



Blakeney CE VA Primary School

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Prospectus 2022/2023

For Parents/Carers



Welcome to Blakeney CE VA Primary School.
Part of the Pilgrim Federation of Church of England Primary Schools.

The Pilgrim Federation schools of Blakeney, Hindringham, Kelling and Walsingham work together for the benefit of the children in all four settings. We like to think our schools are branches of one big family tree and we warmly welcome you and your child to our school.

Getting started

Before your child starts school there are a number of forms that need completing to ensure their transition is a smooth one. These will be provided by the school office in due course. Some of the things you might need to do are:

- Order your child's uniform
- Complete medication forms (as required)
- Complete permissions slips and give us your contact details.

The transition process

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, unfortunately we are unable to offer our usual transition process. We will confirm arrangements as soon as possible.

Early days

We know that starting school can be a worrying time for both children and parents, but don't worry, we are here to help you and your child have the smoothest transition. Usually the more confident the adults are, the easier the child finds it to relax and settle.

Talking openly with your child about the joys and exciting changes that come with starting school can help them tackle and approach their first day with excitement.

Staff members are always available to speak with at the start of day for a short while and end of the school day. If there are any issues during the day we will always contact you and likewise you can call the office to make any enquiries.

Practical matters

Your child will need to come to school wearing the uniform listed in our main school prospectus, which you will receive in due course. In addition to this, a PE kit will be needed and should be in school every day and will be sent home on Fridays to wash.

There are set timetabled P.E. lessons but timetable changes in a busy school are not uncommon and we need to be able to move lessons around should our learning take us on an unexpected journey.

Your child will be issued with a book bag during a moving up to school transition session. They will need to bring this to school every day. The book bag will be our link between home and school, letters and forms will be stored inside alongside a home reading diary and their reading book which they will receive within their first few weeks of school.

Lunch - There are a range of lunch options available all of which are free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

- Hot dinner
- Vegetarian hot dinner
- School packed lunch
- Jacket potato with a topping

You may also bring in a home packed lunch if you wish.

The children will select their option every morning. The children quickly become confident with this and enjoy making an independent choice. A copy of the school lunch menu will be sent home at the beginning of the term, if there is something particular you would like your child to have off the menu, please communicate this to them so they can choose appropriately.

Dietary needs - most dietary needs can be catered for, so please let us know if your child has any particular requirements/food allergies or intolerances.

Health - please make sure we are up to date with any medical issues relating to your child so we can ensure their needs are met in school.

Medication - if your child needs medication whilst at school please complete a medication form available from the office. We are unable to administer medicine without written authority from you on a completed form detailing the nature of the illness and the dose to be given.

Illness - If your child is ill please keep them at home. Illness quickly spreads among small children and staff! If your child has experienced sickness and/or diarrhoea they must be kept off school for a full 48 hours, after the last symptoms.

Head lice - It is quite common for children to experience head lice during their early school days and sometimes even beyond! Please be vigilant and check your child's hair regularly. If you find head lice, please inform us discreetly and we will notify other parents to stop the spread. Consequently if you receive a message from the school saying "watch out there are nits about" please check your child's hair. Your local pharmacist will be able to advise on treatments, unfortunately we cannot recommend any specific brands or treatments to parents.

School timings

Children may arrive on site after 8.30am and are able to choose their learning in class. Official registration and the start of the day is at 8.45am. Please ensure your child is in school and ready to learn by 8.45am, children can often become distressed or unsettled when arriving late to school.

School ends at 3.15pm and parents and carers collect children from the playground. Buses and taxis are available for eligible children living further away; please speak to the transport department at Norfolk County Council for more information. An application for transport can be made when you register your child for school. Parents and carers may park on the main road outside the school.

The school day

On entering the classroom children should (within the first couple of weeks) say goodbye to parents/carers at the door, hang up their coats, place their book bags in the 'book bag box' and make their lunch choice independently. Once complete they may choose their learning until registration.

(Choosing your learning refers to accessing the carefully selected 'play' activities set up inside and outside the classroom to challenge, stimulate and take the children's natural learning process to the next level.)

After registration, our 'normal' day routine begins with collective worship followed by phonics and English. Between break and lunch we do maths and after lunch we focus on our topic. However, through skilful planning we create purposeful and irresistible learning opportunities which blend the boundaries of 'subjects' yet continue to meet the Early Years Goals.

On a Wednesday we will be taking our learning outside and putting our knowledge into practice in the real world. At Blakeney we are lucky enough to have exclusive access to a diocese plantation right next to the school, where we can be free to explore whilst building on our learning from inside the classroom setting. Here we will learn additional Forest School skills such as self-management and managed risk taking.

We cover at least three topics a year on a rolling program and parents will receive a curriculum leaflet at the start of each term containing some examples of what children will be learning. If you feel you have any 'special skills', knowledge or information you could share we would love to get you involved with the children's learning!

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In the EYFS the areas of learning consist of the following:

- Communication and language
- Literacy
- Mathematical development
- Expressive art and design
- Understanding the world
- Personal, social and emotional development

To access and achieve in these areas the children will have between three and four 10-15 minute direct teaching sessions a day. During these times they will be introduced to an activity from the 'Challenge Chart' which they will complete either independently or with an adult during their personal 'choosing their learning' time. This method of teaching promotes independence, time management and gives the children control of their learning. The majority of the day the children will be encouraged to 'choose their learning' within the carefully set up learning environment where the teacher and teaching assistant work together to use their thorough knowledge of each child and the EYFS curriculum to help

each child achieve their potential. We are able to do this in such a skilful manner that the children will just think they are playing!

Outdoor learning

Expect your child to spend long periods of time outside accessing learning opportunities. We go out in most weathers and although we do have waterproofs and some spare wellies, we do ask that your child has a warm coat that can be worn beneath the waterproof and bring in a pair of wellies (named) we can keep at school.

Reading and phonics

Through the progression in phonics children learn the sounds and their corresponding letters to sound out words. This aids reading enormously and has been given greater significance in the curriculum in recent years. Children start to learn to read by simply enjoying books, sitting and looking and listening to a story shared with an adult. From there they learn to read the pictures and work out what might be happening from the illustrations. Many children will receive picture only books as they start in Reception to build these vital comprehension skills. Phonic knowledge then begins to develop and children will begin to sound out very simple words. They will begin to bring home first word and short caption books at this time. Phonics leaflet books with simple word and caption build up practise accompany this.

Please try to read with your child at least three times a week to support their early reading. Experience tells us that children only progress through regular reading at home and at school. It is the experience of trying new skills with both the teacher in the focussed environment and at home where the brain will assimilate what it has learnt throughout the day, which secures this learning. There is often great anxiety about what level book a child is on and how that compares to other children in the group. Reading is exceptionally important but it is also exceptionally variable and we know and respect that all children learn and develop at their own pace. We urge parents to relax and allow their child to develop at their own rate. Moving a child on to a harder level too soon can lead to significant damage in the child's confidence and their ability to develop their reading skills.

Preparing for school

There are no set things your child should be able to do by the time they enter formal schooling. However, it would benefit your child and help them get off to a good start if they already possess some basic skills.

- Dressing and undressing themselves, including shoes. Shoes which don't have laces are best!
- Managing themselves on the toilet.
- Managing their own food and drink; using a knife and fork.
- Managing their own personal hygiene, such as nose wiping and hand washing.
- Recognising and writing their own name.
- Counting to 5 or even 10.

If your child has not mastered these skills then not to worry, we will get straight onto it, but it would give them the best start if they can and saves a lot of learning time that we could use for curriculum delivery.

Emergency contacts

Please keep our records up to date with your current contact details and that of anyone you wish us to call in an emergency. We also respectfully request that if you intend your child to go home with someone else that you let us know in advance. We take the safeguarding of children in our school very seriously and no child will leave us with another adult unless we have direct permission and instruction from a parent. If you make an arrangement at the school gate in the morning for a tea time play date the same day, please ring the school and let us know.

And finally...

We are here to answer any questions you may have regarding your child's transition. Please contact the office on 01263 740531 if you have any queries.

We share the aim - to make your child's time with us as happy and successful as possible! We look forward to working with you to help your child reach their full potential.

Blakeney school staff

Miss Yasmin Ahmed is the full time class teacher.

Mrs Julie Bishop is our teaching assistant.

Mrs Hirst is our secretary who is in the office and at the end of the phone to answer any immediate questions or to book an appointment to speak with staff members. Contact her by phone or email office@blakeney.norfolk.sch.uk

Miss Frier is our Executive Deputy Head and SENCo. She taught in Blakeney for over 10 years before taking on this role. She visits the school throughout the week. You can contact her directly through deputy@blakeney.norfolk.sch.uk

Mr Snowdon is our Executive Head Teacher and visits all four schools in turn throughout each week. If you wish to speak or meet with him or Miss Frier, please contact the school secretary to arrange this or contact him through head@blakeney.norfolk.sch.uk

Blakeney CE VA Primary School, Wiveton Road, Blakeney, Norfolk NR25 7NJ

Tel: 01263 740531

office@blakeney.norfolk.sch.uk

www.blakeney.norfolk.sch.uk