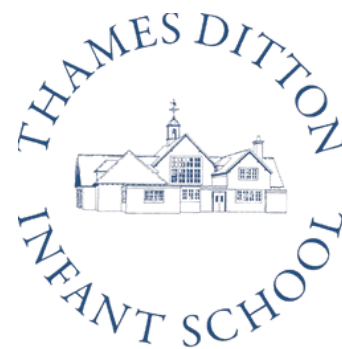




PROSPECTUS 2026/27



THAMES DITTON INFANT SCHOOL

Loving Learning and Growing Together

Headteacher Mrs E. Leach N.P.Q.H.

www.thames-ditton-infant.surrey.sch.uk

WELCOME TO THAMES DITTON INFANT SCHOOL!

It is a great honour to serve as the Headteacher of such a vibrant and caring school community, and I am excited to introduce you to what makes our school so special.

At Thames Ditton Infant School, we provide a nurturing and inspiring environment where every child can grow, learn, and thrive. We believe that the early years of education lay the foundation for future success in life, and we work hard to ensure that each child receives the individual attention, encouragement, and support they need to flourish.

Our priority is to make every child feel safe, happy, and included. Together with parents, we aim to create a strong partnership that supports every child's development and helps them achieve their potential.

Our curriculum is designed to spark curiosity and foster a love of learning, with a strong focus on developing key skills, creativity, and social and emotional awareness. We greatly value the importance of learning through play and exploration; whether in the classroom or outdoor, we ensure our children enjoy a broad, enriching, and enjoyable school experience.

I am incredibly proud to lead experienced and talented staff. From our support staff to our teaching and leadership teams, everyone works tirelessly to deliver our vision for every child to become a 5-star learner, able to:

1. appropriately express feelings and needs.
2. read to understand sentences.
3. recognise quantities and manipulate numbers to solve mathematical problems.
4. enquire about the world around them.
5. name something that they believe they are good at.

I warmly invite you to visit us and see for yourself the positive and welcoming atmosphere we are so proud of at Thames Ditton Infant School. I look forward to working with you and your children to ensure a bright and successful future.

With kind regards,
Elspeth Leach
Headteacher



WHY CHOOSE US

Thames Ditton Infant School has been part of our village since 1865. We are proud of our long history, but we are equally proud of the happy, welcoming school we are today — a place where children are encouraged to be curious, confident and excited about learning.

As a two-form entry infant school, we are fortunate to have a strong sense of community. We get to know our children and families well, and we work closely together to make sure every child feels safe, valued and supported. From their first day with us, we want children to feel that they belong, that their voice matters and that they can be themselves.

We have high expectations for every child and encourage them to take pride in what they do, persevere when things are tricky and celebrate their own achievements as well as those of others. Our curriculum gives children plenty of opportunities to explore, ask questions, develop their independence and discover the things they enjoy and are good at.

Our children also have plenty of space to learn and play outdoors. Our large front field, including our AstroTurf area, gives children space for sport, games and outdoor activities throughout the year. Behind the school, our playground and additional all-weather play area provide even more opportunities to run, play, explore and enjoy being together.

We want children to leave Thames Ditton Infant School not only having made great progress in their learning, but also feeling confident, capable and ready for their next adventure.

We want children to feel that they belong, that their voice matters and that they can be themselves."



OUR VISION

Thames Ditton Infant School – TDIS

T – Thrive

We create a nurturant and supportive environment where our children feel safe, valued, and ready to thrive in all areas of school life.

D – Discover

Through play, exploration, and rich learning experiences, we encourage every child to discover their passions, talents, and the joy of learning

I – Inspire

We inspire young minds by modelling kindness, creativity, and a love of learning – sparking curiosity that lasts a lifetime

S – Succeed

We believe success is personal. We celebrate progress, build confidence, and help every child succeed



LOVING LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER

OUR VALUES

We are:

HONEST

INDEPENDENT

RESILIENT

We show:

KINDNESS

RESPECT

CO-OPERATION

OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING

At Thames Ditton Infant School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We expect every member of staff and all volunteers to share this commitment.

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibilities to protect the wellbeing of all pupils. Our aim is to provide a safe, welcoming and supportive environment where every child is respected, valued and listened to. We remain vigilant to the signs of abuse and neglect and have robust procedures in place to support and protect children.

Child protection is a vital part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. We have a comprehensive Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which all staff, including supply staff, volunteers and governors, are required to familiarise themselves with.

Our Safeguarding Team is led by the Headteacher and includes members of the Senior Leadership Team and designated safeguarding staff. Together, they oversee safeguarding and child protection across all areas of school life.

Safeguarding at Acorns

Our Acorns Wraparound Childcare Provision extends our commitment to safeguarding beyond the school day, providing a safe and nurturing environment for children attending our breakfast and after-school provision.

All Acorns staff undergo the appropriate safeguarding checks, including Enhanced DBS checks, and receive training in playwork and childcare. They also undertake ongoing training covering key areas including safeguarding, child protection, behaviour management, child supervision and activity delivery.

Our Acorns Manager and Deputy Managers are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs) and play an important role in supporting safeguarding arrangements within Acorns. They work closely with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and wider Safeguarding Team to ensure that any concerns are identified and responded to appropriately.

Our [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#) is available on our website.



**Keeping children
safe is everyone's
responsibility**

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)



At Thames Ditton Infant School, our aim is to ignite a love of learning and provide an inspiring, rich and engaging curriculum that enables every child to thrive.

Throughout the year, we provide exciting learning opportunities that encourage children to develop as confident, cooperative and independent learners. We offer a wide range of real-life experiences that make children's time in Reception memorable, meaningful and fun. These have included a 'trip abroad', creating our own dinosaur museum and hatching ducklings. We even have our very own Glastonbury-inspired festival, 'Receptionbury', during the summer term!

Our EYFS area is separate from the Key Stage 1 classrooms and has a shared outdoor learning space, carefully zoned to support the curriculum. The children have access to a mud kitchen, dedicated areas for maths and literacy, a creative area, construction area, sand and water area, and a physical development area.

During morning and afternoon learning, children are able to access these spaces freely, moving between the classrooms and outdoor areas and choosing from a range of activities and learning opportunities.

Our EYFS Curriculum

We follow the EYFS curriculum, which is organised into seven areas of learning.

The three Prime Areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

These are supported and developed through the four Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning underpin all areas of the curriculum. They help us understand how children learn and develop as they play, explore, create and engage with new experiences.

We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised phonics programme, and reading is at the heart of learning in Reception. We foster a love of books and stories from the very beginning, helping children to develop the skills and confidence they need to become enthusiastic, independent readers.

Our maths teaching follows a mastery approach, supporting children to develop a deep understanding of number and mathematical concepts and building their confidence from an early age.



CURRICULUM & LEARNING

Our Curriculum

At Thames Ditton Infant School, we want children to develop a genuine love of learning, discover their interests and grow into confident, independent learners.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and engaging, giving children opportunities to explore, ask questions, make connections and develop their knowledge and skills. Learning takes place in many different ways — as a whole class, in small groups, with a partner or independently — with teachers providing the right level of challenge and support for every child.

We use a wide range of high-quality fiction and non-fiction books to bring topics to life and encourage children to read widely. Our curriculum also makes the most of our outdoor spaces and the local area, giving children opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and connect their learning to the world around them.

Supporting Every Child

We recognise that every child is different and that children may need different kinds of support as they learn and develop. Alongside high-quality classroom teaching, we provide additional support where needed, helping children to build confidence and make progress in areas such as reading, writing, mathematics, communication and social skills.

Our aim is for every child to feel successful, develop their independence and enjoy their learning journey with us.

[Find out more](#)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPORT AND WELLBEING

At Thames Ditton Infant School, we want every child to develop a love of being active and understand the importance of physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Our PE programme gives children opportunities to develop their physical skills, coordination, teamwork, confidence and resilience through a wide range of activities.

Alongside our structured PE lessons, children take part in our Daily Mile, encouraging everyone to be active each day. We also work with external sports coaches and providers to introduce children to a variety of sports, including cricket, tennis and football.

Our annual Sports Day is a highlight of the school year, bringing the whole school together to celebrate being active, develop confidence and enjoy taking part.

We also hold an annual Wellbeing Week, giving children the opportunity to explore different ways of looking after their physical and mental wellbeing. Activities have included crazy golf, rock climbing, yoga and mindfulness, providing children with new experiences while encouraging them to have fun, try something different and discover ways to support their own wellbeing.

Our annual Mini Marathon, inspired by the London Marathon, is another much-loved event. Children take on their own age-appropriate running or walking challenge, celebrating perseverance, participation and the enjoyment of being active together.



Our Active Surrey Star Mark recognises our commitment to making physical activity, sport and wellbeing an important part of school life.

SCHOOL HOUSES

Our House System is a special part of life at Thames Ditton Infant School, bringing children together across the school and creating a strong sense of belonging, teamwork and friendly competition.

Our four houses — Burton, Lambert, Speer and Picton — are named after people who have played an important part in the history of our local community. Through assemblies and house activities, our Key Stage 1 children discover more about these individuals and the part they played in our village's heritage.



From Reception onwards, children become part of their house and have plenty of opportunities to work together, support one another and celebrate each other's achievements. Children earn house points for effort, achievement, kindness and positive behaviour, with points contributing to the friendly competition between houses.

In Year 2, children have the opportunity to become House Captains, taking on a leadership role and acting as positive role models for younger pupils. They help to inspire their house, encourage others and contribute to school life.

Our house colours are also part of our PE uniform, giving children a visible sense of belonging to their house.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform gives children a sense of belonging and pride in being part of Thames Ditton Infant School. We ask that all clothing and belongings are clearly named.

Our every day uniform includes:

- White polo shirt with school logo
- Navy skirt, pinafore or trousers
- Navy V-neck jumper or cardigan with school logo
- Grey, white or navy socks/tights
- Black or navy school shoes
- Light blue and white gingham dress (summer)
- White polo shirt with grey shorts (summer)

Our PE kit includes:

- School polo shirt in your child's house colour
- Plain navy shorts or joggers
- Dark, plain trainers

Logo items can be purchased through our uniform suppliers, while many plain items can be bought from other retailers.

The Friends of Thames Ditton Infant School also run monthly second hand uniform sales.

For the full uniform list and ordering information, please visit [our website](#).



SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At Thames Ditton Infant School, we are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment where every child is valued, supported and able to thrive. We work to identify and remove barriers to learning so that all children, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can access the curriculum, participate fully in school life and make progress from their individual starting points.

Our Approach

Quality First Teaching is at the heart of our approach to supporting all learners. Teachers use a range of teaching strategies, resources and adaptations to make learning accessible and appropriately challenging for every child.

We recognise that children develop at different rates and that some children may need additional support at different points in their education. Where a child is identified as having additional needs, we work closely with the child, their parents or carers and, where appropriate, external professionals to understand their needs and put appropriate support in place.

A child may be identified as having SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which requires special educational provision. Some children join us with identified needs, while others may be identified during their time at school.

Areas of SEND

The SEND Code of Practice identifies four broad areas of need:

- Communication and interaction – including difficulties with speech, language, communication or social interaction.
- Cognition and learning – including difficulties with acquiring and applying knowledge and skills.
- Social, emotional and mental health – including difficulties with emotional wellbeing, relationships, social interaction or behaviour.
- Sensory and/or physical – including needs relating to hearing, vision or physical development.

A child's needs may fall within one or more of these areas.

Working with Families

We believe that working in partnership with parents and carers is an important part of supporting children with SEND. We listen to families, share information and work together to identify appropriate strategies and support. Our Deputy Headteacher for Inclusion and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) leads our SEND provision. They work closely with teachers, families and external professionals to ensure that children's needs are identified and appropriately supported.

THE NEST: OUR SPECIALIST PROVISION FOR COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION NEEDS

The Nest is our Specialist Local Authority Provision for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a primary diagnosis of autism.

Opened in partnership with Surrey County Council in 2024, The Nest provides specialist support for children whose needs may not be fully met within a mainstream classroom environment alone.

The provision offers a carefully structured and supportive learning environment, enabling children to access the curriculum through approaches and adaptations that meet their individual needs.

We recognise and celebrate neurodiversity and aim to support every child to develop their confidence, independence and enjoyment of learning.

Admissions to The Nest

Admissions to The Nest are coordinated by Surrey County Council's SEND Department through a consultation process.

Places are allocated to children who meet the criteria for the provision. If you believe your child may benefit from The Nest, please discuss this with your child's EHCP caseworker, who can advise you on the appropriate next steps.

Parents and carers cannot apply directly to the school for a place at The Nest.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Learning doesn't stop when the school day ends. At Thames Ditton Infant School, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities, giving children opportunities to discover new interests, develop new skills and, most importantly, have fun.

Our programme changes throughout the year and includes a variety of sporting, creative, musical and language-based activities. Children can try something new, develop an existing interest or simply enjoy spending time with friends doing something they love.

Our clubs have included **football, tennis, cricket, yoga, art, pottery, dance, music, languages** and more, with opportunities available for different ages and interests.

We work with a range of specialist club providers to bring new experiences into school and give our children the chance to learn from people with a passion for what they do.

Whether they are discovering a new talent, building confidence, learning a new skill or simply having fun, our extra-curricular programme adds another dimension to school life.

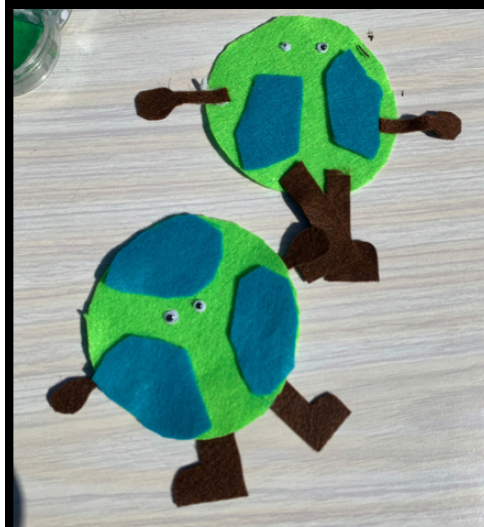


THE STUDIO

Our dedicated space for creativity, movement and new experiences
Our dedicated Studio provides a purpose-designed space for many of our
specialist activities throughout the year.

Children can enjoy classes such as ballet, yoga, pottery and dance,
alongside a range of other creative and physical activities.

ACORNS: OUR WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE AND HOLIDAY CAMP





Acorns is our own wraparound provision, led by our experienced Thames Ditton Infant School staff. From breakfast through to after-school care, children can enjoy a welcoming, familiar environment with plenty of opportunities to play, socialise, get creative and try new things.

Breakfast Club opens from 7:15am, giving children a relaxed start to the day with a nutritious breakfast and time to play with friends.

After-school Club runs from 3:00pm to 6:15pm, with high tea, games, creative activities and plenty of time to play and have fun.

During the school holidays, Acorns Holiday Camp is open to our school families and the wider community. Children can enjoy themed activity days, outdoor games, crafts, baking, pottery and visits from specialist coaches and animal experts.

With familiar staff and a strong focus on safeguarding, Acorns provides children with a fun, caring and familiar environment before, after and during the school holidays.

For more information on booking, activities and menus please visit our [Acorns' webpage](#).

Breakfast Club

A great start to the day

- ✓ Open from 7:15am
- ✓ Nutritious breakfast
- ✓ Time to socialise and play
- ✓ Supervised by our fully trained school staff

Fuel for a great day!

After-school Club

Play, unwind, discover

- ✓ Runs from 3:00pm to 6:15pm
- ✓ High tea included
- ✓ Indoor and outdoor activities
- ✓ Games, crafts and more
- ✓ Led by our school staff

Time to be you!

Acorns Holiday Camp

School holidays, but with plenty going on!

- ✓ Open to school families and the wider community
- ✓ Fantastic programme of activities
- ✓ Specialist visitors and workshops
- ✓ Outdoor games, team challenges, crafts and more
- ✓ Run by our experienced school staff

New Friends
New Adventures

Why families choose Acorns

Familiar school environment
 Experienced and trusted staff
 Strong safeguarding culture
 Creative and active experiences
 Opportunities to build friendships
 Flexible childcare for busy families

ADMISSIONS

Thames Ditton Infant school has a Pupil Admissions Number (PAN) of 60. This means we admit a maximum of 60 children into Reception each September.

The governing body of Thames Ditton Infant School is the admissions authority for our school and is supported by Surrey County Council who manages the admission arrangements for them.

To find up to date information about the school's admission arrangements; details on how to apply, either as part of the normal intake or during the school year, and information on how to appeal, please visit the Surrey County Council website www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

All applications for school places should be made through the Surrey County Council school admissions department before the closing date.

Applications can only be made the academic year before your child reaches their 5th birthday.

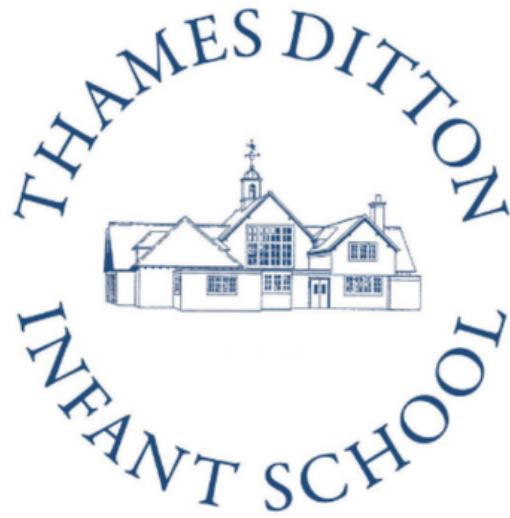
If your child's birthday is between:

1st Sept 2022 - 31st August 2023 – start school Sept 2027

1st Sept 2023 - 31st August 2024 – start school Sept 2028

More information regarding the criteria that places are offered can be found in our admissions policy on the [school website](#).





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