



Buckingham Park

Church of England Primary School

Excellence, through God who strengthens us

Welcome to Nursery

A handbook for parents

A Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to the Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School Nursery.

This information is intended to help you and your child settle easily into the school's nursery. We aim to work closely with our families to enable each child to be the very best young person that they can be – developing intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. I hope you will find this booklet informative and we look forward to welcoming your child to our nursery.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of staff.

Best wishes,



Headteacher

Our School Vision and Mission

'Excellence, through God who strengthens us'. We want to be a school that pursues excellence in everything that we do. We want to fix our minds and our energy on everything which is true, noble, right, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. As a school based on Christian values, we trust that God will help and strengthen us as we strive to be outstanding and remain outstanding.

We aim to provide the highest quality all round education, for each and every child, in partnership with parents, and within the context of a Christian community.

Our Values

We adopt the following Christian Values as guiding principles:

We are kind, helpful and polite
We do our best
We are honest

We share
We are peacemakers
We forgive others

We take care of everything,
and everyone

Whilst these are Christian values, we recognize these as being universal human values that all our families, whether Christian, from another faith background, or from no faith background, will want to support us in growing in our school, in our staff, and in each of the young people we have the privilege to teach and care for.

Our Aims

To be a learning community where:

- Each child is significant; noticed, valued, respected and cherished.
- Children are safe, enthusiastic, happy, engaged, courteous, and interdependent.
- As a result of outstanding, motivating and inspirational staff and teaching, each child makes sustained progress .
- The teaching of reading, writing, communication and mathematics is exceptional and each child makes excellent progress.
- Teachers plan challenging and enjoyable tasks based on accurate assessment of pupils' prior skills, knowledge and understanding – supported by an outstanding, creative curriculum.
- Learning across the entire curriculum is highly valued and each subject and area of learning is treated as significant.

To be a Christian community where:

- Christian values are at the heart of school life.
- There is a strong link with the local Church and the wider Christian community.
- Spiritual development, as well as cultural, moral and social development, are integral to the learning experience in the school.
- All children and families - those of the Christian faith, those from other faith backgrounds, and those with no faith background - may understand more about our Christian values and faith whilst being free to make their own choices.

To be a local community where:

- The school is at the heart of the wider community, served by that community, and serving that community.
- The school is fully inclusive, welcoming all sections of the wider community, including those families who do not have a natural connection to the school, so that all will view the school as an active and open part of the wider community.
- Effective partnerships with other community organisations are formed and have a positive impact on the life of the school.
- Everyone is a learner – providing opportunities for life-long learning.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Right from the start the children in the Nursery are encouraged to have a sense of belonging and respect for the school and community. Our behaviour code will help all those involved in school life to work together for the benefit of all.

We believe that it is important that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly. We are a caring community, built on Christian values, and these are reflected in the way that we promote good behaviour through the school. We want an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others.



This special behaviour code is displayed throughout the school and we spend time talking to the children about each aspect. They are also reflected on through our curriculum and through our acts of collective worship.

The school will reward good behaviour, because we believe that this will develop an ethos of kindness and co-operation. All our efforts are to promote good behaviour, rather than focus on poor behaviour.

We will not tolerate bullying of any kind and we have a separate Anti-Bullying Policy. Both policies can be found on the school web site.

Important Adults in Nursery

Miss Gates and Mrs Fuller are our Nursery Teachers. One of the teachers is always in Nursery (and occasionally you will find both at the same time). Miss Gates is currently on Maternity leave and is covered by Mr Turnbull-Ross. They are supported by our highly skilled and experienced team of Nursery Assistants; Mrs Dysart, Mrs Hyland, Mrs Rush and Miss Breith.

We have lots of other adults who visit from time to time.

Learning in the Foundation Stage

Our curriculum is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage. The EYFS operates across schools, nurseries and a wide range of other pre-school settings. This is great news for your child as he or she settles into school because the style of learning, and the curriculum content will be very similar to any pre-school setting they have been part of. The EYFS takes into account the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' as well as the Prime and Specific Areas of Learning and Development.

More detailed information about the stages of the EYFS curriculum can be found here:

http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf

If you would like more detail about the curriculum in EYFS, please speak to your child's teacher.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

These are the ways in which a child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically. These areas underpin all development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

Three Prime Areas of Learning and Development

Personal and Social and Emotional Development

Children learn how to work, play and co-operate with other and how to function in a group outside of the family.

Physical Development

Children develop physical control, mobility, dexterity and awareness of space both indoors and outdoors as well as health and self-care.

Communication and Language

Children develop competence in speaking, listening, attention and understanding.

Four Specific Areas of Learning and Development

Literacy

Children learn how to read and write.

Mathematics

This area provides the foundation for mathematical development, focusing on numbers and shape, space and measures.

Understanding the World

Children develop an understanding of their environment, other people and features of the natural and man-made world around them including ICT.

Expressive Arts and Design

This area includes development of children's imagination and their ability to communicate through role play, music and art.

How Can I help my child prepare for nursery?

- ✓ Give your child opportunities to meet and play with other children.
- ✓ Encourage your child to become more independent in dressing; doing up and undoing zip and buttons, fastening laces, putting on and taking off their coat. This will mean allowing them time to practice (children's attempts are praised and, of course, staff will always be available to assist the children).
- ✓ Encourage your child to use the toilet and wash their hands independently.
- ✓ Share stories and books daily, recite rhymes and play games that involve taking turns.
- ✓ Talk about and share as many experiences of everyday life as possible, at home and in your local area eg: shopping, cooking, using a computer, counting objects etc.
- ✓ Let your child spend time with other adults and children so they are used to leaving you.

The Learning Environment

Teaching and Learning in the Foundation Stage takes place both indoors and outdoors (whatever the weather - so waterproofs and wellies are a must!).

The nursery is divided into distinct areas of learning. Children are taught in many different ways – but mostly through fun play in our irresistible learning environment! There is a balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities.

Children in Nursery will spend most of their time in and around the Nursery class but will also spend some time in other parts of the school in order to use specialist facilities and to work alongside other year groups.

Times

Our morning session starts at 8.30am and ends at 11.30am.

Our afternoon session starts at 12.30pm and ends at 3.30pm.

Daily Routines

- Please ensure that your child brings a coat, a water bottle and their book bag every day.
- You can bring your child right into the Nursery in the morning and help him or her to settle with an activity before leaving them. We want you to feel part of our Nursery as much as your child!
- At the end of the session you are welcome to come into Nursery to collect your child and to speak with staff. We will always have a member of staff near the door to ensure that all our children leave safely with an adult.

Nursery Policies

We adhere to strict policies and procedures, designed to ensure that your child is safe, happy and successful. These comprehensive guidelines are used to help with the smooth running of the nursery and are aimed at assisting parents/carers and staff in fulfilling aims and remaining within the boundaries of all relevant legislation. Our policies have all been drawn up in accordance with OFSTED guidelines and recommendations. A copy of our school and nursery policies are available to download from the school website.

Complaints

We aim to provide an environment and relationship with you that supports your child and meets their requirements. We are open about what we offer and how we operate, however we also understand that there may be occasions when you have concerns that you want to discuss. Please feel free to approach any member of staff who will be happy to listen, talk and give advice or resolve any issues you may have. Parents may prefer to speak to the headteacher directly in which case an appointment may need to be made. In the event of a parent having a concern that they do not feel has been resolved, a formal complaints procedure can be followed. This has been designed to provide you with a formal mechanism to resolve any complaints you may have that has not been resolved with the staff.

Food and Drink

Children will have access to water throughout the session. We will also provide a milk drink for those who want it, and a fruit or vegetable snack each day.

Uniform

We suggest that children wear comfortable shoes, jogging bottoms, T-shirt or polo shirt and a sweatshirt. Children may wear a jade school sweatshirt with our logo – these are available from Tesco Online (<http://www.schooloffice.co.uk/137570>) or from Bucks Schoolwear Plus in Aylesbury. All clothing should be comfortable and easy to manage for a small child! Please help your child to become good at dressing and undressing his or her self in the months leading up to starting at Nursery.

We do not permit any jewellery at all at Nursery (this includes any type of earring).

Communications

We like to keep you informed about what is happening in the Nursery and we hope that you will keep us informed of any circumstances that might assist us. For example: a change in family circumstance, illness or bereavement. Staff are always available at the end of the school day to discuss any concerns you may have – if they are busy with the class, you can pop into the office and make an appointment.

There will be regular opportunities for you to meet with your child's teacher or key worker to hear about their progress.

In general, the school will keep you well informed through our newsletters, briefing papers, information sessions, and website. Please make sure you keep your information up to date in the office, remembering to tell us about any changes to your telephone numbers or email addresses.

School Travel

Children's safety is our first priority. We would encourage all our pupils to find a safe walking, cycling or scootering route to nursery. This reduces congestion around the school and improves safety for all.

If you need to drive to school, please consider finding a safe place to park and then complete your journey to school on foot.

Parent Association

We are hoping that we will be able to form an association of parents, governors, staff and friends of the school which will register as a charity and exist to support the school's work. The Association will be led by a committee which will organise community events, raise additional funds for the school, and support in very practical ways.

School visits and activities

We value the learning that can take place by children making visits out of school and by having special visitors in to school. Over the coming years, your child will have many opportunities to participate in these types of activities. We will ask you for your general consent for these types of activities but we will also inform you before each event.

The Use of Photographs

We use photographs in school for a number of different purposes:

- To record and assess progress
- To celebrate achievement
- For publication in school documents and local press
- For publication on the school website (subject to compliance with the school's website policy)

As part of your Admission form, we ask that you give us your consent to photograph your child for these purposes. This saves us from asking you each time we want to publish a photograph in this way. We are always very careful about how we use images of children and have strict policies which we follow.

Use of the Internet

We want to make good use of ICT in school across the full range of the curriculum. Increasingly we make use of the internet. We use an internet service provider which specializes in provision for schools and local authorities. This provides a very effective barrier from children accessing inappropriate materials, unregulated chat, un-educational games, email accounts etc.

We also have a code which governs the use of the internet in school which is introduced to the children in ways which are appropriate to their age and understanding.

As part of your Admission form, we ask that you give us your consent for your child to have supervised access to the internet as this can be such a valuable part of a child's learning in school.

Our full policy for Network and Internet Access which includes our website policy is available from the school's website.

And finally...

At the heart of our work is the belief that parents are partners in their children's education. We hope that this short guide has been useful in explaining some of our procedures, the way that your children will be taught and how you can help at home. Please do ask if you have any further questions on these issues.

We are very much looking forward to your child starting in our Nursery and we hope he or she will be very happy with us.