



JOIN US

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell is in many ways the ideal English village. It is a peaceful place with many thatched cottages, a duck pond and the pubs halls and churches that are the hallmarks of rural life in this part of the world. It is near the historic market town of Wallingford, which is a small and traditional market town with lots of quaint buildings, situated on the banks of a particularly pretty stretch of the Thames.

Oxford is a great city to spend time in and is only about 15 miles away, as is Reading. Didcot Parkway, which is ten minutes from Brightwell, links these communities by rail. From there it is only 45 minutes to London by train. The quality of life in the area is very high indeed, being a pleasant combination of a rural setting close to such different towns, as well as the capital.

The school

Brightwell is a small village school just over 100 children serving a growing community of families that are aspirant, care about education and who bring their children up well. Behaviour and manners in the school are very good indeed. It is a school where really good teachers can take risks in lessons that children appreciate and make work.

Despite its profile and OFSTED grade the school was not in the shape we would have wanted in September 2016. As a small school it has suffered from having a number of headteachers in a short period making it difficult to establish a strong focus on teaching and learning or to develop the careers of people working there. For a while it had become a little cosy and off the pace and colleagues and children are very much enjoying the focus being back on Teaching and Learning. The school became an academy in September 2017 and works with a very strong and popular 11-18 school in Wallingford within the Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust. The headteacher of Brightwell was previously Deputy Head at Wallingford and has been in post since January 2017.

We recognise that we need very talented people, who are ambitious for the children they work with as well as themselves, to help make this into the best little school around and that comes with significant investment. The school has invested in Assistant Headteachers, one without a timetabled teaching commitment, to work on teaching and learning and standards. Rather than try to make small improvements across the board and gradually shift the reputation of the school, we have created real excitement and a buzz about the work being done from the outset. Our successful school will learn a great deal and has already earned a very strong reputation in the community, and in the wider local primary sector with Reception numbers for September 2019 looking very favourable.

We believe the successful applicant will look back on this as the crucial stage in a very successful career indeed. Not just a happy part of their career but the place where a small school helped develop the skills and understanding of the profession that enables them to build a very successful career in teaching.

Reasons to apply:

You are seeking a great quality of life and recognise this in our setting.

You want to be part of transforming a small community school into something special.

Your drive is delivering the best for children and a love for the profession.

You are confident in your capacity to make a difference.

You may have ambition to become a school leader.

Not for you if:

You perceive the school to be a comfortable place to work because of the setting and catchment.

You need a long time to settle before really getting down to business.

You are looking for somewhere to develop a career that has gone a little awry.

You need things to be predictable and stable week-to-week.