Powerstock CE VA Primary School

2017/18 Prospectus
Welcome to our School

We are a small, busy and happy Church school in the village of Powerstock, set in the heart of the beautiful West Dorset countryside. Our school values its unique ‘smallness’ and is proud in saying that every child is cared for and valued as an individual. We set high standards in learning and teaching, that enable children to always improve themselves by acquiring new skills and knowledge. Our aim is for all our children to leave us happy, confident and independent individuals with a positive outlook on life and ready to take on their next challenges. We hope that you will find this prospectus helpful as an introduction to our school. We are always happy to show visitors around our school and answer any questions you may have. I hope you will join our wonderful unique school community!

Our School Aims and Values

Our school pursues excellence in learning and teaching, encouraging every child to seek and achieve their potential within a balanced and engaging curriculum. We provide high quality care and support. We promote wellbeing with individual rights, responsibilities and Christian and British values at the centre of our school ethos.

Our School Aims
In our commitment to achieve the above we aim:
To provide a rich and exciting curriculum which engages and motivates children and in which every child can develop fully as an individual and achieve their full potential.
To provide opportunities for every child to feel part of and be able to contribute to the school, local and global community through the teaching of Christian values, rights and responsibilities.
To develop motivated, inspired, independent children who have a love of learning and are curious to know more.
To provide a secure, supportive, caring environment where children can develop respect for themselves, others and their surroundings resulting in pride in themselves, their peers and their school and who are equipped to meet the changes and challenges in their life ahead.

These aims are integral to all that we do along with our School Values:
Respect – yourself, others and our environment
Friendship – encouraging, supporting, listening and making time for each other
Compassion – knowing when and how to help others and having the courage to care
Generosity – giving our time and loving others as ourselves
Truthfulness – making the right choices and having the courage to be honest
Perseverance – meeting personal challenges and running the “race of life”, having a go and trying again!
What pupils say:

“Powerstock has been my second home, I’ve been so happy here! The staff and other pupils are so friendly and I have learnt that you can achieve things you never thought you could “

From a chat with 2 year 6 pupils.

What parents say:

“When I speak to my child’s class teacher, she makes me feel like my child is the only pupil in her class—the individual care and attention the staff provide is incredible.”

The progress my child has made since coming to Powerstock, both academically and personally has been astounding!”

“Powerstock is a hidden gem—it has amazing facilities inside and outside.”
Classrooms
We are proud of our new learning spaces and are designed to promote flexible teaching and learning styles and meet the needs of all our pupils. From allowing children to solve maths problems standing up, doing artwork on an angle, to desks that genuinely allow children to concentrate on their own, our classrooms are able to provide our children with what they need. Each class is provided with a set of iPads to promote ICT access at their desk and outside. Our aim is to prepare children to use ICT effectively and safely as they encounter it in the 'real' world.

Our new Reception and Key Stage 1 class allows children to learn and play in our inviting enclosed outdoor area and garden.

We have three mixed year group classes in our small school:
• Burton class (Rec, Y1 and Y2) with Mrs Oxenbury and Mrs Greenham
• Cogden class (Y3 and Y4) with Mrs Seal and Mrs Middleton
• Seatown class (Y5 and Y6) with Mrs Cleden

The Curriculum
At Powerstock we provide an exciting set of learning experiences which gives all our children the essential knowledge and the skills for learning and ultimately working in our constantly changing 21st century. Mathematics and English are taught in the morning, but are creatively linked to all the other subjects we teach through our termly themes such as ‘Field to Plate’ which looks at where our food comes from and what we do with it.

We are currently following the National Primary Curriculum, and teach many of the ‘Foundation’ subjects (like History and Geography) through a termly theme which always contains a visit out or a visitor in to ‘wow’ and inspire the pupils.

The themes are planned over a 4 year cycle and include for Cogden and Seatown classes:
Year A: Celts/Iron Age, Jurassic Coast, (local Geography and Fossil Festival), Mayan Civilisation
Year B: Romans (incl local studies), Fame/ Leaving My Mark
British History Theme Eg WWII, Monarch changes, Leisure, Railways, Clothing
Year C: Reach for the Stars (space), Ancient Egypt, Anglo Saxons (incl local studies)
Year D: Ancient Greece, (achievements and influence, Vikings/ Anglo Saxons, Field to Plate

For Burton class the themes include:
Year A: Who am I and where do I live? Visit to Washingpool
Toys and games, Visit to Bridport, Hot Places/Cold places
Seaside and Antarctic
Year B: Where we live and our place in Space, Homes and Schools, From field to plate
Our School Uniform

Our school uniform is based on the colours red and black. Currently school uniform with the school’s logo is available from the School Office or Tesco School Uniform online. The Parents School Association also sell second hand uniform regularly after Celebration Assemblies on Friday mornings.

**Winter** ~ Red sweatshirt or cardigan, Red polo shirt, Dark grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore dress, Black, grey or white socks, Black school shoes.

**Summer** ~ Red sweatshirt or cardigan, Red polo shirt, Red gingham dress, Dark grey or black shorts, skirt or trousers, Black, grey or white socks, Sandals or black school shoes.

**PE and games** ~ For hygiene reasons, all children are expected to have a full change of clothes for games and PE. A full PE kit needs to be kept in school at all times. We ensure that all kit is sent home to be washed at the end of each half term: Black or White shorts, Red plain t-shirt, A pair of plimsolls or trainers, A change of socks. Track suit bottoms are allowed during cold weather.

All articles of clothing worn to school must be clearly named and labelled. We believe that is important for children to learn to take responsibility for their belongings: clearly named clothes really help with this!

**Hair and jewellery** ~ Long hair should be tied back at all times (this is so that it does not distract from learning and for hygiene reasons). Items that are absolutely required by a religion are allowed. Other jewellery is limited to a watch and plain stud earrings and friendship bracelets. Local authority guidance is that no earrings are worn for PE; however, we allow small studs but only at the risk of the wearer. No make-up is to be worn.

Our School Day

The school day starts at 9am and finishes at 3:30pm with registration ending at 9:15am. We have a daily act of worship at 10.10 am and on Wednesdays we walk the children to Church for our weekly service. Every Friday morning after registration we have a Celebration Assembly where parents are warmly invited to see children encouraged and praised for work done.

**Morning Playtimes** ~ Children have a morning break from 10:30 to 10:50am. Healthy snacks are encouraged to be eaten at break time and children may bring in a ‘pocket toy’ to play with at playtimes. Any pocket toys are brought at the owners risk and not be ‘war’ toys. The school also provides large outdoor equipment for the children to play with as well.

**Lunch** ~ All Children have their lunch at 12:15pm, then go out to play in our beautiful grounds. Lunchtimes end at 1:15pm. Hot school meals are provided by Local Food Links and cost £2.30 per meal. All children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free Hot School Meal through the Government’s universal infant school meals scheme. Meals can be ordered directly from Local Food Links website or the school office. Parents may of course also choose to send their child to school with a healthy packed lunch each day.

**Drop-off and collection** ~ The playground is open to parents at the beginning and end of the day to parents. From 8:45am the playground is supervised and parents may ‘drop off’ their children. Class teachers are available to talk to before and after school unless they are responsible for a club. This helps to build up a close relationship between home and school – we want to have good links with all parents. If normal arrangements have to be altered (e.g. you are delayed or another person is collecting your child) please let us know. This avoids any confusion or upset.

**Getting to School** ~ Parking is available in front of the school; however, the village ‘3 Horseshoes’ pub has kindly given permission for parents to use their car park at drop off and pick up times.

There is also a bus that runs from Bridport through to Powerstock each morning and returns in the afternoons with limited spaces.
School Community—Governors

The School Governors are legally responsible for all aspects of school life. This includes the curriculum, staff appointments and financial control. In practice however, day-to-day management of the school is vested in the Head Teacher and Staff. The Governing Body meets four times a year. All Agenda, Reports and minutes of meetings are held in the school office and are available for parents. As a voluntary aided school the majority of our governors are 'Foundation' (Church) governors. Parents are represented on the Governing Body in the role of Parent Governors and are always open to hear from parents about any issues concerning the school.

Powerstock School Association

The school is lucky to have a very active, friendly group of parents who are happy to support the school in any enrichment activities and simply to make the school experience the best it can be for our children. The PSA meets regularly to organise fundraising and social events for everyone from our annual talent show to making Christmas decorations with the children to supporting the more formal events in school.

Extra-Curricular activities

Clubs

We ensure that there are opportunities for all our children to take part in either a lunch-time or after-school club. We try to provide opportunities for children to try some new and different sports and activities such as Archery and Street Surfing as well as Cooking and Puppet making. There is always a mixture of free and paid clubs. All of the 'school' clubs are run voluntarily by members of staff giving up their free time. The paid clubs are run by professional coaches and experts.

The children all enjoy our trips to support topic work including making “fossils” and story making at Kingcombe and days out at @Bristol.

Contact us at:

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Please have a look at our website that includes more detailed information and up-to-date news and diary dates—www.powerstock.dorset.sch.uk