

Welcome to
Reception Class

2025-2026



Welcome to Blakedown CE Primary School

We are so pleased your child will be starting our Reception Class and are looking forward to helping them settle quickly. Being in Reception is the most wonderful adventure where your child will play and learn new skills every day. By the end of the year, they will be able to do so many amazing things. They will have explored the world around them and most importantly had so much fun!

Our school Vision and Values

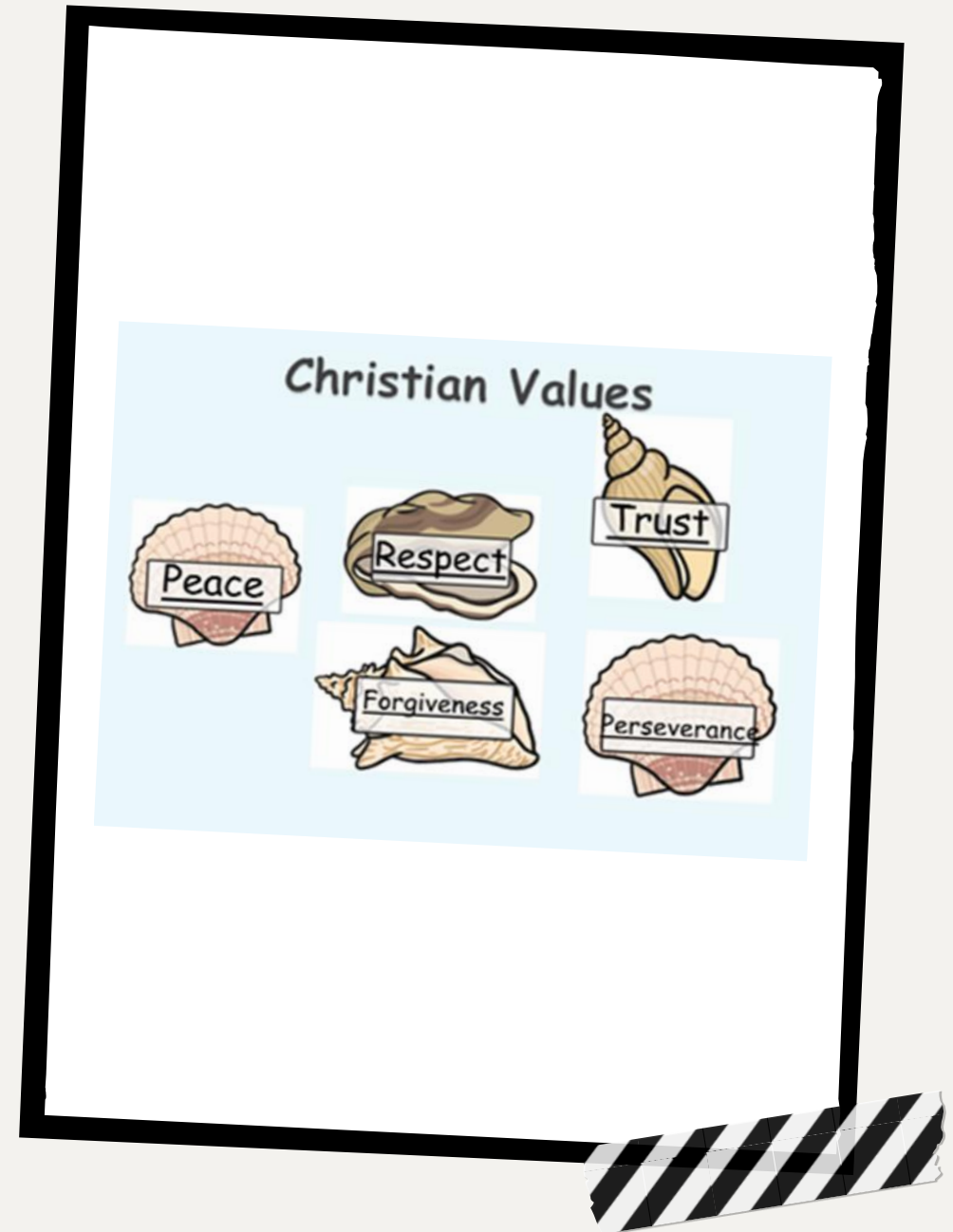
At Blakedown, the roots of our vision are from Psalm 139:14

'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.



Who's Who?



How will we get to know you?

Home Visits

For children starting Reception in September, we will arrange a time when Mrs Nash and Mrs Schwartz can visit you and your child at home. Your child can share their favourite toys and tell us about what they like to do.

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

Visiting Your New Classroom

Before your child starts school in September, they will be invited to meet us and to see their new classroom on 'Transition Day'. We will let you know the date for this very soon. There will be lots of toys out that they can play with and lots of new friends that you will get to meet.

Starting School

Day 1 and day 2 the children will be in 2 small groups

Day 3 they will come as 1 group and stay for lunch-please provide a packed lunch

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

Our Day in Reception

8.40am	Main gates and entrances to school open
8.40am	School starts and an adult will meet you at the entrance door
8.50am	Morning Register
11.50am	Lunch Time
1.00pm	Afternoon Register
3.20pm	End of school day
3.20-5.30pm	Wraparound After 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 from home to keep in school to access throughout the day, **water only**. 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 - School dinners are **FREE** for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Key Information

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-

Mrs Beckford-Bond
(Designated
Safeguarding
Lead)



Mrs Nash
(Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead)



Miss Low
(Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead)



School Uniform

We are keen for the children to wear full school uniform (which must be clearly named) as uniforms provides smart, practical clothing which is not too expensive.

Our uniform consists of:

- Grey (trousers)
- Blue pinafore or skirt
- Light Blue shirt
- Blue cardigan or sweatshirt (school logo optional)
- Sensible, black shoes (Velcro fastenings please!)
 - Blue and white checked summer dress
 - Wellington Boots

NAME EVERYTHING.

Absences and illness

At Blakedown CE Primary attendance is a key area of priority. Absence, 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 for the first day of absence. We strongly discourage parents from booking holidays in term time. These can now be fined.

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 will need to be completed at the office.

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

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 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.



Forest School

Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers children and young people opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self esteem, through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment.

Through this child initiated approach we aim to fulfil children's:

Self awareness

Self regulation

Intrinsic motivation

Empathy

Social and communication skills

Independence

Positive attitude

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 Smite Farm
- HSBC
- Platform Rail
- Balanceability

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.



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



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.



Evidence Me

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 a personal level.



Stay and Play

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



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. 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.

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!

The three-week wobble!

We cannot wait to welcome your child to Reception!



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

Contact us-

earlyyears@blakedownprimary.worcs.sch.uk

