

# Stelling Minnis C.E. Primary School

Compassion, Curiosity and Courage



# Welcome from the Children

For the past seven years, we've been part of this magnificent school, and it's been a blast!

Stelling Minnis is a calm, friendly place where everyone looks out for each other and the beautiful surroundings make coming to school feel special every single day. The staff are incredible and always make us feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

Our school is full of children who always try their best to show **curiosity**, **courage**, and **compassion** – our school values that help guide us through everything we do. They help us explore new ideas, face challenges with confidence, and look after our friends and our community.

We also love welcoming new children into our school. Whether you're starting school for the very first time or joining us from somewhere else, we can't wait for you to become part of our Stelling Minnis family. There's always someone to help you, play with you, and show you around.

Now that our own time here is coming to an end, we've been thinking about everything we've learned and all the memories we've made. We've grown braver, kinder, and more curious with every step. We've tried new things, made great friends, and learned lessons that will stay with us forever. Even though it feels a bit sad to leave, we also feel ready and excited for our next adventure.

Stelling Minnis has helped us become who we are today, and we know that the younger children – and all the new ones still to come – will have the same chance to grow, explore, and shine just like we did!

**Barney & Harriet**  
Head Boy & Girl



*Making Shining Stars*



# Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Stelling Minnis CE Primary School.

Set in the heart of our stunning rural village, Stelling Minnis offers children a unique place to learn, grow, and thrive. Our beautiful surroundings are more than just a backdrop – they shape our curriculum, inspire **curiosity**, and provide a calm, nurturing environment where every child can flourish.

As a Church of England school, our Christian values sit at the centre of everything we do. We encourage kindness, respect, resilience, and responsibility, helping our pupils develop not only academically, but also as **compassionate** and confident individuals ready to make a positive difference in the world.

We work hard to ensure every child is known, valued, and supported to achieve their best and be **courageous** in their thinking and actions. Through high-quality teaching, rich opportunities, and strong pastoral care, we aim to unlock potential and spark a lifelong love of learning.

Stelling Minnis continues to be a destination school for families seeking a warm, inclusive community combined with high expectations, strong relationships, and a personalised approach to education. We are proud of our children, our staff, and the close partnerships we hold with parents and the wider community.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school. I warmly invite you to visit us, meet our wonderful pupils, and experience the special atmosphere that makes Stelling Minnis CE Primary School such a joyful and inspiring place to be.

Rachel Buss  
Headteacher



“There is a close-knit feel and a real sense of belonging. One parent said, ‘In the morning, it’s like dropping them off with family.’” – Ofsted





‘Pupils thrive in the caring, nurturing environment of this small village school. They enjoy coming to school, where everyone is included and encouraged to do their best.’ – Ofsted



# Our Vision and Values

Our school is a beacon of light. A place where every child and adult is encouraged to shine brightly and reach their full potential. Through **curiosity**, **courage**, and **compassion**, we shine like a lamp in our classrooms, like a village on a hill in our community, and like shining stars across the wider world.

Our school may be small in size, but we are mighty in spirit. Every child and adult who walks through our doors is encouraged to shine brightly, to grow in confidence, and to reach their full potential.

This vision is deeply rooted in the parable of the lamp, where Jesus teaches:  
*“No one lights a lamp and hides it under a bowl”*

Just like the lamp in the parable, our school exists to shine – not to be hidden away. In our classrooms, we foster curiosity, encouraging children to ask questions and explore the world around them. Through courage, we help them face challenges with resilience and determination. And with compassion, we nurture kindness, empathy, and a sense of belonging.

Though we are a small school, our light reaches far. We shine like a lamp in our learning spaces, illuminating minds and hearts. We shine like a village on a hill, visible and valued in our local community. And we shine like stars across the wider world, as our children carry their light into the future, making a difference wherever they go.

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others; that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”. Matthew 5: 14-16*



# About Our School

Stelling Minnis CE Primary School is a welcoming rural primary school for children aged 4–11, offering a nurturing start to each child's educational journey.

Situated in a beautiful countryside setting, nestled between Canterbury, Folkestone and Ashford, our school benefits from convenient on-site parking and a peaceful village environment that supports calm, purposeful learning.

Founded in 1784, Stelling Minnis is one of the oldest working school buildings in Kent, steeped in history and rich in character. Our original working school bells, still in daily use, remind us of the generations of pupils who have passed through our doors and connect our children to a long and proud heritage.

We are a small, vibrant school organised into four classes, allowing us to tailor learning to individual needs while fostering strong relationships across year groups. Our children secure strong foundations in our EYFS Classroom and progress through the school on a wonderful learning journey.

We understand the modern day demands of life and are proud to offer both breakfast and after school clubs as well as an array of extra-curricular activities for the children.

Our school has close working partnerships with families, local organisations, and the wider village, which contribute to the warm, inclusive atmosphere for which our school is known. A privately run nursery is conveniently located on our school grounds too.



‘Pupils rise to teachers’ expectations to flourish, personally, socially and academically, and become the “shining stars” of the school’s vision.’ - Ofsted

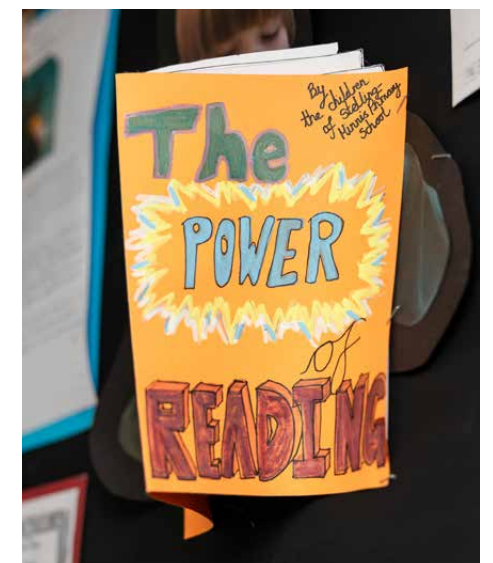
# Our Curriculum Offer

Our Stelling Minnis curriculum offer is underpinned by our vision to be a beacon of light – a place where every child and adult is encouraged to shine brightly, guided by our Christian values of **curiosity**, **courage** and **compassion**. We celebrate our rich rural landscape whilst ensuring that our children are inspired, supported, and equipped for life beyond the village. We aim to broaden horizons and nurture global citizens who can shine confidently “like a lamp in our classrooms, like a village on a hill in our community, and like shining stars across the wider world.”

We bring our vision to life through engaging, practical learning experiences, high quality teaching and bespoke schemes of learning that reflect both our local environment and the wider world through core concepts such as Perception & Empathy or Responsibility & Risk. Children learn through exploration, outdoor learning, creative projects and real life contexts. We enrich our rural curriculum with opportunities that broaden horizons – visits, partnerships and cultural experiences – ensuring high expectations, strong core skills and rich personal development for every pupil. Starting with strong foundations in EYFS, our curriculum is carefully sequenced to build knowledge and skills progressively, ensuring pupils gain mastery over time and develop secure building blocks for future learning.

Our pupils leave Stelling Minnis as **curious**, **courageous** and **compassionate** young people who are ready to shine even more. They will have strong academic foundations, a deep sense of belonging to their community, and the confidence to embrace new challenges. They understand their role in the wider world and are equipped with skills and knowledge to thrive in the next stage of their education and beyond.

For further information about specific subjects, please visit our school website which will guide you through the design, content and progression of our core and foundation subject curriculum.



# Welcome to Mice Class

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Class is where your child's learning journey at Stelling Minnis CE Primary School truly begins. With a maximum of just 15 children, Mice Class offers a supportive, nurturing, and personalised start to school life. The classroom is led by a dedicated EYFS Teacher and is equipped with high quality resources designed to support both children and their families throughout these important first steps of education.

We place great emphasis on ensuring a smooth and positive transition into school. Children are offered multiple opportunities to visit and become familiar with their new environment, helping them settle confidently and happily. The classroom itself is carefully designed with a "home from home" feel, using natural materials to create a calm and inspiring space – an atmosphere that reflects the ethos of our wider school. Children also benefit from their own dedicated indoor and outdoor learning areas, giving them the freedom to explore, imagine, and investigate through creative and purposeful play.

Our EYFS Teacher skilfully builds a language rich environment, using thoughtful questioning and well-planned learning experiences to strengthen children's communication, curiosity, and independence. Through a balance of child initiated exploration and carefully guided activities, children work steadily towards achieving their Early Learning Goals by the end of the year.



‘Children get an outstanding start to school in Reception. They demonstrate their positive attitudes to learning through high levels of curiosity, concentration and enjoyment.’ – Ofsted

# Our EYFS Curriculum

Our curriculum follows the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and is designed to nurture the whole child – academically, socially, emotionally, and creatively. It is structured around Prime Areas and Specific Areas of learning:

## Prime Areas

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development  
*Building confidence, resilience, and strong relationships.*
- Physical Development  
*Supporting coordination, movement, and healthy habits.*
- Communication & Language  
*Developing active listening, rich vocabulary, and expressive communication.*

## Specific Areas

- Literacy  
*Early phonics and reading, mark making, and a growing love of books.*
- Mathematics  
*Exploring number, shape, pattern, and problem solving.*
- Understanding the World  
*Encouraging curiosity about nature, people, and the wider community.*
- Expressive Arts & Design  
*Enabling creativity through art, music, movement, and imaginative play.*

We place a particular emphasis on fostering a love of reading and storytelling, recognising these as the foundations of successful lifelong learning. Children enjoy a wide range of high-quality picture books and shared reading experiences that spark imagination and deepen understanding.



# Opportunities to Shine Brightly

At Stelling Minnis CE Primary School, we are committed to helping every child shine – both within school and through the rich opportunities we offer beyond the classroom. Our pupils benefit from a wide range of memorable experiences that nurture confidence, creativity, curiosity, and a strong sense of community.

Children take part in exciting visits and workshops that bring learning to life, as well as welcoming expert visitors who enrich their understanding across the curriculum. We are proud to participate in large scale events such as O2 Young Voices and the Charivari Parade or a whole school trip to Margate Beach, giving pupils the chance to express themselves on extraordinary stages and celebrate their talents as part of a wider community.

Our strong links with the local church and village community offer further meaningful experiences, from delivering Harvest boxes to local residents to enjoying history lessons within the church itself. Our rural setting also allows children to experience life on the farm – popping over to see lambs being born or taking part in special seasonal moments such as Carols at the Farm, fostering a deep appreciation of nature and the world around them.

These varied opportunities enrich our curriculum and help each child grow in confidence, character, and joy. At Stelling Minnis, we believe that every pupil deserves the chance to shine brightly, and we are proud of the many ways we make this possible.





# Farm School

Farm School is a much loved part of life at Stelling Minnis CE Primary School, giving children hands on learning experiences rooted in nature, responsibility, and community. Set in our beautiful rural surroundings, it provides purposeful outdoor learning that enriches classroom teaching across all year groups.

Our Farm School Curriculum is progressive and mapped out across four units  
*Sustainability / Farm to Fork / Animal Care / Animal Husbandry.*

Through caring for animals, tending to growing spaces, and exploring the landscape, pupils develop practical skills, environmental awareness, and a strong sense of wellbeing. They learn responsibility, teamwork, and independence as they carry out real tasks and make decisions in a natural setting.

Farm School brings science to life as children observe life cycles, habitats, and seasonal changes, while activities such as digging, building, and using tools safely support physical development and resilience. Opportunities for composting, planting, and sustainable practice deepen their understanding of how to care for the world around them.

Links to the wider curriculum are woven throughout, supporting learning in Science, Geography, Design & Technology, PSHE, Literacy, and Maths. Whether measuring growth, writing about outdoor experiences, or calculating how long to save up to buy your own tractor!

## *A Hands-On, Memorable Learning Experience*

Our Farm School programme helps children flourish academically, emotionally, and socially. It instils a love of nature, confidence in practical skills, and a sense of pride in contributing to the school community. For many pupils, Farm School becomes one of the most memorable and transformational aspects of their time at Stelling Minnis CE Primary School.



# Forest School

Our Forest School approach gives children regular opportunities to explore, investigate and learn through hands on experiences in a natural environment. Our children take ownership of our extensive school grounds and help us shape the curriculum.

Our site offers a rich variety of outdoor learning spaces. Our polytunnel allows pupils to grow plants, vegetables and flowers throughout the year, developing their understanding of seasonal change, sustainability and healthy living. Our outdoor tented area provides a sheltered space for learning, reflection and creativity in all weathers, supporting everything from storytelling and art to practical science activities. We also have an outdoor camp fire area which can be used for cooking our produce too!

We are continually developing our school grounds to create natural habitats for wildlife, including the planting of trees and the enhancement of green spaces. Children are actively involved in caring for these areas, learning about biodiversity, habitats and environmental responsibility first hand.

Through Forest School and outdoor learning, pupils build confidence, teamwork and problem solving skills while developing a deep connection to nature. These experiences support both academic learning and personal development, ensuring every child can thrive in a calm, stimulating and nurturing environment.



# Admissions Process

Choosing the right school for your child is an important decision, and at Stelling Minnis CE Primary School we aim to make the admissions process as clear and supportive as possible. All admissions to Kent primary schools, including ours, are managed through the Kent County Council (KCC) coordinated admissions scheme. Families can visit the KCC website for full guidance on the process, key dates, and how to apply online. This includes information on application windows, offer days, and what to do if you are applying outside the normal admissions round.

To learn more about Stelling Minnis CE Primary School itself – our admissions criteria, curriculum, and the wide range of opportunities we offer – you can find our full Admissions Policy, curriculum information, and additional details on our school website. This is the best place to explore what makes our school unique, from our values and learning environment to the experiences we provide for all children.

For a glimpse into school life and to see what we've been doing recently, families can also follow our official Facebook page, where we share updates, celebrations, and snapshots of everyday learning at Stelling Minnis.

We warmly encourage prospective families to explore all these resources to gain a full picture of our school community and the admissions process. You are also welcome to give our friendly team in the school office a call or email and they will be happy to help or book you in for a tour.





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