Our School Day

Our academy welcomes pupils into class from 8.45am. Registration is taken at 8.55am and closes at 9am.

Pupils will experience a range of rich learning opportunities, with a 15 minute break for play and outdoor activities. Pupils can have a delicious hot meal provided by our catering team (costs apply) or you can choose to provide a packed lunch for your child.

The school day ends at 3.00pm for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils and 3.05pm for all other pupils.
Welcome

Welcome to Ark Castledown Primary Academy, we are a community primary school who work very closely with Ark Blacklands and Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy to serve the local children of Hastings. We are a 2 form entry school, with 60 pupils in each year group, ranging from nursery through to Year 6.

Our staff make a tremendous effort to get to know each pupil and provide them with the very best care. The vision for our pupils is clear. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to succeed at university or in a career of their choice. We provide them with the skills they need for success at secondary school and beyond.

At Ark Castledown Primary Academy we have high expectations of all our pupils. We know this is essential if we are to realise our vision.

We are dedicated to doing whatever it takes to ensure each of our pupils succeeds. To achieve their ambitious goals, our pupils and staff work hard and have high aspirations.

We put English and mathematics at the heart of our primary curriculum. Skills learnt in these subjects provide the foundations for all learning. Our enrichment activities allow opportunities for our pupils to develop skills in other areas of the curriculum.

We know that your child’s education is important to you and we will do everything we can to make sure their time at Ark Castledown is enjoyable.

I hope this prospectus shows what Ark Castledown can offer your child.

Lorraine Clarke
Regional Director
The Six Pillars

Like other Ark schools, we follow the Six Pillars. These are some overarching principles which govern the way we work from day to day. They are:

**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.

**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.

More time for learning
Lessons begin at 9.00am. Lessons end at 3.00pm for KS1 pupils and at 3.05pm for KS2 pupils. This gives us time to cover core subjects thoroughly, as well as allowing plenty of time for extra-curricular activities such as music and sport.

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 also work closely with families, keeping them up to date with how their children are doing and helping them to support their children outside school hours.
In 2017, we became an Ark school. That means we are now part of the highly successful Ark network, a high-achieving group of 34 non-selective academies in London, Birmingham, Hastings and Portsmouth.

Each Ark school has its own distinctive character but they all share the same mission: to make sure every child does well enough to go on to university or into a career of their choice.
Ark Castledown Primary Academy offers Breakfast and After School clubs to ensure your child is well looked after outside of school hours. This provision provides a valuable service to our working parents. Please contact the office for details of costs and charges.

The academy also offers a wide range of enrichment programmes to provide additional tuition in sports, music and the Arts. Please contact our office for details of all the clubs and enrichment programmes on offer.

We have a very active Parent Teacher Association who raise money for the school and put on annual events for the local community. If you are interested in helping the PTA, please let us know. They will value your support.

Our Community

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Get in touch

This is an extremely exciting time for you and your child. We would love to tell you more about what we can do to help your child achieve their full potential in our safe and supportive environment, so please do get in touch. Or better still, come and see us!

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