LEIGH ON MENDIP SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS 2020-2021

Ofsted Outstanding 2009 2010

Silver Eco-Schools Silver Award

SCHOOL GAMES BRONZE 2018/19

FROME LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

MNSP

Leigh on Mendip School
Leigh Street
Leigh on Mendip
Radstock
BA3 5QQ
Tel (01373) 812592
email: office@leighonmendipschool.co.uk
website: www.leighonmendipschool.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the staff and governors of Leigh on Mendip School we would like to welcome you and your child to our school.

We recognise and value the uniqueness of every child, helping all to achieve their best within a happy, secure and creative environment. We aim to teach children to learn skills, knowledge and develop concepts which will enable them to grow into positive, responsible people who can work and co-operate with others and are better equipped for life in today's rapidly changing society.

This is a happy, family school in which we encourage all members of the school to have a caring and considerate attitude towards one another; this strong community spirit is fostered by everyone involved in the school. The school enjoys an excellent reputation for providing a broad and balanced, challenging and creative environment, made possible by our highly committed team of teachers, governors and support staff.

We are also part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, a well-established multi-academy trust which offers us support in terms of curriculum and finance.

We believe in developing a strong partnership with parents and we will encourage your help and involvement in the life of the school. We operate an open door policy and if there is ever any aspect of your child's education that you wish to discuss please come and talk to us – we will always make time to see you.

This booklet is designed to give you a range of information about our school, which we hope you will find useful. For any further information please refer to our website: www.leighonmendipschool.co.uk or telephone/email Sarah Claxton, our school administrator. We are confident that your child's time at Leigh on Mendip School will be happy and rewarding, and prepare them for their next step in their education.

Yours sincerely,

Louisa Phillips

Mrs Louisa Phillips
Head of School

Dan Turull

Mr Dan Turull
Executive Head

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

Staff and governors aim to provide a safe, happy, caring, pleasant and well-ordered environment in which children are encouraged to share the responsibility for their learning. We value every child as an individual as well as an important member of the school. We aim to provide each child with the basic skills he/she needs for work and life.

We believe that every child matters and has the right to:
Keep healthy
Keep safe
Enjoy and achieve
Make a positive contribution
Progress in learning to help them achieve economic well-being in the future.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Being a vibrant and happy, stimulating and safe school
- Giving each child the opportunity to develop independence, self-confidence, self-discipline and self-esteem
- Helping to fulfil each pupil's individual potential
- Promoting empathy
- Planning and delivering a broad, balanced curriculum which meets the needs of the individual within the developing requirements of our school and society
- Providing equal opportunities for all children
- Promoting positive links between home and school
- Organising a range of opportunities where all children can succeed and achieve in creative, environmental, academic, musical and sporting activities

THE GOVERNING BODY

The composition of the Governing Body in accordance with statutory requirements ensures representation from all sections of the community. A Chair of Governors is elected by all the Governors from their membership.

Chairperson	Mr T Schlechter	Director Appointed Governor	
Vice Chairperson	Ms Matilda Bathurst	Director Appointed Governor	
Mrs L Phillips	Headteacher	Mrs E Patton	Staff Governor
Mrs P Branco Layland	Community Governor	Mr M Carter	Community Governor
Mr J Martin	Parent Governor	Mrs M Matthews	Parent Governor

There are currently vacancies for 2 Director Appointed Governors

Clerk Ms S Claxton

THE STAFF

Executive Head	Mr D Turull
Head of School and Swallow Class Teacher	Mrs L Phillips

Teaching Staff

Head's Relief and Swallow Class Teacher	Mrs G Smith
Teaching Assistant	Mrs J Gomes
Starling Class Teacher	Mrs K Bache
Teaching Assistant	Mrs E Patton
Kingfisher Class Teacher	Ms P Stafford
Teaching Assistants	Mrs H Gilson and Mrs S Phelps
Robins Pre School Leader	Mrs P Branco Layland
Assistants	Mrs S Middle and Mrs C Macey
Sports Coach	Mr I Groves
SENDCO	Mrs C Hurley

Support Staff

School Administrator	Ms S Claxton
Clerical Assistant	Miss H Stinchcombe
Lunchtime Supervisors	Mrs F Brook, Mrs S Phelps and Mrs K Pritchard
Caretaker/Cleaner	Mrs L Martin
Maintenance	Mr R Bielby

TIMES OF SCHOOL SESSIONS

Morning Session	8.30 – 12.00
Morning Break	*10.30 - 10.45*
Lunch Break	*12.00 – 1.00*
Afternoon Session	1.00 - 3.15

ACCOMMODATION

Leigh on Mendip School is situated at one end of Leigh on Mendip village. The main building, including the hall, is Victorian with adjacent modern extensions housing our Swallow Class classroom, together with the Lion room, plus offices, toilet facilities and a staffroom.

Robins preschool is sited across the playground and our newly refurbished Elliott building for Kingfisher Class and Starling Class is sited next to the school field.

The buildings have undergone many improvements in recent years. Our grounds are a feature of the school and comprise an upper and lower playground and two fields. The first field boasts an adventure play trail and the second field extends to give plenty of space for our children's garden and our pond with a willow tunnel.

In addition, we are able to walk to our Forest School site at Halecombe Quarry. We also make use of the Memorial Hall and St Giles' Church which are nearby.

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

At this school, the health, safety and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time as pupils at this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution.

Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr D Turull

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Ms P Stafford

ORGANISATION

Preschool children (2-4 years) learn through play in the Robins preschool setting.

Reception children (4-5 years) are taught in Kingfisher Class.

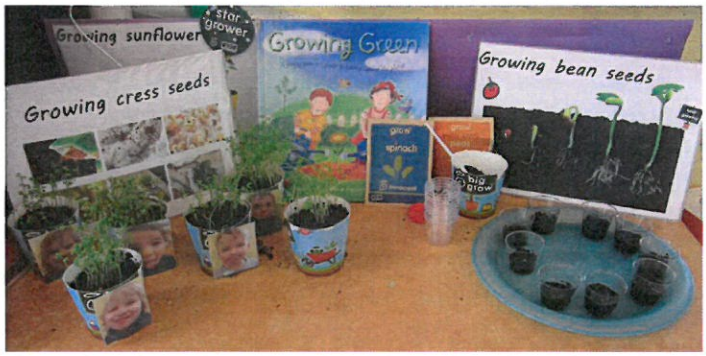
Year 1 and 2 children (5-7 years) are taught in Starling Class.

Years 3, 4 and 5 children (7-10 years) are taught in Swallow Class.

Because of mixed age classes there are always two or more adults (i.e. experienced teachers and teaching assistants) in each class.

ROBINS PRE-SCHOOL

Robins Preschool provides a stimulating, caring and safe environment for children aged 2 to 4 years so that they can explore the world around them, develop relationships with others and build skills through a carefully planned educational programme which encourages learning through play.



STAFF

Paula Branco Layland has an Hons Degree in Early Childhood Studies, SEND. Christine Macey has a NVQ 3 Children's Care, Learning and Development. Sarah Middle has a NVQ 2 Children's Care, Learning and Development. All the staff attend regular training updates and all hold a Paediatric First Aid certificate.

The children in Robins are able to have an excellent and seamless transition to the school's reception class.

SESSION TIMES AND FEES

8.30am - 3pm Monday to Friday (term time only)

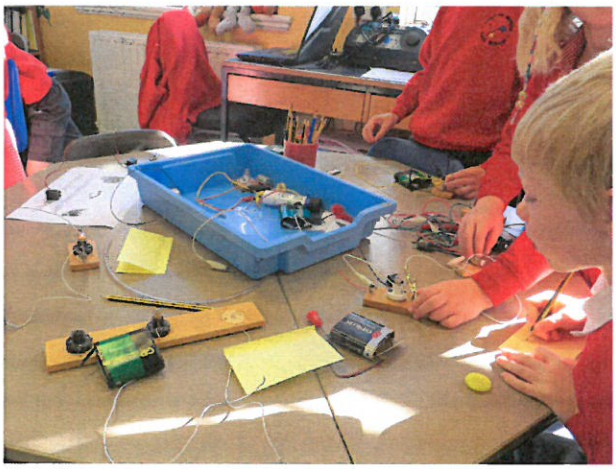
From the term after their third birthday until they start school, your child is entitled to 15 hours free childcare each week, this entitlement can also be extended to qualifying 2 year olds. We will provide an extended entitlement of up to 30 hours free childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. Other fees are charged at £4.75 per hour for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Children in their **Reception Year** will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the regulatory and quality framework for the provision of learning, development and care for children between birth and the academic year in which they turn five. Throughout the EYFS, stress is placed upon understanding each child and their family as unique, with different needs and concerns. Children's progress is mapped within six overlapping phases and takes place in a sympathetic environment which enables children to feel safe and supported whilst extending their learning and development. Emphasis is placed on learning through exploration, activity and play.

Links are made between the EYFS and Key Stage 1 (KS1) National Curriculum in England to help children move successfully into Year 1 and to meet their early learning goals.

From **Year 1**, children's entitlement to teaching and learning is set out within the National Curriculum which is organised on the basis of four key stages:
Key Stage 1: Ages 5-7 (Years 1-2); Key Stage 2: Ages 7-11 (Years 3-6);
Key Stage 3: Ages 11-14 (Years 7-9) Key Stage 4: Ages 14-16 (Years 10-11).



CURRICULUM AIMS

We believe in teaching the children how to be good learners to equip them for life-long learning. We believe in developing the whole child to cope positively with the responsibilities, opportunities and experiences of adulthood.

We provide equality of opportunity with a broad balanced, appropriate, creative and meaningful curriculum.

We create a caring, safe environment where the children are treated as individuals who learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

A range of enrichment opportunities are offered to the children throughout the year to foster a love of learning and to develop a wide range of interests.

We link subjects together whenever possible to make learning more meaningful for the children.

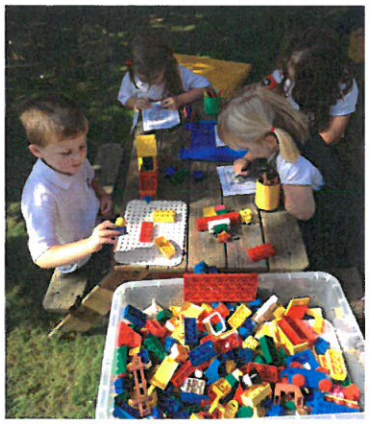
AREAS OF LEARNING

We follow the National Curriculum in England

The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The National Curriculum forms one part of Leigh on Mendip School's curriculum.

The curriculum at our school is balanced and broadly based and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.

It prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.



Mathematics

Children build mathematical understanding doing practical tasks and activities with the daily teaching of concepts and strategies. They are taught to plan, undertake investigations and problem solve, and to meet new situations with confidence, whilst learning to select the appropriate tools and strategies.

English

Language is the key to successful communication and learning and is taught across all areas as well as within daily Literacy lessons. We value spoken language as an essential part of developing reading and writing. Our children are encouraged to have the confidence to speak in a variety of situations and to appreciate the importance of listening to others.

Writing

We encourage children early on to see themselves as successful 'writers' and adopt a range of approaches to motivate them with their writing.

We aim to ensure that children become fluent communicators within a variety of written forms, and encourage good spelling, and handwriting, together with a sound understanding of sentence structure to support this.

Reading

Children follow a structured approach to reading using graded books in the early stages and have access to a wide choice of fiction and non-fiction books as their reading develops. We teach reading through individual, guided and group reading and stress the importance of good home-school partnership in practising and nurturing children's new-found skills.

Science

Science teaching and learning enables children to investigate and understand the world in which they Live. It teaches them enjoyment in discovery and a systematic approach to investigation. They are given the opportunity to observe, discover, study, experiment, and analyse their findings.

Computing

Children have the opportunity to use a variety of ICT equipment as an integral part of their work, both in ICT lessons and in other curriculum areas. Children experience using iPads, chrome books as well as laptops.

Music
Music sessions include singing, choral work and composing. Every child is given the experience of listening to music by different composers and participating with others in the school's musical productions.

History
Children investigate the distant and more recent past and consider how people's experience in the past relates to that of the present. They study a variety of evidence and participate in different site visits.

Geography
Children learn about the physical and human impact on the landscape near and far and investigate issues, such as quarrying, to gain an understanding of the world around them.

Religious Education
The school's policy is non-denominational in character but reflects the importance we place on the Christian ethic and an appreciation of other religions and beliefs. Collective worship takes place daily.
(Under the provisions of the 1998 Education Act, all parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship or RE by informing the school in writing.)

Languages
Learning a foreign language fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. The focus of study is on practical communication and provides a balance of spoken and written language. We use songs and rhymes to explore the patterns and sounds of the language. At Leigh on Mendip First School we teach French to our Key Stage 2 pupils.

Design and Technology
In DT, the children are taught skills of planning, designing, constructing and evaluating. They undertake a range of projects, including planning menus and cooking, in food technology units, making models, creating puppets and building electrical circuits (e.g. to add lights to a vehicle). Children work with different materials and tools and explore construction kits.

Art and Design
Our programme is designed to develop children's understanding, enjoyment and skills through a range of projects and a progression of activities. Children explore media, materials and tools, experiment within different genres and study the art of different artists, movements, periods and cultures.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

PSHE education is given high priority from a very early stage through topics such as growth, food and personal hygiene. Aspects of physical and emotional well-being are addressed.

We work in collaboration with outside agencies e.g. community groups, county personnel, charities, the police, Social Services and our local area health team.

Taking part in Dance Umbrella at The Forum in Bath

Field to Food Learning Day at the Royal Bath and West Showground

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Parents receive an annual written report at the end of the Summer Term and parent/teacher consultations take place in the Autumn and Spring Terms.

Parents are most welcome, however, to request an appointment to discuss any queries they may have about their child's progress or welfare at any time of year. Teachers always respond to such requests promptly.

Sport and Physical Education

Our Sports Coach, Mr Groves teaches all children weekly, covering a variety of sporting skills. He also runs a popular After-School Sports Club.

We regularly join with other Frome Schools in joint sports festivals and matches. The children go to the Frome Leisure Centre for their weekly swimming lessons.

We also hold a very popular annual sports event, where the children have the opportunity to take part in track and field activities.

The Physical Education curriculum offers the children opportunities to participate in gymnastics, team games, athletics, dance, swimming and outdoor and adventurous activities.

An emphasis is placed upon the acquisition of physical skills and team spirit to ensure appropriate choices to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning in a woodland environment. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire children through positive outdoor experiences.

Tarmac, who own the Halecombe Quarry in Leigh on Mendip have given our school an area of woodland to the side of the quarry as a permanent Leigh on Mendip Forest School site, within walking distance of the school.

Whilst in the forest the children have been known to cook around a fire, make pencils from twigs, build dens for themselves or small woodland creatures (or fairies), identify trees, play games and support each other in team challenges!

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND)

At Leigh on Mendip School we believe in equality of access to the curriculum for all pupils. If children have special learning requirements i.e. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) at any time during their school career, teachers take great care to ensure that appropriate support is given, to allow them to participate effectively in learning. Mrs Clair Hurley is responsible for supporting, planning and monitoring interventions and IEP reviews. This monitoring is used to ensure systems are effective and impact positively on pupil progress. Following discussions with parents and carers, pupils may be placed on the SEND Register. For many, this involves a short burst of targeted intervention which may lead to them being removed again, while for others the support process is a longer one. In all cases our aim is to provide the very best education for all our pupils, allowing children to fully achieve their potential.

Our Special Educational Needs and Disability policy can be accessed via the school's website. Both Mrs Hurley and Ms Stafford (Kingfisher Class teacher) have NASENCO qualifications.

Art Week activities at Forest School

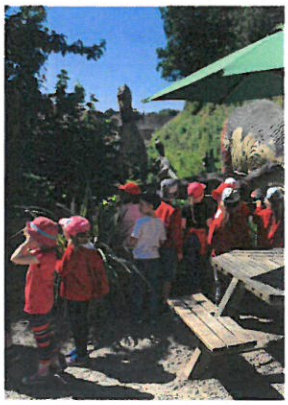
Fire Safety Talk

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

At Leigh on Mendip School we do not discriminate against anyone on the grounds of gender, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins or disability.
We promote the principles of fairness and justice for all, through the education that we provide in our school.
We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school.

Mini Easter Egg Challenge organised by FOLS

Halloween Mufti organised by FOLS



Owl Class trip to Wookey Hole Caves Subsidised by FOLS

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There are a variety of after school clubs ranging from sports to crafts.

Monday is Sports Club and there is a weekly arts and crafts club called Sunflower.

In addition we also offer yoga, dance, pottery and art club led by external providers at different times of the year.

FRIENDS OF LEIGH SCHOOL (FOLS)

The parents or guardians of children attending the school are automatically members of Friends of Leigh School. Membership is also open to other interested people including grandparents or the parents of past or future pupils. The FOLS committee and members organise fund raising, social, educational and self-help activities for the benefit of all the children in the school. There is an annual AGM at which a committee is elected. Parents' support through FOLS plays a vital role in the life of the school. It helps to develop understanding and links between home and school, as well as being a lot of fun! It is also a great way for new parents to meet other parents.

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

At Leigh on Mendip School we emphasise good behaviour and reward effort. We have a number of procedures in place, including verbal praise, stickers, Golden Time and the privilege of taking home special toys for the weekend. We give cups for personal achievement and effort and celebrate successes in our weekly 'Celebration and Sharing Assemblies'.

The Behaviour Policy in our school is intended to encourage children in the development of a personal moral code and a thoughtful, respectful and caring attitude towards others.

We encourage children to take responsibility for their actions and to think of the effects those actions may have. We ask everyone to display kindness and courtesy to those around them and to look after books, equipment and their school surroundings.

If a child's behaviour does not meet expectations, then a variety of sanctions may be used, e.g. a quiet word from a teacher or the temporary restricting of a play activity. If we have cause to be concerned about a child's behaviour we will involve the parents at an early stage to ensure that we can work together to improve the unacceptable behaviour. We will always attempt to establish the reasons for actions and behaviour.

We aim, through our policy, to ensure that our approach to behavioural issues is consistent and fair and that staff, parents and children share the same expectations.

Bullying is not tolerated in our school. Should such a situation arise then action will be taken immediately, following guidelines in our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

PARENTS IN SCHOOL

Parents are always welcome in school. It will be important to your child that you take an interest in their progress and support them. At the end of the school day, you are welcome to come into the classroom for them to show you their work.

We believe that children's education is greatly enhanced when parents and teachers work together. Our Home-School Agreement underpins our ethos to encourage children to develop both academically and socially.

We send home weekly newsletters and a weekly diary providing information about what your child's class are doing. On the school website the overviews of what the children are studying are published.

There are many different ways in which parents can help in school and consequently become more involved in the life of the school. If you have any time to spare, or have a particular skill, then do please offer to help - it will be greatly valued.

Parent Governors are important members of the Governing Body and all parents are members of our **Friends of Leigh School (FOLS)** group.

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Our Code of Conduct, as follows, is displayed around the school and discussed in assembly:

- ☺ We are kind, polite and helpful
- ☺ We try our best at work and play but understand it is alright to make mistakes
- ☺ We learn when to speak and when to listen
- ☺ We look after the school and everything in it

SCHOOL UNIFORM

A school uniform helps children feel part of the school community.
Ours consists of:
Grey trousers, shorts, skirts or dresses,
White or red polo shirts, white or red shirts or blouses
Red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
Jackets, sweatshirts, polo shirts, and cardigans with school logo are available from:

Norton Sports & Camping
17 High Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Tel. 01761 418972

Red or pink and white striped or checked summer dresses are an option when the weather permits.

For PE: a plain T-shirt, plain navy/black shorts, a sun hat, a pair of trainers (or daps). P.E. kits should be kept in school on the child's cloakroom peg.

For swimming a costume or trunks (**not** bikinis or Bermuda shorts), towel, and for those with long hair a swimming hat. All P.E. kit and outer clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

JEWELLERY

For safety reasons jewellery is not permitted to be worn in school with the exception of studs or sleepers for pierced ears. Watches are allowed to encourage your child to tell the time.

BOOK BAGS

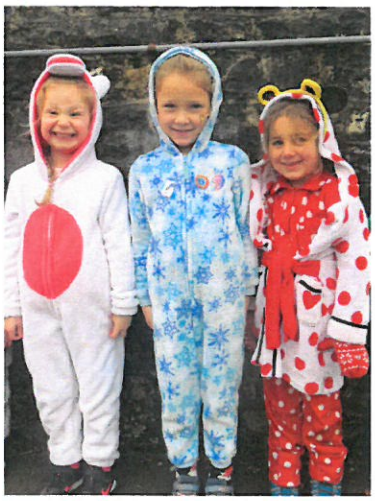
Book bags are initially donated by FOLS. New book bags can be bought from the school office for a small charge.

SCHOOL PAYMENTS

It is often necessary to make payments to school - i.e. for swimming, educational visits, activities etc.

For your protection and the protection of staff handling money we use Parent Pay, an internet based payment scheme. You will be provided with account details and a log in for you to use.

On Mufti days the children dress up and help raise money for charities, such as Red Nose Day and Children In Need. They also dress up on World Book Day.



LUNCHES

Children usually stay at school for lunch and a hot school meal service is available. Meals are ordered on Parent Pay from a weekly menu (within a three week rolling menu) and are currently £2.60 for a two course meal. Meals can be ordered for any day of the week as some children prefer a packed lunch on certain days. This should include a cold drink in a sealed container and be packed in a lunch box clearly marked with your child's name.

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The Children and Families Act 2014 placed a legal duty on all state funded schools in England to offer a free school lunch to all pupils in Years R, 1 and 2.

Ordering arrangements are the same for all pupils who wish to have a hot school meal.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Provision can be made for children in Years 3, 4 and 5 who are entitled to free school meals if their parents are in receipt of state benefits. If you think you may be eligible for this then please contact either the school office or the Head of School. The details of children receiving free meals are completely confidential.

The school has National Healthy Schools Status and follows a 'healthy eating' code. Chocolate, sweets and crisps or other food with a high fat content are discouraged. Children are encouraged, however, to bring healthy snacks, such as a piece of fruit, to eat at morning playtime.

SCHOOL MILK

Milk is also provided at morning playtime for children who are signed up for the Cool Milk delivery. It is free for any child up to the age of 5, but can be ordered and paid for by parents for children as they get older.

WATER and FRUIT

Water is available throughout the school day, both in the classrooms and outside in the playground. All children have a fruit break in the morning.

WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

- Very supportive, responsive and accessible for any issues we have.
- Fantastic care and guidance at LoM. Pupils are very happy and all staff work so hard to ensure learning is enjoyable. Very lucky to have my children in this school.
- We love Leigh on Mendip!
- Absolutely lovely school, honestly do not have a bad word to say!
- We feel very lucky that our child is at Leigh on Mendip School.
- We think that all the 'extra' activities, tennis, ukulele, swimming/cooking, etc. are great – a real variety of experiences.
- It is a wonderful school with a talented and caring team and our family are grateful to be a part of this community.
- Brilliant school, my child has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Leigh.
- Both we the parents and our son love the school, he comes home brimming with stories of what they have done during the day and is always happy.

ACCURACY

The information in this prospectus was correct at the time of going to publication. Should any changes occur within the lifetime of the prospectus, the Head of School will advise prospective parents of such changes.