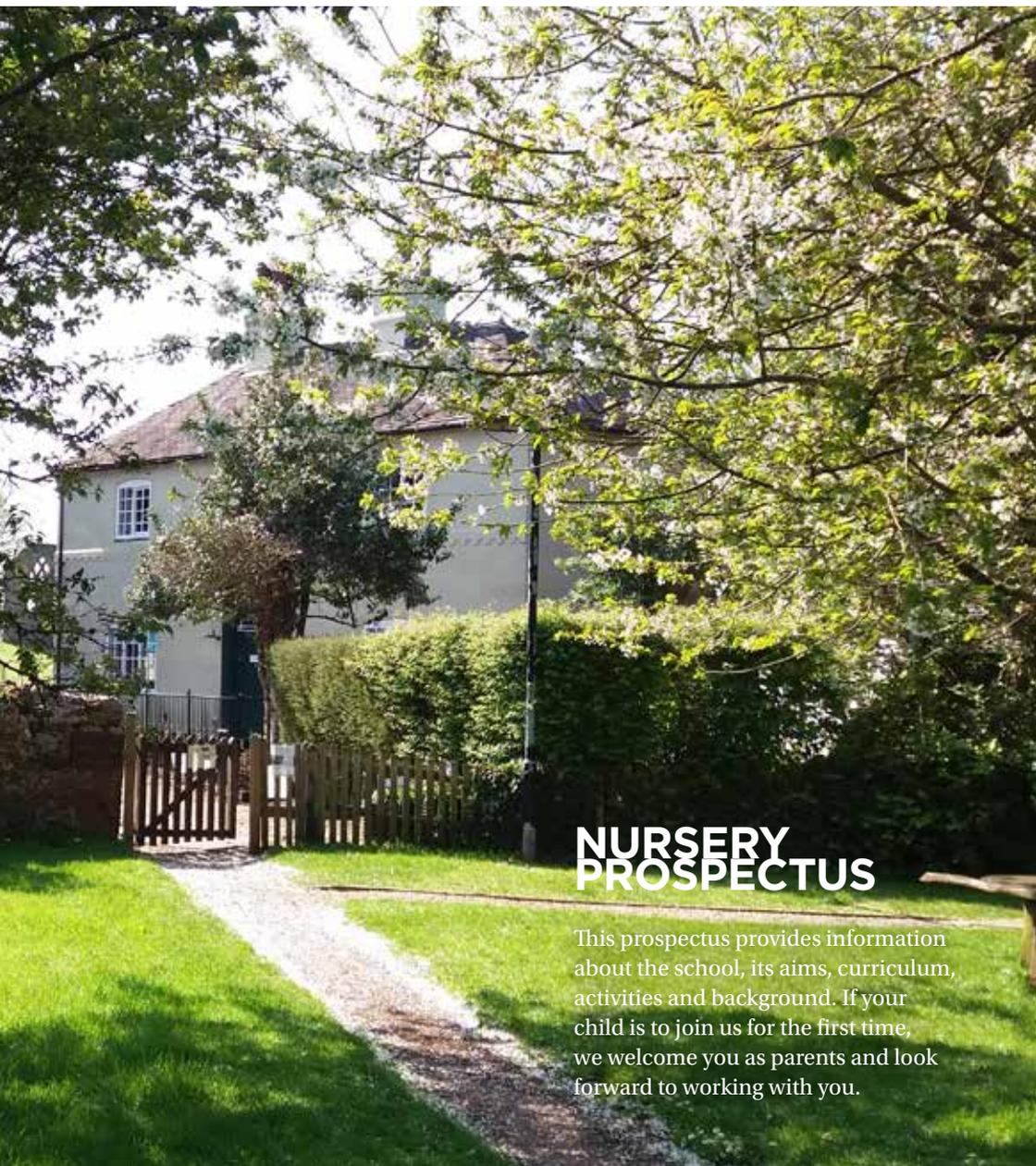




**DAME CATHERINE**  
HARPUR'S SCHOOL



## **NURSERY PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus provides information about the school, its aims, curriculum, activities and background. If your child is to join us for the first time, we welcome you as parents and look forward to working with you.



We are a small independent school in a lovely little village called Ticknall. We are surrounded by fields and woods, with a beautiful school garden for endless fun and adventures... our children love it here, wouldn't you?



# ABOUT DAME CATHERINE'S

Dame Catherine Harpur's School in Ticknall is a flourishing and friendly rural school, catering for children from age 3 right up to age 11. There is a nursery class for ages 3-5 (Foundation Stage), an infant class for children aged between 4 and 7 years (Key Stage 1), and a junior section for children from 7 to 11 years of age (Key Stage 2), in two teaching groups. In each class or teaching group, there is a maximum of 15 children per teacher.

With no more than 30 children in school full time, plus a maximum of 8 children in the nursery class in any session — we offer an environment that is small enough for children to receive individual encouragement and support, yet large enough to provide them with social and intellectual stimulation and a rich variety of experiences.

The school is set in a delightful location, bordering open countryside on the outskirts of the village. Inside, there are three teaching rooms — incorporating library, music and TV areas — cloakrooms, an office and a kitchen, as well as the spacious nursery room. The grounds include a spacious playground which is used creatively by the children at break times to include scooters, go karts, football and imaginative games, as well as a smaller playground used by the nursery children.

There is also a large garden, containing fruit trees, small wildlife ponds, organic vegetable plots, activity areas, dens and quiet areas — alongside our Forest School space. This natural and safe creative playground provides a diverse and engaging resource in which to learn. Our use of the outdoor space includes recognised Forest School activities as well as adaptation and integration in all kinds of educational projects across the whole school — from history to handicrafts, literature to science.

Nearby is a large playing field and the beautiful and historic villages of Ticknall and Calke, where we have strong links with the National Trust — a great place in which to grow up and learn.

## A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON

Dame Catherine Harpur's School was set up as a charitable trust in 1744 by benefactress Dame Catherine Harpur, to provide free education for the boys and girls of Ticknall and the surrounding parishes.

Two hundred years later, the village school was still going strong, and from 1903 was administered in partnership with Derbyshire County Council. It became a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School and continued as such until 1987, when the LEA closed the school because of insufficient pupil numbers. There were just 12 children at that time.

At this point, the school was taken over by a group of parents and run as a parent-teacher cooperative. This reflected a desire to provide a personal and inclusive environment in which children, their families and the staff could work together. Nowadays, though, the school (which is part of an ancient trust) is run by a School Management Team, comprising the teaching staff and elected parent representatives, and is run as a limited company. In financial terms, parents now contribute a set amount each year and we all work together to keep fees as low as possible (through fundraising, skills / time donations, etc.) to ensure the school remains accessible to a wide and diverse range of families.



Headteacher, Margeret Whyte, reading a letter from the Queen!

## THE TEAM

### The management team

Headteacher: Margaret A. Whyte  
Chair Person: *Mark Crouch*  
Personnel/Secretary: *Jane Dawn*  
Finance Coordinator:  
*Steve Harcourt*  
Recruitment & communications:  
*Amanda Harmer*  
Non-Executive: *Jose Raine,*  
*Julie Tibbert & Salli Gosling*  
Proprietor: Dame Catherine Harpur's School Foundation

### The teaching team

Headteacher & Key Stage 1:  
Margaret A. Whyte  
Key Stage 2: Deb Bates  
Nursery: Fay Younger  
Teaching Assistants: Tracey Savva  
Bria Adlington

Details of the qualifications of our fully qualified teaching team are available on request.

# THE NURSERY



## THE NURSERY

The nursery class is set within the school and caters for up to 8 children, aged 3–5 years, at each morning and afternoon session. The nursery operates independently of the school — so there's no obligation for children to take up places in the infant class when their time comes to start school — but nursery children do sometimes join in with the activities of the older children. For example, the nursery children contribute to music time each week, and join in PE at the village hall.

Here at the nursery we aim to provide a caring, warm and friendly environment, in which the children feel safe, secure, confident and happy, encouraging all-round development at each child's own individual pace. The children who attend the nursery are encouraged to learn through carefully structured play, covering a wide variety of experiences in line with national guidelines for learning in the early years. Children are encouraged to make their own choices and decisions through the provision of some free playtimes. We also encourage children to work in small-group and whole-group activities, promoting language development and interaction with others. At the end of their time at the nursery, children will be well prepared for entry to school.

*The teaching in the Nursery is enthusiastic and lively. This inspires children to be motivated and to quickly become confident learners. They remain highly focused on their learning for considerable periods of time and are making good progress...The curriculum in early years is exciting.*

*Ofsted Report, 2017*

## EARLY LEARNING GOALS

At this stage in their learning and development, the legal requirement is for children to be working within the Early Learning Goals of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. These set out what most children are expected to achieve by the end of the Foundation Stage, and help people who work with children aged 3–5 years to focus on what the children need to learn. They do not comprise a curriculum with lots of different subjects, but rather describe 7 broad areas of learning, as described below. The organisation of the Early Learning Goals is based on a Highscope philosophy which encompasses both adult- and child-directed learning through play activities. This leads to independence; enabling children to make decisions and choices, and to take some control of their own learning.



### Personal, social & emotional development

Your child will learn to be self-confident, take an interest in things, know about their own needs and the needs of others, tell the difference between right and wrong, and be able to dress and undress. They will make relationships and learn about managing feelings and behaviour.



### Communication & language

Your child will learn to speak confidently and clearly, and enjoy listening to and telling stories, songs and poems, hearing and saying sounds and linking them to the alphabet. This development of understanding and extended periods of attention, through a range of activities and tasks, develop overall communication and language skills



### Physical development

Your child will learn to move confidently, controlling their body and handling equipment, on a small and large scale; as well as an understanding of health and self-care

*OFSTED reported that “the children move confidently and safely around their environment and show a good awareness of their own and others’ space. They have the opportunity to experience PE, yoga and dance as well as outdoor play with climbing equipment, bikes, bats and balls etc. The children’s fine motor skills are well developed through a wide range of tools and activities.”*

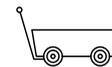
Specific areas:

### Understanding the world



Your child will explore and find out about the world around them. Through practical activities, such as sowing seeds in their gardens and making good use of their rural environment, they learn about the natural world. They will build with different materials, know about everyday technology and learn what it is used for. They will find out about past, present and future events in their life and the wider community. They will find out about different cultures and beliefs.

### Literacy



Starting with simple mark-making and the task of learning to hold a pencil, children develop writing skills through a number of structured and free-play activities. Reading skills develop across a range of interactions, with one-to-one and small group activities.

### Mathematical development



Your child will develop an understanding of maths, through practical activities. They explore the concepts of space and measurement by comparing size, shape and capacity for example. Familiarisation with numbers and shapes develop through the creation of simple patterns and the application of their knowledge in role play situations.

### Expressive Arts & Design



Your child will explore colours and shapes, textiles, models, trying out dance, music making, and acting out different roles using their imagination. They will explore, and have access to, a range of materials and media, as well as our outdoor learning space...and staff will encourage children to engage imaginatively in their interests...

### Nurturing your child’s interests

Throughout all aspects of your child’s Foundation Stage they will access and make full use of our Forest School space. In addition, our small size ensures individual attention, support and nurturing for all. We can build on your child’s interests outside the nursery setting and integrate them into your day.

## **NURSERY ADMINISTRATION**

There are two nursery sessions each day — 9.00am until 12.00 noon, and 1.00pm until 4.00pm, with an option for children to stay for lunch and therefore join us for a whole day.

### **Typical session routine (morning)**

- 9.00 Children arrive
- 9.10 Group time — register, talk about the weather, date, any special occasions, news. Discuss the session's activities.
- 9.30 Structured play activities to choose from.
- 10.30 Tidy up and wash hands.
- 10.45 Fruit snack and drink.
- 11.00 Outdoor play.
- 11.30 Group time — story, singing, action rhymes.  
Reflect on the session's activities.
- 12.00 Children are collected

Sessions are £15 each (morning or afternoon), or £36 for a full day (8.45am - 4pm) with wrap-around care from 8am - 5pm available, please contact us for details.

Parents can use childcare vouchers via an employer scheme to cover nursery and holiday club fees, as well as government nursery vouchers. These can cover a core of 15 hours (or 5 sessions) or, for those eligible families, up to 30 hours of free childcare (equivalent to 10 sessions).

**Please contact us for more information.**





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