

## Candidate

## Information Pack- 2017/18

## Class Teacher - Year 1



Welcome and thank you for considering Ravenstone. I hope that this application pack gives you everything you need to know.

Ravenstone is a fantastic school. Every child that steps through the gates is welcomed into an aspirational, creative community that focuses on allowing children to flourish as individuals and fulfil their potential academically.

As Headteacher, I passionately believe that we should allow our children to experience a wide range of creative enrichment opportunities and develop as confident, caring individuals who excel academically, and reach their full potential. It is this mixture that makes Ravenstone so special. We will not sacrifice any of these elements.

I believe that the success of a school is down to its teachers and I am proud to say that everything we focus on and do is to develop as professionals and so deliver the best possible education for every child in our school. We constantly strive to improve and introduce initiatives that will inspire every pupil to achieve and become motivated learners who can succeed in the future.

We do everything we can to provide our pupils with the skill set to challenge the norm and become successful. Our curriculum is tailored towards the needs of the pupils and ranges from, high quality dance and music lessons, swimming in Year 4 - 6, Italian from Reception to Year 6 as well as a mastery approach to the core subjects and importantly a PSHE scheme of work that teaches our pupils to be safe, astute and ready to add to the world that they are growing up in.

I am incredibly proud of our exceptionally talented staff that strive to get the very best out of every child. I want to continue to provide my team with the best possible career opportunities to thrive as teachers and future leaders.

Please do get in touch if I can help in any way possible.

Joe Croft

## About Ravenstone

Ravenstone is a community primary school in Balham, funded by the London Borough of Wandsworth. The school has served the local community for the last 100 years. We are conveniently placed for public transport links - Balham main line train and tube station is 3 minutes away with easy access to all of London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. We also have parking available onsite. The open space of Tooting Common and the vibrant Balham centre are a few minutes from the school.

### **School organisation**

413 children are currently on roll including full-time and part-time nursery children. These are arranged in 15 classes including the Nursery. We are a two form entry school.

### **School focus**

Ravenstone celebrates the fact that the children reflect the diverse social, linguistic and cultural mix of our community. Over half the children come from minority ethnic backgrounds and about a third speak English as an additional language and we draw upon this to enrich our curriculum and environment. The number of children eligible for free school meals is just under the national average. The proportion of pupils identified with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities is about average but a higher than average number of children have a EHCP. We are extremely proud of our work for pupils with special needs.

As a school we achieved a Good Ofsted judgment in our recent Ofsted inspection and we will continue to improve on this as time goes on.

We are committed to the continuous improvement of every aspect of school life for children at Ravenstone. We seek to deliver an outstanding educational experience of the highest quality for children of diverse backgrounds and abilities. Enthusiasm, enjoyment, creativity, imagination and high expectations of both pupils and staff are at the centre of a wide variety of learning activities.

### **Community**

We are proud to serve and be supported by our diverse community. We offer a vibrant and rewarding environment with a committed team of hardworking staff, supportive governors and enthusiastic parents. The children are happy and keen to learn. We pride ourselves on the friendliness, confidence and character of our children.

The partnership between school and home is very important to us. We value parental involvement and have a thriving parents' and carers' association, Friends of Ravenstone, which organises social events and raises funds for the school which are used to enhance the children's educational experience. Recently funds have been used for the school subscription to Athletics, the redevelopment of parts of the playground, the purchase of IT equipment and contributions to school trips and school journey.

We welcome volunteers from both the parent body and the local community to help in the school with reading, gardening, chess and newspaper clubs.

Everyone is encouraged to make a positive contribution to the wider community; on a local level, the school council recently organised a collection for a nearby foodbank. Looking further afield, for the last

14 years, we have had a partnership with a school in Yameriga, Ghana and now support Shekinah Home for homeless children, Ravenstone has been very active in supporting projects there.

### **Pupil Voice**

The children elect representatives from each class to participate in the school council and discuss topics that are meaningful to the children. We value hearing pupils' views and opinions and present them with regular opportunities in lessons and assemblies to voice these. Such information can offer ideas on how to improve their learning experience.

We have an established peer mentoring and mediation scheme so that the trained mentors can support their peers in the playground.

### **Curriculum enrichment**

Ravenstone celebrates each child's participation and achievement in a wide range of activities including languages, food, art, sport, music and dance. We want all pupils to experience London's rich diversity and we organise school trips as well as visits to the school by outside speakers.

Sport is one of the cornerstones of the school's identity. We are fortunate to have a full time dedicated sports teacher and part time dance teacher and Ravenstone regularly excels in inter-school competitions. We have represented Wandsworth in athletics and swimming at the London Youth Games. Though competition is encouraged, children understand that sport is primarily undertaken for enjoyment and can be accessed by all, regardless of ability or experience. We produce two productions each year, at Christmas for the Early Years and in the summer for Years 1 to 6 when all children sing and dance.

### **Extra-curricular**

We run a number of clubs before and after school and during lunchtimes: for example, choir, gardening, chess and newspaper club. We also have many externally-run clubs.

### **Working at Ravenstone**

- A good school on the journey to outstanding
- A school that allows for teachers to flourish and allocates a large percentage of the budget to staff development
- An exceptionally well-resourced learning environment
- An outstanding leadership team who think differently
- Excellent professional development and career progression opportunities
- A collaborative and caring school community which is culturally diverse and inclusive
- Wonderful pupils

## Wandle Teacher School Alliance

Ravenstone works as part of the Wandle Teacher School Alliance. The Alliance consists of a wide range of schools from different phases and specialisms and institutions who work together in a variety of ways to identify and tackle key issues within schools. We have a dedicated and enthusiastic staff in all phases and sectors. This depth and breadth of experience offers teachers a unique opportunity to explore the many complex and exciting areas of teaching and learning. Whatever stage you are in your career the Teaching School and its partners offer a comprehensive package to support both career and professional development right through to Headship and Masters qualifications.

## Maths Hub

The London South West Maths Hub aims to support schools in seven boroughs (Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton, Kingston, Richmond, Hillingdon and Hammersmith & Fulham) through a range of national and local projects each year. The core purpose of the Hub is to engineer a school based support network to develop Mastery style teaching at all levels of education.

As a school Ravenstone has embraced the support offered by the maths hub and our lead teacher is developed a mastery approach towards math's across the school and is also a mastery lead teacher