

Smiths

school report

CHRISTMAS 2022
ISSUE 08

CELEBRATING THE WHOLE CHILD

*Osidge School's strategy for
developing and nurturing children.*



ST MATTHEW'S ESTABLISHES FIRST PTA

*St Matthew's C of E primary school
is driving positive change by
incorporating every part of their
community.*

KEBLE'S CO-ED SWITCH



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Full marks for school uniform.

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Osidge nurtures the whole child to make sure they develop a community of happy learners.

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You can save money leading up to Christmas by following our social media platforms.



Osidge School

Osidge School, established in 1936, was originally part of the Lipton estate owned by Lipton Tea. The school now resides over the original gardens and glasshouse vineyard and looks after 420 children with 50 staff members. The school's head teacher, Mrs Brodkin, is excited by the opportunity to shape Osidge with the values and vision she has for it. "I feel that we have built a sense of community with the parents," Mrs Brodkin said, "we work collaboratively so that parents and staff work together".

Osidge's consolidated values allow the school to create a happy space that is supportive and nurturing and "has the children at the heart of everything we do". "We celebrate and

"We celebrate and work on the whole child," Mrs Brodkin continued, "if we can create children who are happy in themselves and feel secure and loved at school so that we get the best out of them"

work on the whole child," Mrs Brodkin continued, "we work to create children who are happy in themselves and feel secure and loved at school so that we get the best out of them". When asked how the school achieve this, Mrs Brodkin told us "we want the best for their learning, so making sure they are happy makes them happy learners. We make learning fun and linked to real life to make it relevant to our children's lives.

All staff put child wellbeing at the heart of what they do. As well as a dedicated learning mentor who works directly with the children and familial support, Osidge has parent support groups that meet monthly. In these meetings, parents have

the opportunity to support each other. Beyond this, each class has well-being monitors and all staff have training on how to best support children with mental health. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs Brodtkin noted that “parents trusted us through lockdown and we have come out as a community rallying to support the school”.

As the school continues to grow and develop, Osidge is creating a nature garden and redeveloping its pond so that children can go pond dipping and partake in outdoor explorations. The space will allow a previously underused area to become a place of enrichment for Osidge and other local schools to which the school plans to reach out to. The environment is at the heart of all that Osidge do, even down to their Eco-uniform. Their uniform is a great tool

to create a sense of community and togetherness so that the children have a “strong association with the school”. Mrs Brodtkin felt this community most when they “changed the logo and collaborated with children and staff in its design”. “The pupil green team are working hard to get the messages out to the children,” Mrs Brodtkin told us, “we are looking at funding solar panels and a heat source pump, which is a more sustainable and environmentally friendly way to heat the building”. Osidge School also partakes in Food for Life, ensuring that a certain amount of food comes from local produce.



“parents trusted us through lockdown and we have come out as a community rallying to support the school”

“When we changed our logo we collaborated with children and staff in its design”





KEBLE PREP

Keble Preparatory ***School***

Keble Preparatory school was established in 1929. It is located in Winchmore Hill, North London. Just seven years from celebrating its centenary, Perran Gill was delighted to confirm that from September 2023 Keble will be introducing a Nursery setting for pupils aged 3+ and will be fully co-educational across all year groups. This is an exciting change in the school's history. The school will continue to live by its values "Puritas, Veritas, Probitas" "being pure of heart, honest hard work and true to oneself".

Keble will continue to offer a dynamic and well rounded education, combining high academic standards with opportunities for students to achieve in Sport, Music, Drama and a broad extra-curricular programme. An education that develops the abilities and enthusiasm of every child. Mr Gill reported that at Keble, they encourage each pupil to think independently, to be continuously inquisitive and reflective. They value each individual pupil, helping them to uncover and nurture their talents, whilst celebrating their achievements. As a result, pupils move on to their senior schools with the confidence and self belief

upon their own strengths and continue to enjoy success both academically and in other pursuits.

We were greeted by the school dog, Ray and learned about the importance of well-being to the school. Promoting children and young people's well-being is a key part of keeping them safe, helping them develop and ensuring they have positive outcomes into adulthood. The school has a well-being room "where boys can sit and feel safe."

In terms of behaviour, Mr Gill believes that "uniform sets a standard." By encouraging a smart uniform, we are teaching the children to become professionals." He added that uniform teaches us to meet expectations and help the children and school community to identify with one another. "The caps are recognisable in our local community: we are proud of that."

Mr Gill proudly told us "September will be my tenth year at Keble and it has been and will continue to be a pleasure and honour to lead such a lovely community. I am extremely excited about the journey ahead."





"Being a small school has its advantages," Mrs Harris mentioned, "we can give each child a personalised experience and, subsequently, the school feels like a big family".

St Matthew's C OF E Primary School

St Matthew's C of E Primary School was established in 1840 and currently has 45 staff members and approximately 200 children. In every aspect, the close-knit school focuses on nurturing and supporting its children. We met with Mrs Harris, the school's newly-appointed headteacher, to discuss the dynamics of the school. "Our Inclusion Lead is our Pastoral Lead and is also training as the Mental Health Lead, and our Welfare and Wellbeing Lead is also a trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), who supports individual children with

strategies for managing their emotions". The school has a core focus on pupil well-being and personal development and recently become part of the MYME network, which they hope will also enable them to access mental health practitioners within the school.

"Being a small school has its advantages," Mrs Harris mentioned, "we can give each child a personalised experience and, subsequently, the school feels like a big family". This is elevated by the school's uniform, which Mrs Harris said gives the school a distinct identity and makes children proud



of their school: "Uniform is a statement of who you are and the community that you represent".

"We are keen to become more eco-friendly," Mrs Harris continued, "we have just set up a school council, who are enthusiastic about making a difference - both within the school and to our planet". This sustainability focus continues throughout the curriculum, as they are putting global goals and eco messages into every corner of children's learning. "It's such a lovely school community," Mrs Harris said, "St Matthew's really has that family feel, as it is a close-knit community. There's good communication; a great staff team and amazing, enthusiastic children, with fabulous singing voices!"

Prior to Mrs Harris' appointment, the school have not had a PTA for 8 years. This term, 14 parents have volunteered to be on the PTA committee, which is now established and known as the 'Friends of St Matthews'. Besides this, other parents have volunteered as class reps - two per year group. "The parents are delighted to be invited back into the school following the pandemic, and have given lovely positive messages and feedback about how the school is involving them and strengthening the community," Mrs Harris told us. The school have developed a strong working partnership with St

Alphege's church since St Matthew's church closed; however, are also now actively involved with the plans to re-open St Matthew's church "it's exciting - we are working on how to develop St Matthew's church and school community in unison".

Throughout the school community, each person has a vital role in shaping the school. Mrs Harris has many hopes and aspirations for the school, including building a community ethos which supports the learning and personal development of all children, allowing every child to thrive on their journey. This vital work has already started, with the school expanding their community links to work with Cooking Champions, who have set up cooking

kitchens in St Matthew's Church Hall to teach the community how to cook. The school has also started working with the Felix Project, using its food donations to support families.

"Our curriculum provides our children with the skills and knowledge to thrive as they grow towards adulthood. Ponders End is a diverse community; we aim to personalise our curriculum, incorporating both our local area demographics and the cultural backgrounds of our community, so that everyone feels they are represented, respected, included and listened to".

"St Matthew's really has that family feel, as it is a close-knit community. There's good communication; a great staff team and amazing, enthusiastic children, with fabulous singing voices!"



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**We are so pleased that our Pre-Loved scheme has been such a success. Unfortunately, because of this, there may be times where we need to pause donations to allow our team to run down remaining Pre-Loved stock.*

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of christmas



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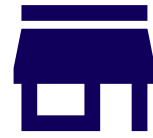
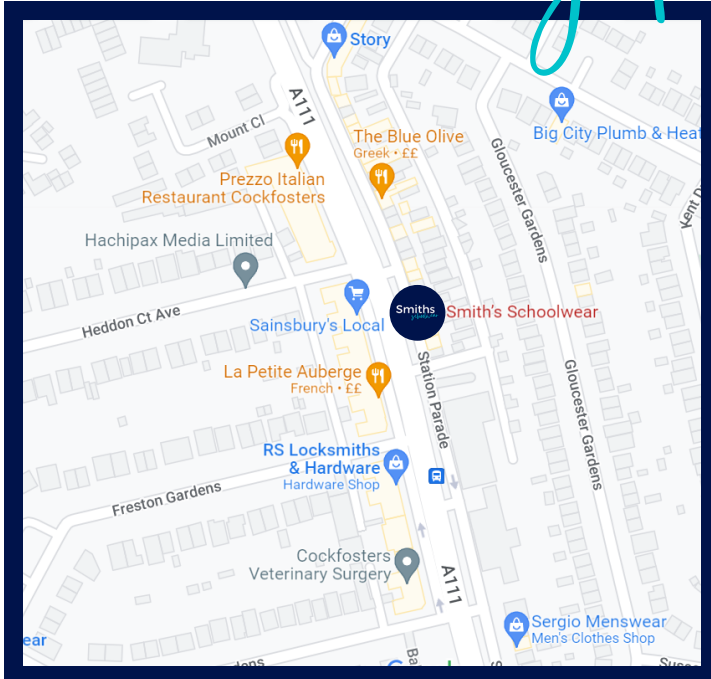


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