



WELCOME TO ARK LITTLE RIDGE PRIMARY ACADEMY



AN **ark** SCHOOL



ABOUT ARK SCHOOLS

We are proud to be part of the ARK Schools network, a group of high-achieving, non-selective schools across Hastings, Birmingham, London and Portsmouth.

Each school in the ARK network has its own distinctive character but we all share the same mission: to give every child the very best start in life, so that when the time comes, they do well enough to go on to university or into the career of their choice.

WELCOME to ARK Little Ridge Primary Academy

We are a vibrant community school in St Leonards for children aged 4–11.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce our school to you.

Every member of our school community does whatever it takes to make sure your child gets the best possible experience from their time here, both inside and outside the classroom. Our mission is for every child to leave us with all they need to excel at secondary school and beyond.

We pride ourselves on creating a happy, safe and encouraging environment for your child. We have high standards for all our staff and pupils. To achieve these standards we make sure our pupils are supported in all that they do. We want your child to develop a love for learning that will stay with them throughout their education.

We are focused on helping all of our pupils master the basics of English and maths, because if your child does well in these subjects then they are more likely to do well in their other lessons.

It is essential that we have open communication and strong relationships with all our parents, carers and community members so please do come and visit us. If you have any questions or want more information, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sarah Bailey
Headteacher





“ ARK Little Ridge is doing a great job, staff are focused, committed and care for our children. You can see the hard work and emphasis on children reaching their potential. ”
YEAR 2 PARENT

WE BELIEVE

Our RIDGE values form the basis of all that we do:

RIGOUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We complete all our work to the highest standards.
INTEGRITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We do the right thing and respect others at all times.
DETERMINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We try our best all the time and do not give up.
GENEROSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We are kind and help others to do their best.
ENTHUSIASM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We have a positive attitude and a smile.

All staff and pupils live by these values every day. They help us achieve our goals and create a happy school.





A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY

Breakfast club: 8.00am–8.45am

Every morning pupils can attend our breakfast club, where we make sure they have a nutritious start to their day.

Early arrivals: 8.45am–8.55am

Pupils arriving early can go into class and take part in warm-up activities such as maths, spelling and handwriting practice.

Registration: 8.55am

Lessons start: 9.00am

Morning break: 10.45am–11.00am

Children can play in our adventure area, on the climbing apparatus, on the sports pitch, or in our quiet areas.

Lunch: 12.00pm–1.00pm

Every child has access to a healthy, balanced meal, designed to excite their taste buds. We hold regular theme days and menus to create a fun, engaging lunchtime.

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can have a free lunch cooked fresh daily in school.

End of the school day: 3.00pm

In order to develop your child's independence, self-discipline and confidence, we regularly provide reading and maths practice to do at home.

After-school club: 3.00pm–5.30pm

At our Rocking Ridgers after-school club, children can enjoy a range of activities, from crafts and reading to sports.

Pupils can enjoy our unique forest school, a specially-designed outdoor learning environment. Being outside of the classroom encourages pupils to use their imagination and approach problems differently.





OUR SIX PILLARS

Our approach to teaching is based on six key principles. They are:

Knowing every child

We know that children do best at school when families and staff work together. So we make sure that every child knows, and is known by, every adult in the school. We work closely with families, keeping them up to date with how their children are doing.

Exemplary behaviour

We are a warm, happy and inclusive school. We treat each other with courtesy and respect, and we praise and reward good behaviour and effort.

Depth before breadth

Doing well in English and maths is really important for pupils, as it helps them to succeed in other areas. That's why all our children have literacy, English and maths lessons every day.

High expectations

We believe that, with the right teaching and support, every child is capable of going on to university or into a rewarding career. So we encourage children to aim high in everything they do.

Excellent teaching

In school, nothing makes a bigger difference to a child than great teaching. We work especially hard to recruit, train and support excellent teachers.

More time for learning

At ARK Little Ridge, every minute of the school day counts. As well as covering the core subjects thoroughly, we make time for activities such as sport, music, drama and arts so that your child gets the most from their time here.



OUR CURRICULUM

A strong command of English and maths is vital for success across the whole curriculum. We prioritise these subjects and dedicate extra time to them so that pupils are confident and have the strong foundations they need to succeed.

English

We focus on speaking, listening, reading and writing using the innovative **Read Write Inc.** programme to teach phonics. Phonics is a way of learning how combinations of letters make different sounds, how to combine these sounds to make words and how to break them down. Pupils have daily English and phonics lessons from reception onwards and lots of opportunities to read with an adult. We also provide parents with useful materials, so you can help your child at home.

Maths

Pupils have daily maths lessons, using ARK Schools' unique **Mathematics Mastery** programme. This builds essential knowledge and skills using objects and pictures, so that children can better understand concepts as well as numbers and symbols. Pupils master the subject rather than simply repeating routines. The programme reflects the curriculum of the world's highest-performing countries for maths and has been highly praised by Ofsted.

Pupils also take part in maths investigations, workshops, activities and events throughout the year.





The primary curriculum is divided into three phases: foundation stage (reception), key stage 1 (years 1–2) and key stage 2 (years 3–6).

Foundation stage

Pupils have two literacy lessons (phonics and English), guided reading and two maths lessons each day. They also learn science, computing, art, music, PE and personal, social and health education.

Key stage 1 and 2

Pupils study a core curriculum of English, maths and science. They also study the following subjects in a creative and themed approach, as well as in distinct lessons:

- History
- Geography
- Art and design
- Design technology
- Computing
- Languages
- Music
- Physical education
- Personal, social and health education
- Religious education

AND SO MUCH MORE

As well as a strong academic curriculum, pupils have many opportunities to develop their skills and confidence beyond the classroom.

We offer a range of extracurricular activities including badminton, football, JAFFA club (run by Christian Schools Workers), netball and Zumba.

Being part of the ARK Schools network is really positive for our pupils. Throughout the year they have many opportunities to join with pupils from other ARK schools and take part in local and national events such as the ARK Schools Music Gala, held at the Barbican in London, the Shakespeare Schools Festival, debating competitions, spelling bees and maths challenges.

We collaborate and share resources and best practice with other ARK schools in Hastings, including ARK Blacklands Primary Academy which became an ARK school this year, and ARK William Parker and Helenswood Academies which both became ARK schools in 2013.





HELPING EVERY CHILD TO ACHIEVE

Children are all special and unique and need different support to fulfil their potential. That's why we tailor our approach to each child.

Gifted and talented students

We're not content with gifted and talented students simply achieving the average expected level for their year. We make sure all our students are challenged and supported to excel.

Students with English as an additional language

Students who speak English as an additional language really benefit from our focus on English and maths. We give them extra support until they reach the expected achievement for their age in English, including careful assessment and the chance to learn in small groups.

Students with special educational needs

It's crucial to identify and assess children with special educational needs, so that we can give them the right support. Our skilled teachers and learning support assistants help students in class, in small groups or in sessions outside the classroom. We run a weekly support group for parents of children with additional needs.



APPLYING FOR A PLACE

We have up to 60 reception places each year.

To apply, you need to go through **East Sussex County Council**. You can contact the admissions team on 0345 60 80 190 or visit the council's primary admissions page on its website, www.eastsussex.gov.uk

We encourage everybody to apply. When there are issues of over-subscription, like lots of other schools, it is our duty to prioritise children with Education Health and Care plans. We will then offer places to children in the following order of priority:

- (a) Children who are in public care.
- (b) Children with an exceptional medical or social need.
- (c) Children who will have a sibling at the school at the time of admission (for this purpose 'sibling' includes half brothers and sisters, adoptive, or foster brothers and sisters, who live in the same house).
- (d) Children living within the community catchment area.
- (e) Children living outside the community catchment area.

We do everything we can to ensure that every child that wants to come to ARK Little Ridge is able to and we will keep a waiting list for any vacancies that come up during the year if a child leaves or doesn't take up their place.



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