior agreement of the Headteacher. Non-prescribed medicines cannot be administered by staff.
- If your child suffers from a medical condition which requires regular medication, such as diabetes, please come and talk to the Headteacher and special arrangements will be put in place.
- Parents/carers of children with <u>asthma</u> are asked to let us know about their child's condition and keep us informed of any changes. Inhalers should always be easily available for children to access and are usually kept either by the child themselves or in the bottom drawer of the teacher's desk, depending on the age of child and type of inhaler.
- Children should not bring any other medicines to school, including cough sweets or throat lozenges.

Basic First Aid may be given in cases of minor accidents: All staff have regular emergency First Aid training and the trained First Aiders for the school are Mrs Butterfield and Mrs Hall. If we are at all concerned about a child we will contact you.

## IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER WHERE YOU, OR AN APPOINTED CONTACT PERSON, CAN BE REACHED.

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

It is essential that you notify the school of any change in your address, place of work, e mail address, or telephone number so that our school records can be kept up-to-date. Please make sure that we have contact numbers in case your child is taken ill.



## We hope that your child has a happy time at our school.

## Our School Uniform

Our school uniform is gender neutral. This is to ensure that all children are able to wear the uniform that they are most comfortable and confident in. A gender neutral uniform is equal in cost and is more sustainable as it gives more opportunities for uniform to be reused. If you have any second hand uniform items that you would like to donate, please contact us.

## Daily Uniform

Purple sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo.

Trousers, skirts, culottes, shorts or pinafore dresses in black/navy/grey, gingham dresses in purple.

Shirt, blouse or collared t-shirt in white or purple.

Plain socks, tights and leggings in black/navy/grey.

Smart shoes or boots in black/navy/grey, practical sandals with ankle straps at request as opened toes.\*

\*Children's shoes or sandals should be appropriate for school wear ie. suitable for them to run and play safely.

## <u>PE Kit</u>

Plain tshirt in white.

Sports shorts, tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings in black/navy/grey with minimal branding.

Trainers or plimsolls suitable for indoor and outdoor PE.

Named bag to keep PE kit in.

\*At the moment the children are attending school in their PE kit instead of their uniform on their PE days.

## Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name.

## P.E. CLOTHES

The following guidelines for suitable clothing and footwear during PE lessons have been devised with the safety and comfort of all pupils in mind.

#### Indoor PE including gymnastics, dance, and games

- Long hair should be tied back so as not to obscure vision. (girls and boys)
- All jewellery, watches, hard hair bands and hair clips should be removed. If they fall off such items can be dangerous.
- **Children who have pierced ears** should remove and replace studs before and after lessons because of the risk to themselves and other pupils. If they have recently had ears pierced, please supply plasters/tape to cover them.

 Children will normally take part in gymnastics, dance and apparatus work in bare feet but because the hall is used as a thoroughfare for access to other parts of the building you may opt to send plimsolls for use during these activities. <u>Please note, stiff soled trainers are not</u> <u>suitable for indoor use and plimsolls which are worn outside should not be used indoors.</u> Children should not borrow other people's footwear.

#### Outdoor PE including games and outdoor activities.

- **Pupils may take part in outdoor PE lessons** throughout the year. Pupils will need to bring appropriate clothing which may include a tracksuit or old jumper to provide extra warmth. Trainers will be necessary for outdoor use, these are in addition to plimsolls or other soft soled PE shoes which they may have for indoor use only. A spare pair of socks in their PE bag may also be useful. (Please note that children attending after school football clubs will need football boots and shin pads.)
- As storage space is very limited it is most helpful if PE bags are kept as small as possible and can be hung on the pegs provided. Large sports bags can be a hazard in the cloakrooms.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL ITEMS ARE NAMED