

ASPIRE, CREATE, ACHIEVE



MOORINGS WAY
INFANT SCHOOL



WELCOME TO MOORINGS WAY INFANT SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers,

We are very excited to welcome you to one of our Portsmouth Thinking School Academies.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) is a non-profit making charitable trust that has successfully grown over the past few years. The lead academy is the Rochester Grammar School which is not only an outstanding school but has a rich history and inspiring reputation as one of the country's leading grammar schools.

As TSAT has grown our ambition of what we expect to achieve has grown with us. From the outset we have been a cross phase Academy Trust and our success is due to our excellent understanding of thinking, learning and outstanding teaching.

We believe our greatest asset is our children and we are proud of their many achievements and their personal growth. Our pupils develop into responsible, happy and confident young people. Through the high quality of education, they receive and the support and care from home and school working together, they have the best life chances possible.

I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of Moorings Way Infant School and would like to welcome you and your child to our school. Moorings Way Infant School is a happy and friendly school where children's development and learning is at the heart of everything we do. Our committed and experienced staff ensure that children are exposed to learning experiences in which they can flourish, becoming confident and curious lifelong learners, ready for whatever the future holds.

We look forward to working in partnership with you during your child's time at Moorings Way.

Ruth Vonk
Headteacher

OUR ETHOS

We believe that children only thrive when they are happy and feel safe in their environment.

Therefore, all our schools are dedicated to ensuring;

- There are high expectations for every child
- Every lesson matters - they will be exciting which will motivate children to think and learn
- Every child is treated as an individual
- Children learn to play together and work as part of a community, understanding values of mutual respect, tolerance and personal responsibility

At Moorings Way Infant School our vision is to provide an engaging, inspiring and relevant curriculum in which all children make excellent progress and feel valued. All children are taught strategies to support their own cognitive development and encourage independence and problem solving

Staff are determined that every single pupil at Moorings Way will make a strong and confident start to their education.





WHAT IS A THINKING SCHOOL

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is a family of schools that work together to “transform the life chances” of all our children and young people. We share a common mission to nurture successful young people who are confident and can think and act independently.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, Meon Junior School takes pride in the unique approach we take to education: we provide our children with the skills and tools they need to think in a variety of ways and become lifelong learners. We believe that the best way to transform the life chances of our young people and help them achieve their aspirations is by shaping their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education that enables them to become the masters of their own destiny.

Our pupils are equipped with a bank of Thinking Tools designed to prepare them for a range of scenarios, dilemmas, and circumstances that they may face in life as part of modern society. The use of these Tools in our curriculum is supported by scientific and metacognitive research, and pupils are encouraged to apply their tools independently and use them to unlock new ideas. Our Thinking Tools include Thinking Maps, De Bono’s Thinking Hats and Art Costa’s Habits of Mind. These tools are used consistently across all areas of our curriculum and support our children tremendously in their learning and personal growth.

The concept of ‘Being your Best Self’ is also at the heart of our approach to learning at Moorings Way Infant School as part of our Thinking School ethos. Children are encouraged to strive to be and achieve their best and are given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning and work on their personal development.

LEARNING AT MOORINGS WAY

These first years of education, we believe, are vital to develop that love of learning. Our aim is to immerse the children in a curriculum that is exciting, creative and relevant. We teach children the skills of early Reading, Writing and Maths to a high standard through a range of engaging topics. At our school we place a strong emphasis on cross curricular opportunities and feel passionately about the use of outdoor learning to provide an enriched curriculum for the children.

Children will be able to apply the knowledge and skills learned in one subject in a range of contexts which will reinforce their learning. Your child will gain a range of knowledge and skills, following the Early Years Foundation stage Curriculum and then in Years 1 and 2 the National Curriculum, in English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Religious Education, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Emotional Education.

“It is a happy and harmonious community where pupils from a wide and diverse range of backgrounds get on admirably.”

Ofsted





OUR SCHOOL DAY

Every child is personally greeted by one of our staff. We believe this helps to foster good relationships and sets us up for the day. We aim to provide the children with a range of learning opportunities throughout the day.

Our day begins with Read Write Inc. which is one of the tools we use to teach phonics and reading. Typically, children in Years 1 and 2 have English and Maths lessons in the morning. In the afternoon foundation subjects such as Science, Art, and Computing are taught and linked to the topic. In Year R children follow the Early Years curriculum with plenty of opportunities for learning through play, practical exploration and group work. Year R have free-flow access throughout the day to the outdoor classroom.

We have an excellent outdoor space and we believe strongly in using this space to enrich all children's learning. We use the field extensively for sports activities and we have our "Treasure Garden" which we use for den building, exploring wildlife and changes to the seasons.

To help children enjoy their playtimes we offer a range of activities:

- Playground games
- Wide variety of play equipment including bikes, basketball, bats and balls
- Sports coaches

At Moorings Way Infants School, we attach great value to providing the children with as wide a range of extra-curricular activities as possible, including a variety of sports clubs, drama clubs, languages, karate and our choir. We also run a breakfast club from 7:30am and after school club to 6pm.

The school's vision of 'Being Our Best Self' is considered daily.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We welcome parents into school as often as we can to be involved in their child's learning and to attend various events during the academic year.

There are regular opportunities throughout the year for parents to meet with staff to review their child's progress and a detailed written report will be provided half way through the year. We pride ourselves on being very approachable and are always keen to talk about any concerns you might have. We have an open-door policy, so if you have any queries about your child's education, please make an appointment to see the class teacher.

COMMUNITY LINKS

We work closely within education settings in our local community to ensure that all children have access to the very best education in Portsmouth. Many of our children come from local nurseries and preschools and we have several visits, events and meetings to support the transition into school. Meon Infant and Junior school are part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust and we are Meon Junior's feeder school.

"I am extremely confident that my son is in the safest hands and will learn to the best of his ability thanks to the Moorings Way team."
Parent



ALL THROUGH EDUCATION AT THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST

In Portsmouth, we have created a unique offer for parents; the chance for your child to experience an 'all through' educational journey where they stay with the same family of schools.

We have a number of infant/junior and all-through primaries in the city and our secondary school – The Portsmouth Academy. Each of our schools has adapted their admissions policies so that parents get a priority preference, when applying for a place in another thinking school.

To accommodate children in the primary phase carrying their journey on, we changed The Portsmouth Academy into a co-educational school and increased the number of places in Year 7 from 200 to 250, investing millions into new facilities to support these changes.

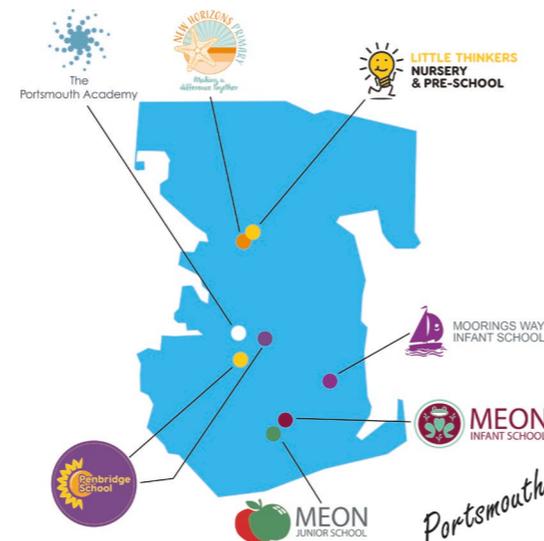
All-through education has many potential benefits for your child. First and foremost, our multi-academy Trust does have a shared approach to teaching children, a language of learning that is taught and then built upon. This consistency helps to accelerate children's progress as they understand what to do, and how to do it. Indeed, developing metacognition right from the early years has been shown to have a massive effect on young people's learning capacity. In addition, the familiarity is reassuring and helps make changing schools easier.

Secondly, our teachers and leaders work really closely together. This means we can design a curriculum that builds on what children already know. Our experienced Headteachers work very closely together to identify and implement strategies that we know will make a massive difference to children's progress in school, confidence and well-being. We are innovative and forward-thinking and work with the local authority to both share our good practice, and also to learn from others beyond our Multi-Academy Trust.

Children see us moving between schools and the continuation of our relationships with them helps them to feel a sense of belonging, security and of being looked after.



Natalie Sheppard
Director of Education - TSAT Portsmouth Schools



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INFANT SCHOOL

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