



Bluecoat Academy
believe in yourself, in others, in God

Bluecoat Primary Academy



Welcome Nursery

Your child will shortly be joining our nursery class to begin their early years education. This leaflet aims to provide you with the information needed to help your child make a smooth transition into their new environment. If you do need any further help or guidance please speak to a member of the early years team.



Frequently Asked Questions A Summary of Contents



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Who will be working with my child?



Miss Katie Pattenden
Nursery teacher



Mr Benjamin Jackson
EYFS Leader

A Teaching Assistant will also support the Nursery



Mrs Sue-Ellen Shaw
Head Teacher



Mr Chris Smith
Deputy Head Teacher



Mrs Heather Trowbridge
Office Manager



Miss Danielle Launder
Office Administrator

How can I prepare my child for school?

Parents can do a lot to help their children prepare for school. Helping children to become independent, reading to them and supporting them in health and self care will all enhance their education. Children feel more confident if they have had opportunities to develop basic self-care skills. You might like to:

- Give your child opportunities to mix with other children.
- Encourage him/her to dress and undress him/herself.
- Learn to pack away and take care of their possessions.
- Teach your child to use a knife and fork at mealtimes.
- Teach him/her to wash their hands after using the toilet.
- Give your child the opportunity to enjoy using pencils, crayons, paint and blunt-ended scissors.
- Sand and water play are enjoyable experiences.
- Sorting and building activities are fun.
- Encourage imaginative play using dressing-up clothes.

Look at books with your child, getting him/her to turn the pages in the correct order, looking at the pages from left to right. Encourage him/her to use the pictures to guess the story content, to retell the stories to you and to talk about the stories/poems that you have shared. Talk to your child about the environment as you walk or ride in the car or bus. Teach nursery rhymes and songs. The alphabet can also be learned as a song, it is important children also learn the sound of each letter so games like 'I Spy' will help your child to play with initial sounds. If your child is showing an interest in writing, encourage him/her at every opportunity, even if their 'words' look like random marks on the page this is GOOD! Do encourage them to hold their pencil correctly. It is important that your child learns the correct movement to write each letter and it is appropriate to show them how to do this from the beginning, but don't force this on them or make them write with a particular hand; many children don't decide until later on.

During the summer, please talk to your child about starting school - what it will be like and how much fun it will be. Use the internet or books to show them pictures of what a classroom is like, what a dining room will be like etc.

What is the Early Years Education?

In the nursery we aim to give each child the opportunity to:

- ❖ build on their existing learning within a stimulating and challenging environment.
- ❖ have fun and enjoy their learning environment.
- ❖ mix with other children and adults and make new friends.
- ❖ gain an understanding of each other's uniqueness and individuality by respecting differences such as languages and cultures.
- ❖ be valued in their own right whatever they bring to the class.
- ❖ have their own work valued and attractively displayed in a stimulating setting.
- ❖ be encouraged to behave sensibly and considerately, and develop responsibility for themselves and the world around them.
- ❖ value the security of clear, fair rules which are applied consistently.

The learning environment in the nursery gives the children opportunities to help them develop socially, emotionally, physically, aesthetically, morally and intellectually. In the nursery we promote active learning in seven areas:

Prime Areas

1. Communication and language;
2. Physical development;
3. Personal, social and emotional development.

Specific Areas

1. Literacy;
2. Mathematics;
3. Understanding the world;
4. Expressive Arts and Design.

Our nursery environment is set up to promote learning through play. Play is an integral part of the early years curriculum and is a means by which the children can:

- ❖ relate to the world and practice skills for adult life.
- ❖ acquire skills of problem solving and organisation.
- ❖ develop language and imagination.
- ❖ acquire social skills and the ability to deal with success and failure.
- ❖ exercise choice and learn decision making.
- ❖ become relaxed, secure and confident.
- ❖ cope with pressures and lower levels of frustration and aggression.



What are the Characteristics of Effective Learning?

The characteristics of effective learning are a key element in the early year's foundation stage. They detail the ways in which children should be learning from their environment, experiences and activities. Children up to the age of five should all be displaying the characteristics of effective learning every day.

The characteristics of effective learning are split into three main areas and then three sub sections within each area. These are 'playing and exploring' which shows how the child is engaging, 'Actively learning' which shows the motivation behind the child's learning, and finally 'creating and thinking critically' this shows the *thought* processes behind learning and new achievements.

How can I get my child ready for their First Day?

On the first day at school children will need:

- ❖ A school uniform;(please see the uniform leaflet already provided)
- ❖ A book bag
- ❖ We play outside in all weathers so please send appropriate outdoor clothing, named inside book bags e.g. coats and wellies for rainy days & sun hats/sun cream for sunny days.

All items must be **clearly named**. These are available from the Bluecoat Academy, Aspley Lane Campus, at the School uniform shop.

Nursery children can often be changed regularly if
Uniform Shop Telephone Number:
0115 929 1152.





How do I keep informed?

- ❖ Talk about the `Home School Agreement` with your child.
- ❖ There will be open mornings during the year when parents will be invited into school to find out more about what their child had been learning.
- ❖ Parents' evenings are held in October and March. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's progress, view their work and discuss the outcomes of any assessments.
- ❖ Our website has photographs of different activities and lots of information about our school.
- ❖ We use Twitter, Facebook, email and text messages and Marvellous ME to stay in touch with our parents.
- ❖ A range of Parent Information Leaflets are available from the school office or visit our website:
www.bluecoatprimaryacademy.co.uk
- ❖ Parents have the opportunity to meet informally with class teachers by prior appointment after school. Children do sometimes experience anxieties and we would rather you came to discuss them with us as soon as possible. Your child may wish to share something she/he has done during the day and it is fine for them to bring you in to school to share that with you.
- ❖ If you wish to have a slightly longer chat with the class teacher or Head Teacher it would be appropriate to make an appointment, ensuring that they are able to offer you sufficient time.
- ❖ Home Link Books – These are scrap books where you and your child will be able to communicate with the teacher about any skills or learning done at home.
- ❖ We welcome your feedback – please contact the office to tell us what is going well or if you have thoughts on how we can do better.

What is the daily routine in the Nursery?

Following our part time induction programme, our morning session starts at 8.45 a.m. Please ensure that children arrive promptly. Gates open from 8.30am. Parents and children can wait on the foundation stage playground until doors open at 8:45. The children will then be greeted by their class teacher at their class's gate.

Children should be encouraged to enter the classroom independently hang up their own coat independently and put book bags in individual trays.

School finishes at 3.00pm, doors will open for parents to collect children from 2:55pm. Parents may wait on the playground outside the classroom. We ask that parents do not wait in the classroom as this causes congestion. Children are always encouraged to collect their own belongings to develop their independence.

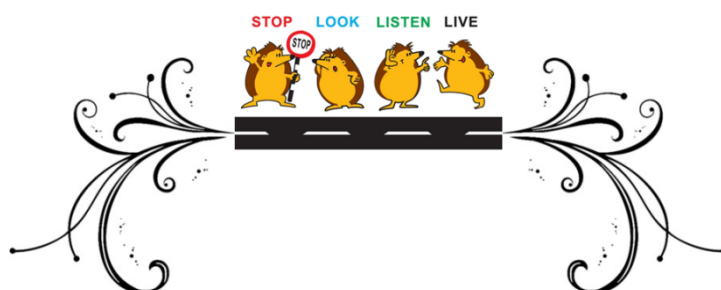


How can I get safely to and from School?

Cars moving or parked by the school entrance are a great danger to children's safety. Parents are asked to park well away from the school entrance, preferably on surrounding streets. There are new parking enforcements coming into force during the summer holiday this year – if you choose to park on yellow lines or restricted areas, not only are you obstructing the flow of traffic on pavements and the road, but you are likely to be issued with a parking ticket.

We encourage parking at Harvey Hadden Sports Centre, parking is a 4 minute walk away at a child's pace or 2 minutes' walk at an adult's pace.

Harvey Road is a very busy road, therefore please ensure that you are careful when crossing roads and walking to school.



What refreshments and meals does my child get at School?

Children have access to a piece of fruit or vegetable every day. We encourage all children to eat different options each day, which include apples, satsumas, pears, carrots and bananas.

Milk is available to children at Milk & Fruit Time. We use a scheme called 'Cool Milk'. Every child under the age of five is entitled to a free 189ml serving of milk.

You can register and pay for milk online, please see the Cool Milk letter and leaflet already provided for further details.

Water is accessible throughout the day, children are provided with their own named water bottle kept in the classroom. These are washed and refilled by teaching staff each day.

Lunch break for children in Nursery is from 11.35am-12.25pm.

All children eat in our school hall at lunchtime and are supervised by our midday staff. In order that parents are aware of the amount of food eaten in packed lunches, excess food will be returned home.

There is plenty of time for the children to eat their lunch and there is also time to play outside. Children should speak to any adult if they are worried, hurt or upset about anything.

In school we provide; meat, halal and vegetarian options and follow a 4 week menu rotation. You can sign up for daily choices within this menu rotation using the menu selection letter in this pack. If you choose to change between packed lunch and school dinners, please give the office staff at least half a terms notice.

Children in the Nursery need to pay for their school meal. This is £2 a day and can be paid through Parent Mail which you will receive a letter about signing up to in September.

What will Playtimes be like?

Playtimes for the Early Years happen in our Outdoor Learning Environment. They will also be slightly different to organised Outdoor Learning play:

- ❖ There will be a lot more children, as Peacocks, Flamingos and Ducklings play together.
- ❖ There will be less organised play
- ❖ There will be plenty of staff to supervise



During all playtimes:

- ❖ We play inside the our outdoor boundary
- ❖ There are opportunities to use the outdoor learning equipment including bats, balls, cones, skipping ropes, talking tins, binoculars etc.
- ❖ Children may go inside to use the toilet – otherwise children should not be inside at break times as there is nobody in the rooms to supervise them
- ❖ Children will be supervised in their classroom if the weather is poor during break
- ❖ Are able to speak to any adult on duty if they are upset, hurt or worried about anything.





How can I get in contact with the school?

Bluecoat Primary Academy, Harvey Road, Bilborough, Nottingham,
NG8 3BB

Tel: 0115 900 7200 email: primary@bluecoat.uk.com

At Bluecoat Primary Academy Nursery we work closely with parents and carers. All parents are welcomed into the school and valued as an essential part of each child's education. The nursery staff use a variety of ways to keep parents fully informed about the curriculum, via the website, letters, text messages, Marvellous Me app (sign up details will be provided once your child starts with us in September) and discussions.

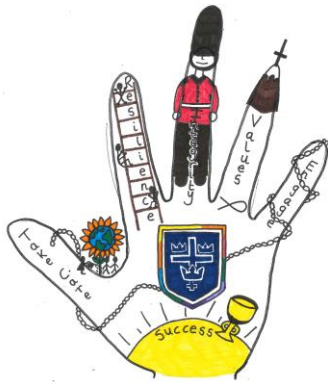
"Parents are children's first and most enduring educators. When parents and practitioners work together in early years' settings, the results have a positive impact on the child's development and learning." Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage, QCA 2000

Ways to get in touch:

- Pop in and have a chat. We are usually available from 8.30am or straight after school at the end of the school day.
- Drop us a line – either a letter or email.
- If you feel you need to see the Head Teacher, Mrs Shaw, appointments can be arranged through the office.

Children who need to leave school mid-session must be signed out at the school office so that their absence can be noted. We ask parents to notify school in advance.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please telephone the school before 8.45am on each day of the absence (01159007200)



What are the School Rules and what are the STRIVE Aims?

Children are introduced to our School Rules and STRIVE aims early in the year.

Success— We celebrate everyone's successes.

Take Care— We take care of ourselves, each other and our environment.

Resilience- Try, Try and Try Try again.

Integrity— We do the right thing even when no-one is watching.

Values- We are guided by our Christian Values.

(Forgiveness, Friendship, Hope, Trust, Justice, Compassion, Thankfulness, Peace)

Engagement— We get involved to be part of something special and to make a difference.

You will receive the Home School agreement about behaviour at Bluecoat but it is worth mentioning we reward behaviour using Marvellous Me badges and recognise our achievements in our weekly celebration assembly. If your child comes home with news of a reward, do remember to praise them – they will deserve it! We use a traffic light system for managing behaviour which is outlined in our code of conduct booklet.

We encourage parents to contact the school at an early stage about any concerns they have.

We are sure your child will be happy at Bluecoat Academy Primary and we look forward to a successful partnership working together to achieve your child's potential.



When can I take my child on holiday?

We do not encourage children to take holidays in term time. If needed, parents can request leave of absence by writing to Mrs Shaw. Bluecoat Primary Academy can only grant a leave of absence for a maximum of 5 days per year and these will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

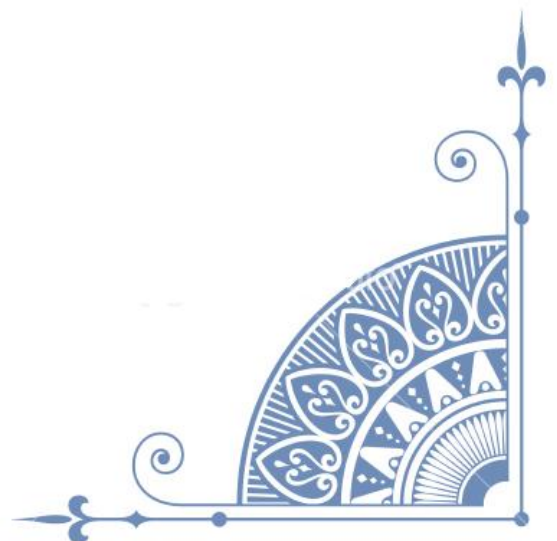
Where do I collect my child from School?

All Nursery children will be collected from the Ducklings classroom on the foundation playground side of the school building. Children must be brought to school and collected by a known adult (someone over the age of 16). If anyone different is collecting your child, please let us and your child know beforehand. PLEASE NOTE: for your child's safety we will only allow them to be collected by someone known to the staff or who the staff have been informed will be collecting your child.



What are the Health and Safety protocols at Bluecoat?

- If there are any changes in your child's health, i.e. allergic reactions, asthma, please let us know.
- If a child is sick or has diarrhoea, please do not bring them to school for 48 hours following the last bout.
- If your child uses an inhaler and needs to use it while at school please hand it to your child's teacher.
- Please let us know if your child has been suffering from any of the usual childhood illnesses such as measles.
- We will inform you either verbally or by letter of any bumps or grazes which your child received during their day at school. Please let us know of any similar incidents which happen at home.
- Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice.
- If your child soils their clothes or gets wet, we will change them into dry/clean clothes and send items home in a bag. The prompt return of clean clothes would be appreciated.





What is the Early Years Pupil Premium?

The Early Years Pupil Premium is additional funding that is allocated to schools for children in low-income families who are currently known to be eligible for free school meals. The funding is used to make sure that your child receives additional provision to enable them to reach their full potential.

If you think you are entitled to income based free school meals, please speak to the office in confidence, who will advise you accordingly.

Finally...

Starting school is an important step for your child and the staff at Bluecoat Primary Academy are committed to ensuring that your child settles into school as comfortably as possible. If you have any worries or concerns, please come to see us.

