

Bunwell Primary School



Early Years Handbook 2024

General Information

Bunwell Primary School and Nursery
The Turnpike, Bunwell, Norfolk, NR16 1SN

Tel: 01953 789318

Email: office@bunwell.cee.coop

EYFS Staff

EYFS teacher: Miss M. Bennett, Mrs V. Roden, Mrs T.
Copeman, Miss S. Dent

Headteacher: Miss E. Husbands

Chair of Governors: Mrs R. Grose

School Administrators: Ms K. Smith

Nursery sessions: Monday to Friday,
8:40am – 11:50am or all day (8:40am – 3:15pm)

Welcome to Bunwell's Early Years Foundation Stage Class

We hope that your child's time with us is happy and we want to ensure that your child enjoys their time in the Early Years Foundation Stage, feeling secure and cared for. The following information is designed to answer some of the questions you may have about our setting and it explains a little about what will happen here. We have included some reminders that will help the smooth running day to day and ensure the safety of your child.

Our School Aims

- To provide a secure, safe, caring and stimulating environment.
- To value every child, embracing diversity, culture, religion and languages in partnership with their families and community.
- To celebrate and build on what children already know, aiming to develop a positive attitude and enjoyment for learning through incorporating children's own specific areas of knowledge, talents and interests.
- To provide a range of opportunities to learn through direct experiences, enquiry and active exploration, both in the classroom and outdoors.
- To encourage and promote independence, confidence and personal values.
- To value and involve parents and carers in children's learning and development, working together in partnership.



We believe that all children learn best when they feel comfortable, happy, valued and able. We endeavour to nurture our foundation stage children by providing enjoyable and active opportunities. We focus on developing children's self-esteem, social skills, language and communication, physical development and ability to begin to become independent; in addition to teaching basic skills of literacy, mathematics and understanding of the world. We start at what the child already knows and aim to move this forward using creativity and explorative learning. We understand that play forms the fundamental groundwork for all children's learning, and we use play and play-based learning to tend to our children's personal and academic needs. We recognise the importance of supporting the whole child.

If you have any questions or worries about your child, please do come and discuss them with the Early Year staff at any time.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. The statutory framework for the EYFS contains the legal requirements and guidance which we follow. Nursery and Reception children are referred to as the foundation stage of learning, because it is during this time that attitudes to learning are formed and social skills are developed which lay the foundations for future education.

There are four over-arching principles for the EYFS. These are:

- Every child is a **unique child** – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children can learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.
- Children learn and develop well in **environments** in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between staff and their parents or carers.
- Children **develop and learn** in different ways and at different rates. The Framework covers the education and care of all children including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Learning and Development

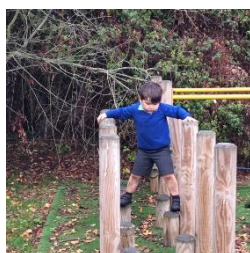
There are seven areas of learning development. All areas are important and interconnected. The prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children are supported in four specific areas, through which the prime areas are reinforced and applied. These specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The staff consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development of each child and they use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all areas of learning and development.



The children are taught and assessed under the sections of the EYFS, as set out below:

Area of Learning and Development	Aspect
Prime Areas	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making relationships Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour
Physical Development	Moving and handling Health and self-care
Communication and Language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking
Specific Areas	
Literacy	Reading Writing
Mathematics	Numbers Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and communities The world Technology
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials Being imaginative

The Early Years setting at Bunwell has a self-contained outdoor area with different areas to provide shelter, areas for water and sand play, a mud kitchen and climbing. The children have access to free-flow between the outdoor and indoor areas.



Play underpins the delivery of all the EYFS. Young children learn most effectively through structured play. Our staff work together as a team to plan for children's learning in the seven areas of development to ensure that all these areas are covered within an interesting, stimulating and supportive framework. They also ensure that children progressively develop their skills and knowledge through this phase of their school life.

Partnership with Parents

As parents, you are the first educators of your children. We believe in a close partnership between parents and staff as your child joins Bunwell Primary School and Nursery. Good communication between staff and parents enables us to inform each other of relevant matters concerning your child.

We appreciate being informed of anything which you may think will affect your child and will treat things in the strictest confidence.

We want to inform parents and carers about the activities going on in school. We will share photos and experiences on ClassDojo through the class story, Tapestry, the fortnightly school newsletter and regular 'stay and play' sessions.

You can help us in resourcing our Early Year classroom. We find that unwanted small saucepans are perfect for the mud kitchen, old telephones and cameras come in handy in the role play area as well as toys, games, jigsaws and other things your children may have grown out of. We may be able to use it!

In line with the EYFS curriculum, we use 'Tapestry', a secure online learning journey, to record photos, observations and comments made by your child. We hold parents' evenings twice a year, when you will be invited to discuss your child's progress. However, if you have other questions and concerns, please do not wait for parents' evening, to speak to one of the staff.

If you would like to volunteer to help in our Early Years classroom, please speak to one of the adults to find out more.

Special Needs

The Early Years team will be aiming to provide the best education for your child. Your child's progress and future learning needs are assessed and recorded through regular observations and work closely with the SENCO, Mrs Brookes, in order to achieve this.

Starting Nursery

Starting nursery is a great step in your child's life and in yours. We will do all we can to help them and make you feel welcome. We are aware of the tremendous input parents have already made in the education of your child.

Starting nursery is an exciting time for young children, and together we hope to make it a very happy and rewarding time. Before starting nursery, please talk to your child about coming to Bunwell and about the things they will be doing and the people they will be meeting. It is useful to use our names so that they will be familiar with them.

It is important to remember children vary enormously in the way they react to new experiences; some children may take longer to settle than others. When you do leave your child for the first time, make sure you say goodbye and tell them when you will be coming back and what you will be doing whilst you're away. When your child starts nursery, you may find that only a few other nursery children start on the same day. We find we are able to settle children more quickly and easily into the new routines when we stagger their starting days.

Children are encouraged to be toilet trained before admission, but we understand that this is not always possible.

Before your child starts, you will be invited to a meeting so that the staff can meet you and we can get to know each other. There will also be the opportunity to arrange a home visit

for us to meet your child and give us a chance to get to know you and your child before them starting nursery in a place where they feel confident.

Nursery Funding

All children are entitled to 15 funded hours the term after their third birthday. The government provide 30 funded hours for families where the parents or carers work over 16 hours per week. The government have set deadlines for families to apply for their hours. The upcoming deadlines are as follows:

Intake	Deadline
January	31 st December (HMRC recommend 30 th November)
April	31 st March (HMRC recommend 29 th February)
September	31 st August (HMRC recommend 31 st July)

To apply for your hours please visit www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare

How you can help us

Bringing and collecting children

- If you come by car, you may find it easier to park in the Village Hall car park and walk down to school
- Access to the Early Years classroom is by the gate to the left of the building
- Please tell us if there will be someone different collecting your child, or if there are any other changes to pick up

Absences and Illness

- If your child is absent, please contact the school office on 01953 789318
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, please keep them at home for at least 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

Personal Items

- Children are not encouraged to bring toys to school as they can get lost or broken. However, we understand some children have a special item, please discuss this with the class teacher.

Accidents

- All accidents are logged in our accident book.
- If your child has a bang to the head or a serious accident, we will contact you.
- If your child has a toileting accident, we will change them and provide them with clean clothes. Some parents find it helpful to provide a named bag of spare clothes which can be left on their peg in case of accidents. Please return any school clothing as soon as possible.

Snack Time

Children have a snack of fruit each morning.

Please let us know if there are any foods your child cannot have.

Lunches

Lunches for children in Reception are free, as they are covered by the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme. Meals can be ordered through WisePay. For parents of children in Nursery, they are able to pay and order lunches through WisePay or provide their child with a packed lunch.

Medical Needs

Please let us know if your child has any medical needs or conditions such as asthma, eczema, allergies and food intolerances. From time to time we might use resources and extra things to support our learning such as playdough and items in our tough tray to give the children additional hands on and sensory experiences

Moving into Reception

Gaining a place in our Nursery, does not guarantee a place in Reception. Admission to Reception is determined by Norfolk, details of which are available through our admissions policy.

What does my child need for Early Years?

A water bottle

A complete change of clothes (named in a bag)

Wellies and puddle suit to be kept at school

A sunhat when the weather is warm, sun cream should be applied before school

A coat, hat and mittens when the weather is cold

Uniform Guidelines

Uniform

- Royal blue jumper (or cardigan) with logo– preferably [sourced from MyClothing](#)
- Sky blue collared shirt (sky blue polo an option in Nursery and Reception only)
- Mid grey school trousers OR
- Mid grey pinafore dress OR mid grey school uniform skirt
- Mid grey uniform shorts with dark school socks
- Blue gingham summer dress (during the summer term and until October half term).
- Dark school socks. Girls can wear plain mid grey school tights with skirts or dresses
- The skirt OR pinafore dress can be worn with short socks, either white or dark grey
- Plain sensible **black school shoes**
- Early Years and KS1 only – blue school puddle suit
- Early Years – school book bag with logo ([MyClothing](#))
- Slippers in Early Years and Key Stage 1



PE Kit

- Blue sports T-Shirt with logo (from school supplier – [MyClothing](#))
- Black shorts
- Black socks
- Mainly black or white **sports** trainers and not fashion shoes



All items apart (unless indicated) can be sourced from any standard uniform supplier, e.g. major supermarkets OR from M&S

The expectation is that the policy is followed by **all parents** and followed up by the school.

If you have any queries at all, particularly if something will match the uniform policy, please do not hesitate to ask.

Parents will unfortunately be asked to correct uniform should it not match the guidance.

Arrangements can be made with the school should the purchase of uniform be financially difficult.

Medical exemptions will be considered if supported by a medical note

Forest School Bag

- Light weight long sleeve top
- Fleece or jumper
- 2 pairs of spare socks
- Warm trousers
- Gloves
- Hat
- Summer hat
- Suncream