



Offa's Mead Academy

To make our best better



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Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Thank you for your interest in Offa's Mead.

Getting the best start in education is so important. We create a safe, happy and caring environment, where all children are valued, encouraged and supported to achieve their best in all areas of learning and development, whatever their individual needs. As part of the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) we strive always 'To make our best better'.

We are lucky to have a talented, caring, committed and enthusiastic team of staff and Governors, who work together to provide our children and their families with a range of exciting and engaging learning opportunities to help them become independent, confident lifelong learners.

This prospectus will give you a glimpse into Offa's Mead's life. We hope you find it useful but if you require any further information, have any questions or would like a Guided Tour from our knowledgeable Upper KS2 children, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Mrs Clare Greene

Head Teacher



Grounds and Facilities

We are extremely fortunate to have a spacious site, including:

- ✓ brand new, secure outdoor learning area
- ✓ Library
- ✓ ICT suite
- ✓ Smart boards in every class
- ✓ Quad for learning through play
- ✓ a humungous field
- ✓ playground with trim trail, monkey bars and an Ark!
- ✓ we even have our very own forest!
- ✓ Nurture room, or the Cwtch- meaning safe place, with chill out space and kitchen, where children learn valuable life and social skills. It truly is a tranquil place.

These facilities are well used in all aspects of School life and benefit our learning community.



Celebration of Achievement

We provide opportunities for our children beyond the academic aspects including a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs:

- ✓ ICT
- ✓ Choir
- ✓ Football
- ✓ Rounders
- ✓ Athletics
- ✓ Netball
- ✓ COOL club
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Tag Rugby
- ✓ Drama



Children's individual achievements are celebrated through colourful vibrant displays, helping too create a positive learning environment. We also have a fun-filled, weekly Celebration Assembly.

Children can receive:

- Writer of the Week- trophy, writing journal and pencil
- Handwriter of the week- medal
- Reading Certificates
- The Offa's- Academy awards- Certificates for effort, achievement or behaviour
- Artist of the term- receives Art materials
- Mathematician of the week- calculator or playing cards

We also celebrate out of school achievements such as swimming, martial arts and Brownies.

We earn extra Golden Time on a Friday if we beat our current Academy attendance target of 95%

Care, Guidance and Support

Taking care of our children and encouraging them to develop a positive attitude is an essential element of the work we do at Offa's Mead.

We value and respect the views of the children. The Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) give the children a voice to express their opinions and make decisions which affect the whole school. For example, choosing books to purchase after our fundraising. The PLT are easily recognisable by their pale blue jumpers.

We encourage our children to care for each other. Upper KS2 children are trained as Peer Mediators (who resolve any difficulties in the playground), Reception Buddies (to help the transition to 'big' school) and as Yellow Caps (who organise play and lunchtime games with our new equipment) We also encourage work across classes- writing for younger audiences and joining together for drama activities or to play Maths games.

We develop the whole child, including the use of the SEAL programme (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) to develop their emotional skills.



Inclusion



We are currently in the process of applying for the Inclusion Quality Mark award to celebrate our work in providing a fully inclusive learning community. Our established Nurture room runs for two days a week for pupils who require additional emotional, behavioural or social support. Counselling sessions are available for children and parents who need a trained professional to talk to, as well as access to our Family Support Worker. Our last OFSTED recognised the impact that this has had.

The nurture room provides a supportive and caring environment for pupils who need additional help and encouragement. It is a strong feature of the school's work, a calm haven that supports pupils who may feel particularly vulnerable at certain times.

Behaviour

Our positive behaviour system uses a range of strategies, including our Ladder of Intervention. This has different levels.

Level 1 Non-verbal/ Praise

Level 2 Remind & Redirect

Level 3 Warning and Intervention

Level 4 Choices and Consequences.

We also use Golden Time on Friday Afternoons with fun activities as a reward as well as TEAM points to be collected to earn extra play. Classes can earn trophies for best attendance and the smartest line. Sanctions include loss of Golden Time, Chill out chair in class or time out in an other class where there is persistent unacceptable behaviour.



Academy Routines

Day Begins	8:55 a.m.
Registration	9:00 a.m.
Assembly	10:45 a.m. (9:05 a.m. Mondays)
Break	11-11:15 a.m.
Lunch	12:30-1:30 p.m.
FS and KS1 play	2:30-2:45 p.m.
Academy finishes	3:15 p.m.

Our current class structure is Reception, Y1/2, Y2/3, Y3/4/5, Y5/6

Assemblies and Collective Worship

As a broadly Christian School we say our School Prayer during Assemblies and say our very own Lunchtime Prayer as a class before eating. Local Church members also visit us every fortnight to share Bible stories. Assemblies enable us to come together as a school and further support the children's personal, social, emotional, cultural, moral and spiritual development.

Healthy Eating

Children in Reception and KS1 receive a free piece of fruit during the morning. We also sell toast and fruit at break-times. We are committed to maintaining our Healthy Schools Award so we ask that Parents support us by providing healthy, balanced lunchboxes. We also ask that only healthy snacks are provided for break-time. Please contact the Academy Office for more information for those families entitled to free school meals and how to order milk for your child.



Learning and Teaching

We run a Creative Curriculum, making the most of links between subjects and providing opportunities for children to apply their skills. We plan and deliver History, Geography and PSHCE themes as well as focus weeks across the Academy for Science, RE, Art and DT.

Some of our theme titles are below:

- Bears, Bears, Everywhere
- Survival of the Fittest
- A Glint of Gold

Literacy, Maths and Guided Reading are taught everyday as well as extra Maths Burst, Writing Skills and STOP! Grammar time sessions where needed. We think of ourselves as a Writing and Maths school but recently we have focused on improving reading through **DEAR-Drop Everything And Read**. We also develop speaking and listening and problem solving skills.

We are lucky enough to have an interactive SMART board in every classroom as well as an ICT suite all with Internet access. We also have 6 iPads but are looking to purchase more!



Academy Uniform

The uniform is part of our home/ Academy agreement.
We believe a uniform allows children to feel equal and instils a feeling of discipline, security and respect and adds to our positive atmosphere of learning.

Uniforms carrying the logo (designed by pupils) are available to order from the Mapac website.

Black or grey trousers or skirts.
White polo shirts or button up shirts
Purple jumpers or cardigans
School shoes- please no trainers.

Also during Summer Terms

Black or grey shorts
Purple Summer dresses
Sandals but no flip flops for health and safety reasons
Hats for playtimes and PE sessions to protect from the sun



PE kit

Plain white T-shirt
Black, blue or grey shorts
or jogging bottoms
Daps or trainers



Please visit www.mapaconline.com to order uniform



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to visit their website*

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



We work closely with Penguins Pre-School, Little Scamps and other local Nursery education providers to ensure a happy transition to 'big' school. We have a safe, secure outdoor learning area so Reception children can learn through play.

Our last OFSTED report stated that

There is careful attention to children's welfare and adults establish a positive atmosphere for children to learn and develop. The good relationships are a strong feature and children relate well to one another. Teaching assistants make a strong contribution to children's learning and development. The planning for indoor provision and focused tasks is good.



We plan different themes such as Mini-beasts, Bears, Bears Everywhere and Noah's Ark but we also take a lead from the children's own curiosities. For example, this year, the children have also learnt through Pirates as this was an area of interest; there was even a Pirate Ship in the outdoor learning area!

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.



These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.



These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

OFSTED comments

Before we converted to an Academy, the OFSTED report of the predecessor school stated:

Pupils', parents' and carers' questionnaires show that the overwhelming majority of pupils enjoy school

Teaching is good overall

Pupils' behaviour is good and a strong factor in their learning. They move around the school safely and sensibly and are polite to adults and visitors.

Pupils relate well to one another, cooperate well, and play happily at breaks and lunchtimes

Relationships are good and pupils work well with partners, sharing ideas and supporting one another.

The school is a very caring community.

Successful approaches are in place for managing pupils' behaviour and emotional well-being.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities learn well and make good progress as a result of good support and teaching that is appropriately adapted to their needs.

The school works closely with a range of outside agencies to offer additional guidance and support to pupils.

Finally please visit our website to find out more about OMA

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