



PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Dream, Believe, Achieve

WELCOME TO GRACE COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Foreword: Mr Richard Dedicoat, Headteacher, says...

I am very proud to welcome you to our wonderful school.

Nurturing community

We are a nurturing community that inspires children to aim high, keep trying and never give up!

Core values

Honesty

- ★ Be true to yourself.
- ★ Show compassion and kindness.
- ★ Respect yourself, others and the community around us.

Courage

- ★ Be resilient, believe you can do it.
- ★ Learn from your mistakes, anything is possible.
- ★ Show grit and determination.

Excellence

- ★ Take every opportunity.
- ★ Be curious, observe and discover new things.
- ★ Be the best you can be.

We are special

As a brand-new school, opened in Sept 2022, we have the opportunity to create a learning environment that supports, enhances and integrates with our local community. We offer:

- ★ A brand new state of the art primary school and nursery with dedicated, caring, and skilled staff.
- ★ A nursery that's open for 48 weeks a year for 2-4 year-olds.
- ★ The Curiosity Approach: centred around the natural curiosity which we are all born with. Providing Early Years children with a calm, stress-free environment filled with open-ended resources available at eye-level allows them to figure things out themselves.
- ★ Wrap around care from 7.45am - 5.30pm.
- ★ A challenging, cohesive, and engaging curriculum.
- ★ Holiday club provision.

Part of the community

Grace Cook is a community primary school and values the richness and diversity that comes from being an important part of our wider community and the connections that school is making within the area. For example, our children connect through working with our local churches as well as fundraising for charities connected with the community including Stowmarket Foodbank and The Royal Legion.

We are proud of our name

The school is named after Grace Cook (1877 – 1958), a pioneering astronomer who was born and lived in Stowmarket. She was one of the first group of women who were elected as Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society and was a leading expert on meteors and comets.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

I hope that our prospectus gives you an insight and understanding of our core values of Honesty, Courage, and Excellence. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school. Please call the school office on 01449 833094 to arrange a visit and see why our school is so special.



Freddie and Arlo are learning through playing and exploring in the nurturing surroundings of the nursery at Grace Cook Primary School

Helen and Conner live in Northfield View with their sons, Freddie, aged three, and Arlo, aged two.



Building curiosity

Helen and Conner are delighted with the progress Freddie and Arlo are making in the Star Room and the Moon Room at the Grace Cook nursery. Helen says: "Freddie and Arlo are learning to be curious about the world around them through playing, using natural resources, and exploring the outdoors. Freddie has also learnt the importance of friendships and being kind to others."

Making friends

After Helen and Conner moved into their new home in Northfield View, they watched Grace Cook Primary School literally rise from the ground opposite their house. "We took pictures every week after the ground works were laid to keep a record of the build for the new Headteacher. Freddie was in the first group of children to start in the nursery in September 2022. He loved it from the moment he started and runs in each day without a backward glance. He has a lovely group of friends and talks happily about what he has been doing with them when he comes home."

Good facilities

When the nursery opened to two-year-olds, Arlo started in April 2023 and he loves being there as well now, Helen says. "The nursery has its own building and garden separate from the main school and the staff teach the children using books linked to the topic they are doing. When they read Owl Babies together, the children were also learning about owls and doing related activities."

Supportive staff

Freddie has learnt the importance of friendships and likes to welcome new children and take them a toy to play with. "The staff have instilled in the children the need to be kind to each other. He never wants to miss school and when he had an appointment to attend, he was upset because he couldn't go to nursery. I had to let him go for the first 20 minutes and then pick him up again. Freddie has also been

given good support with his speech and language development by the staff," Helen says.

Fun outdoors

"Everybody knows everybody at Grace Cook Primary School and the staff all knew about Arlo before he started. He was happy to go because he had hated saying goodbye to Freddie in the mornings. He enjoys spending a lot of time learning outdoors, whether it is raining or not. When Freddie first started, there were just a few children in the nursery, but even though the numbers have grown, the staff are just as dedicated and focused as before. I am a primary teacher myself and have also taught early years and I have been very satisfied with how the staff have helped Freddie and Arlo. They have done everything I could have wanted them to do for my boys."

Moving up

Freddie will be in the first group of Grace Cook nursery children going into Reception in September. "He has been well prepared for going up into the big school to make the transition easy for him. The nursery children go into the main school for their lunch, which Freddie enjoys, and so he is already familiar with the staff there," Helen says.

Centre of community

"I like being a Parent Governor because it is lovely to hear about the successes of the school and to be part of its exciting journey. I would recommend Grace Cook Primary School to other families because it is a fresh, new school with lovely grounds where the children can play sports, and it is at the heart of the estate and has a strong community feel to it."

Children say

Freddie says: "I like playing with my friends at school."

Arlo says: "I enjoy playing with the sand and the water."

SCHOOL DAY: SETTLING IN



Our school opens at 8.30am in time for children to get settled for 8.40am Registration. There is a 1 hour lunch break, and the school day ends at 3.15pm. Our nursery opens at 7.45am - 6.00pm - There are a varied of options for funded and paid hours. More details available from our school office.

Wraparound clubs

We offer full wrap around care at Grace Cook. Infinity and Beyond clubs run as follows:

- ★ 7.45 - 8.30 Breakfast Club - £5.00
- ★ 3.15 - 4.15 After school club (Mon - Friday) - £5.00 or through until 5.30pm - £10.00 (On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

All fees are to be paid through the Arbor App. For more details about this or to book a place for your child please contact the school office on 01449 833094 or email - office@gracecook.omat.org.uk

Uniform

We believe that the school uniform gives the children a sense of belonging to the school community. Our uniform is kept as simple and practical as possible, and our school colours are jade green, grey, navy blue and black. Our school emblem is embroidered onto all our sweatshirts, cardigans and polo.

Where to buy

Uniform items can be bought from PMG Schoolwear.

School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of either a hot nutritious school dinner or bringing a healthy packed lunch into school. A copy of the menus can be picked up from our school office or you can view them on-line on our website. Payments for meals should be made on each Monday morning for that week.

Free school meals

All children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals. Our team is happy to discuss any dietary requirements should they be necessary for health reasons.

Break-time and drinks

Children in early years and Key Stage 1 receive free daily fruit as a snack at morning break. Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit from home if they would like a snack. We do not allow chocolate or biscuits at break time as snacks. Sweets and fizzy drinks are also not allowed in school at any time.

Milk

Milk is free to all children until they are five or in receipt of statutory free school meals. Other children can have this milk for a small fee. To subscribe to this service please go to: <http://www.coolmilk.com> or speak to our staff in the main office.



Victoria and Alexandra are thriving and making good progress in the happy environment at Grace Cook Primary School

Yana and Nick live in Northfield View with their daughters, Victoria, aged 7, and Alexandra, aged 4. Victoria is in Year Two and Alexandra is in the Star Room in the Grace Cook nursery.

Good teaching

Yana and Nick are very pleased with the academic progress Victoria has made since starting at Grace Cook Primary. Yana says: "Victoria is doing well with reading, her Maths has improved, and her handwriting is much better now. She has been brought on well by the staff since she started. There are not many children in her class, so Victoria is given plenty of attention. We can see a huge difference between this school, where the teachers are focused on the children, and the school she attended previously."

Making friends

The couple decided to move Victoria from her former school after coming to live in the area, because Grace Cook Primary is just a short walk from their house. Yana says: "It was a new school that had just opened and the other children were friendly towards her because they were all new together and they all helped each other to settle in."

Love of reading

Victoria loves doing PE at school and enjoys reading, Yana says. "They give them a book every week and we listen to her read at home. Recently, when I was putting her younger sister to bed, I could hear her reading her story book to herself in her room before she went to sleep. I had not suggested that she should read her book, but she had decided that she wanted to read it herself."

Inspired to write

Victoria enjoys writing stories and poems and is being inspired by the staff to produce good work. "During the last half term holiday, they asked the children to write a diary and Victoria wrote about what we had done every day. They encourage them to write as much as possible and don't make it seem as if they are studying, but make the children want to write because they enjoy it," Yana says.

Enjoying nursery

Alexandra had attended another nursery previously, but used to cry and say she did not want to go, Yana says. "We waited until we were living in our new home and then started her at the Grace Cook nursery, where she enjoyed it right from the beginning. When she wakes up, she gets ready to go every day and she is disappointed when it is Saturday, or Sunday, and the school is closed."

Good menu

"Alexandra started off by doing just a couple of hours in the nursery but soon settled in. She eats her food and drinks her water with no problems. The school provide the children with a good lunch menu, with plenty of choice, and even children who are fussy eaters can find something they like. In the nursery, the children do lots of crafts and Alexandra brings home pictures she has drawn, or decorated with dried flowers. They have just been learning the alphabet and she was proud to discover her name began with the letter A. The nursery has a lovely outside area with small bikes and a sand pit where the children play together," Yana says

Moving up

"We are pleased Alexandra has recently been spending a few hours each week in the reception class with her new teacher to get her used to it for next term. They talk about what they will be doing in September, which will make the transition easier for her because she will already know her teacher. We think Grace Cook Primary is a beautiful school and all the teachers are lovely."

Children say

Victoria says: "I like doing PE and reading at school."

Alexandra says: "I like drawing pictures and having lunch at school."

INSPIRING AND CREATIVE CURRICULUM: FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

A bespoke curriculum

We have a bespoke curriculum which reflects the local community and context. We teach the children about their local area, and the need to care for their community and the wider world.

Enriched

We have an enrichment programme that offers wide-ranging trips and visits, so that the children are well aware of the world beyond their immediate environment.

Diversity

We teach about diversity, sustainability, innovation, and life skills so that our children have the foundations for a socially responsible and economically independent life.

Music

When children enter KS2 (Y3-6) they will be given the opportunity to take part in music and movement sessions. They have opportunities to explore the sounds of different instruments and to create their own sounds. They can listen and respond to different types of music. Children sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs, perform songs, rhymes, poems, and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time with music.

Children can learn to play a musical instrument, and we provide everyone with an instrument of their own, so they can practise at home.



Sport and P.E.

The Primary PE and Sport Premium is government funding provided to schools to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of PE and sport they offer. We use the premium to:

- ★ Engage all pupils in regular physical activity.
- ★ Raise the profile of PE and sport across the school.
- ★ Increase confidence, knowledge, and skills of all staff in PE and sport teaching.
- ★ Broaden the experience of pupils by offering a wide range of sporting opportunities.
- ★ Increase participation in competitive sport.

Wide range

As part of our mission to enable our children to fulfil their potential and aim high, Grace Cook offers a range of clubs and activities, including: Gymnastics, multi sports and crafting.



Primrose and Ruby are developing a real love of learning encouraged by the kind staff at Grace Cook Primary School

Cherry and Adam live in Northfield View with their daughters, Primrose, aged 5, and Ruby, aged 3. Primrose is in Reception and Ruby is in the nursery at Grace Cook Primary School.



Inspiring curiosity

Cherry and Adam are delighted with the way the staff at Grace Cook Primary are fostering their daughters' love of learning and their curiosity about the world. Cherry says: "Primrose has flourished in Reception since starting last September when the school first opened. She has enjoyed the topics they have studied because they are broad and interesting and inspire the children's creativity, which is perfect for her. Ruby loves going to the Grace Cook nursery now, and can't wait to get inside and start playing every time she goes."

Enjoying writing

Cherry says Primrose settled in very well after starting in Reception because she had already been to a nursery elsewhere and was used to following a daily routine. "She loves to learn and enjoys the structured days and activities at school. She liked everything about the school right from the start. When she comes home in the afternoons, she wants to carry on doing the things she has been doing at school. She particularly loves writing stories and poems at home."

Excellent choice

The couple chose the school for Primrose when they moved into their new home on the Northfield View development. Cherry says: "Grace Cook Primary was built to serve the new houses and is just a two-minute walk away from our home. We knew Primrose would be able to get a place there because it had been purpose-built for the development, so we were saved the anxiety other parents experience when trying to choose a school for their child for the first time. Everything there was lovely and new and they have used only natural materials in the classroom, there is no plastic to be seen anywhere."

Kind teachers

Primrose loves all the teachers at Grace Cook Primary and, because it is a small school with small classes, the staff are able to get to know all the children well. "Primrose respects all the teachers and finds them funny and interesting and we are pleased the school has a proper family feel to it," she says.

Structured play

"She loves books and has already become very independent with reading and is in the top reading band in her class. We are very happy with the way she is progressing. Primrose particularly enjoys a section of the day called Discover and Do, which is a play time for the children, but is also a period when they are encouraged to play in a structured way. If the children have been learning about a particular topic, for instance, insects and bugs, then the role play area will be set up with related items, such as gardening tools and clothes, to link back to the topic, so that they can carry on exploring the subject while they are playing with their friends. It is a clever strategy they use to reinforce what the children have been learning," Cherry says.

Happy at nursery

"Ruby was already at another nursery when the Moon Room opened for two-year-olds at Grace Cook Primary, but she has now started going to the Grace Cook nursery for an additional day. She loves it there so much she literally runs in every time she goes. She has never done that at the other nursery. She also hates to say goodbye to Primrose in the mornings, so we plan to increase her days at Grace Cook nursery from next term, which we know she will love."

Children say

Primrose says: "I love writing the best. I like making up my own stories and to be able to read them to my friends."

Ruby says: "I love my friends and my teachers."

ADMISSIONS AND GETTING INVOLVED



Admissions arrangements

Reception intake

Suffolk County Council coordinates Reception stage admissions for all Suffolk primary schools.

Transfer during the academic year

If you have a child who would like to transfer to our school from another school please make an appointment to have a look around and we will be delighted to give you a tour and advise you about our 'in year' application process.

Application Process

- ★ The closing date for September applications is in mid January of that year.
- ★ You will be notified of your child's placement by the following April.



Grace Cook Primary School and Nursery

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Chilton Leys
Stowmarket
IP14 1GG

Tel: 01449 833094

Email: office@gracecook.omat.org.uk

Web: <https://www.gracecook.omat.org.uk>

Contact details for the Suffolk County Council School Admissions Team

- ★ Address: The Admissions Team, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX.
- ★ Tel: 03456000981.
- ★ Email: admissions@suffolk.gov.uk.
- ★ Web: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Nursery Admissions

The Nursery has places for 2,3 and 4 year olds.

Applications are made directly to the school. If you would like to apply for a place for your child, please contact the school to make an appointment with our Nursery Manager Mrs Robinson.

Email: office@gracecook.omat.org.uk or call 01449 833094.



Get involved and be a voluntary helper

Parent and volunteer involvement is fundamental to the learning and experiences of our children at Grace Cook. We encourage our parents to get involved and help out. Your assistance makes a huge difference to the school and our children. Ask the school office about volunteering opportunities.

