



Welcome to Blakedown CE Primary School!

We are so excited that you are going to be starting our Reception Class and cannot wait to get to know you and to help you make lots of new friends. Being in Reception is the most wonderful adventure where you will play and learn new skills every day. By the end of the year, you will be able to do so many amazing things. You will have explored the world around you and most importantly had so much fun!

This booklet is to help you and your families understand what being in Reception at Blakedown will be like.

We hope you enjoy looking at it and that this helps you to get as excited about school as we all are!

Our school Vision and Values

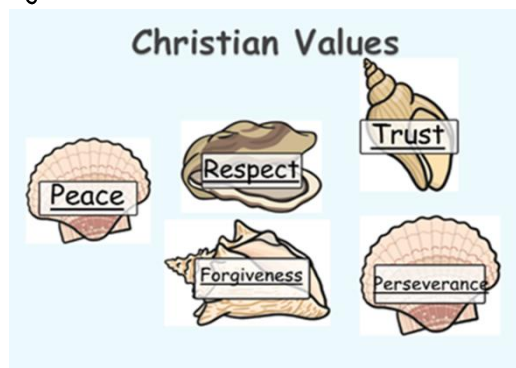
At Blakedown, the roots of our vision are from Psalm 139:14

'I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'

derived from the fact that we are all unique and made in God's image with individual talents and dreams.

At Blakedown we want our children:

- to be happy in and out of school, to have a deep-rooted sense of **JOY** in their lives and to be content and comfortable with who they are;
- to recognise their individuality and to use their talents and abilities in **SERVICE** of others;
- to be equipped with a love of learning and the skills and resilience to flourish in the face of life's challenges to **ACHIEVE** and be the best version of themselves.



Our Staff

The grown-ups who will be helping you in Reception
are...

Mrs Nash Class teacher
(Mon-Tue)



Mrs Schwartz Class
Teacher (Wed-Fri)



Mrs Thomas Class
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Marshall (Music
Teacher)



Mr Newbold (PE
Teacher)



How will we get to know you?

Home Visits

We will arrange a time with your grown-ups when we can come and visit you at home. You can show us your favourite toys and tell us about what you like to do.

When we come to visit you, we will ask you and your grown-up some questions that will help us find out lots of information about you.

Over the summer, help your grown-ups to fill in the 'All About Me' passport that we will share with you and your friends in September and display in the classroom.



Visiting Your New Classroom

Before you start school in September, we will invite you to meet us and to see your new classroom on 'Transition Day'. Your families already know this date. There will be lots of toys out that you can play with and lots of new friends that you will get to meet.

Starting School

On your first day in Reception you will be put into 2 smaller groups. Some of you might come in for the morning and some of you will come in after lunch. We will be sending out a letter to your grown-ups which will give the details of your first day at school and the timings.

On your first and second day your grown-up will take you to your classroom and help you put your bag and coat away. Then you will be able to give them a big hug and say goodbye. Don't worry though your grown-up always come back at the end of the day for big cuddles and to find out all that you have been getting up to!

On the third day at school, you will stay for the whole morning and for your lunch too! (We will tell you more about lunch time later in this booklet). After lunch, your grown-ups will come and pick you up and take you home.

After those three days, you will then be staying at school for the whole day. This booklet tells you about all the amazing activities that you will be going to do when you are at school.

The first few weeks can be tiring and bewildering even if your child is used to Nursery or being with a childminder. Don't worry if your child becomes upset; we are used to dealing with this situation. Children usually stop crying quickly and we can phone you to reassure you later in the session.

Transition Dates

- Tuesday 15th July am or pm
- Wednesday 3rd September am or pm
- Thursday 4th September am or pm
- Friday 5th September to include lunch (please bring a packed lunch)

Our School Day in Reception

8.40 a.m.	Main gates and entrances to school opened an adult will meet your child at the entrance door
8.50 a.m.	School starts with morning registration
11.50 a.m.	Lunch time
1.00 p.m.	Afternoon registration
3.20 p.m.	End of the school day, gates are opened for collection
3.20-5.30 p.m.	Wrap Around Care school provision is open. This must be pre-booked and paid for.

Snack Time

Free milk (until age 5) and fruit is available and we encourage all children to access this at snack time. If your child is not able to have milk for whatever reason, please let us know and we will speak with you about alternative arrangements. We also encourage children to bring in a water bottle, **water only** from home to keep in school to access throughout the day. Please make sure the water bottle has your child's name on.

Lunchtime

Packed Lunch - Children may bring a packed lunch and drink which should be in a named container/lunch box. This will be stored in the Reception Class cloakroom during the day. Please do not send in fizzy drinks, anything with nuts or unhealthy snacks or sweets.

School Lunches - Hot school dinners are FREE for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Key Information

Absences and illness

At Blakedown CE Primary attendance is a key area of priority. Absences, particularly in early education, has a considerable effect on children's development. If your child is away from Reception because of any illness, please notify us as to the reason on the first day of absence. We strongly discourage parents from booking holidays in term time.

If your child suffers from a medical condition requiring treatment such as an inhaler, we will require up to date medication to be kept in school. A form must also be completed at the school office.

It is important that we can always contact parents in cases of emergency. Please inform school immediately if your telephone number changes.

Safeguarding

All schools take the safety and well-being of the children in their care very seriously. Our safeguarding policy is on our website, and we would be delighted to talk to you further about this. Our school safeguarding leads are-



School Uniform

We are keen for the children to wear full school uniform (which must be clearly named) as uniforms provides smart, practical clothing and shows that the children belong to our school family.

Our uniform consists of:

Grey (trousers/shorts)

Blue pinapore or skirt

Light Blue shirt

Blue cardigan or sweatshirt (school logo optional)

Sensible, black shoes (Velcro fastenings please!)

Blue and white checked summer dress

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of **naming everything**. We do our best to help the children put their things away but it is far easier to locate a missing jumper in the classroom if it is named. Also remember to put a name label in shoes and coats as many children often have similar ones. Don't forget the wellies!

What does your child need to bring with them to school?

Lots of the fun activities that your child will be able to explore are very messy. We do have aprons for them to wear but it's sometimes hard to stay clean when they are having fun. Please can you provide a named bag with some spare clothes which include a change of underwear and socks, a top, some bottoms and a jumper or cardigan. We can leave this on their peg just in case we need it.

We play outside in the outdoor area **every day**.

- In winter your child will need to wear a coat, gloves and a woolly hat.
- In the summer your child will need to wear a sun hat, bring in some sun cream and wear clothes that keep their neck and shoulders covered.
- Please leave a pair of wellingtons at school all year round.

What should you leave at home?

Your child does not need to bring any of their own toys in to school. We have plenty of fun things to play with here and we do not want their toys to get accidentally lost or broken.

We encourage children not to wear jewellery to school for safety reasons but understand that this may not always be possible for all faith-based reasons.

What will help me be independent in Reception?

We want you to be as independent as you can in Reception as you are becoming so grown up. You will be allowed to go to the toilet whenever you need to go. Just tell a grown-up. We have our own toilets in Reception so you won't have far to go. If you do have a little accident please do not worry, just make sure you bring a named bag with some spare clothes in and we can help you get changed.

Where will I put my things?

You will have your own peg in Reception, this will be your space to hang your bag and coat.



The Early Years Curriculum

In September 2021, a new Early Years Statutory Framework and curriculum guidance was introduced. For us at Blakedown this felt like a big opportunity to modify our practice and continue to develop all the things that we believe are so brilliant about Early Years at Blakedown.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised to take care of and develop the whole child and not just their academic learning. Our EYFS curriculum is split into 7 areas of learning, 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Our EYFS curriculum also includes the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**. These focus not on what children know, but **how** children learn.

- **Playing and Exploring** – our children investigate and experience things and events around them and 'have a go.'
- **Active Learning** – our children concentrate and keep trying if they experience difficulties, as well as enjoying what they achieve.
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – our children have and develop their own ideas, make links between different and experiences and develop strategies for doing things.



Trips and Visitors

We will go on a trip at least once every half term, we like to use our local area as much as we can. We also like to invite visitors to school, so if you have anything interesting to share, please let us know.

Recent trips and visitors have included-

- Ladies Pool
- Theatre trip
- Hagley Library
- Church
- Lower Smike Farm

- HSBC
- Platform Rail
- Balanceability

How will your child learn by playing?

You are going to be very busy in Reception and you will spend a lot of your time playing. That is because playing is one of the best ways you can learn! Playing helps you to develop your talking, to manage and understand how you are feeling and to help you make new friends. You will be able to practice new ideas and skills, to take risks, show imagination and solve problems. In Reception you will get the chance to play inside and outside! Here are a few examples of how the toys and activities we have in Reception will help you to learn:

- Sand and water play can be an early introduction to science and maths, e.g. learning that water is fluid, not solid, and that it can be measured in different sized containers.
- Playing with dough, drawing and painting pictures and dressing up
- Building blocks, jigsaws and shape sorters can help with recognizing different shapes and sizes, putting things in order and developing logic.
- Playing ball games, dancing, running, climbing all help to develop body movement, strength, flexibility and co-ordination skills.
- Games help with turn taking, sharing and mixing with others.
- Singing, playing simple music instruments help to develop rhythm, listening and hearing.
- The role-play area is a wonderful place for make-believe, dressing up, trying out different roles. It provides scope for developing imagination, language, sharing, co-operation and mathematics.
- Through cooking the children are able to discover the properties of different types of food as well as developing language, mathematical and scientific skills.
- Reading and learning stories. Writing and mark-making. Children will also develop these skills through daily Phonics sessions.



What will I do at School?

We will play inside and outside at school every day. There are so many fun activities for you to explore. Here are a few ...

Number and Shape



Reading and Stories

Writing



Craft and Creativity

Technology



Fun outside



Phonics and Early Reading

At Blakedown Primary School we use Little Wandle Letters and Sounds as our chosen Department for Education-validated phonics programme.

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised provides all the planning, resources and support needed. Our pedagogy ensures optimum learning for the maximum number of children. Taught with fidelity, in parallel to the committed development of vocabulary and comprehension, and in a context that embraces Reading for Pleasure, it can provide reading success for all children, regardless of their background.

Find out more:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Writing



At Blakedown Primary School we use Kinetic Letters as our chosen handwriting programme.

- Narrows achievement gaps between pupils
- Benefits self-esteem and engagement with learning
- Comfortable, pain free writing
- Improves spelling, reading and editing
- Increased writing stamina
- Handwriting becomes a fundamental life-skill



Find out more: <https://www.kineticletters.com/>

Maths

At Blakedown Primary School, we use White Rose Maths as our chosen maths scheme.

This engaging and inspiring early years maths resources help children explore mathematics in meaningful ways. They also encourage the development of the core maths skills that make up the early years curriculum.

Find out more:

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/resources?subject=primary+maths&year=nursery>



Evidence Me – Online Learning Journals



In Reception we will share your child's learning with you via their online learning journal. We do this via an app called 'Evidence Me'. This is free for parents to download and access and you will be able to see photographs of your child's learning within school. We also encourage families to upload photos and videos of what their children get up to at home. Your child will be a focus or 'Target Tiger' at least once a term. This is a brilliant way of supporting your child with their speaking and listening skills, boosts the children's confidence and is a great way of helping staff learn more about your child on personal level.

Stay and Play Sessions

At least every term we invite families into school to work alongside their child and learn how they can support them at home. Sessions can include-

- Kinetic Letters
- Phonics
- Multi-skills

What can you do to make sure that your child is ready for Reception?

There are some things that you can start working on with your child to make sure that they are ready for school. These include everything from practising putting their coat on to writing their names. There are also lots of other things that you can do to support your child with the transition to school. Here are a few ideas...

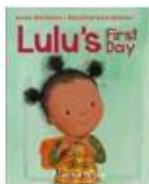
- Talk to them and listen to them
- Sing songs and Nursery rhymes together
- Play games with them – practise taking turns
- Read books to them
- Visit your local library.
- Teach them to take care of books – how do you turn pages carefully?
- Count regularly
 - E.g. How many buttons on this dress? How many cups on the table?
- Recognise different sizes:
 - E.g. large/small
 - Thick/thin
- Talk about shapes and colours.
 - E.g. Sort and match objects.
- Give your child the opportunity to write and draw and scribble using pens, crayons, felt tips and pencils.
- Practise self-care skills
 - Go to the toilet and wash and dry hands? Put on/take off coats?
 - Put on/take off shoes?
 - Hold and use scissors?

There are also some fantastic books and resources that you can use with your child to begin talking about starting school.



This is a lovely game that can be found on the BBC Bitesize website. You can create your own character and choose what school uniform they are going to wear.

Below are some lovely books that you could use to start talking about starting school.



Lulu's First Day by Anna McQuinn



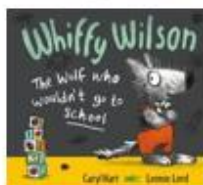
Lucy and Tom go to School by Shirley Hughes



Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg



We are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold



Whiffy Wilson: The Wolf who wouldn't go to School by Caryl Hart



Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School by Ian Whybrow

It is good to talk...

For some of you, your child's first day of school cannot come soon enough! For others the thought of your child starting Reception may make you feel worried and anxious. However you may be feeling, one thing that we ask of you is that you talk to your child about starting school in a positive manner. Let them talk to you about any worries that they may have or what they are looking forward to. Show them that you are excited about the new adventure that they are about to start and use this booklet to talk about what the school day will look like for them.

We are not only here for the children, but for our parents and community too. If you ever need help, advice or support please do come and chat to us and if there is anything at all we can do to help, we will.



Thank you for reading this booklet. We hope it has given you all the information you will need before your child starts with us. If there is anything else you need to know, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us. We really are looking forward to working with you to make sure that your child has the best possible start to their time at school!

If you wish to contact Mrs Nash and Mrs Schwartz with any questions or concerns, please contact us via our early years email. This is earlyyears@blakedownprimary.worcs.sch.uk we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We cannot wait to welcome your child to Reception!



Mrs Nash, Mrs Schwartz and Mrs Thomas and all the adults.