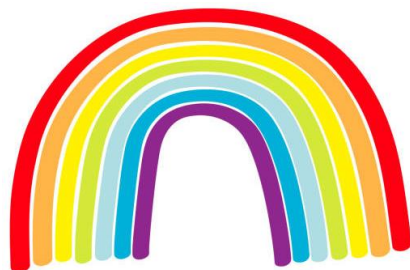


Bussage C of E Primary School



**Reception Class:
Rainbows**



2026-2027

Induction Booklet for Parents

Welcome

Welcome to Bussage C of E Primary School. We hope that this booklet will answer questions that you may have about your child starting school.

Choosing which school to send your child to is an enormous decision. As a parent there are so many factors that we know you want to consider – Will my child be safe? Will they achieve their best? Will the teachers help them to make friends? Will they have opportunities to explore other skills? Will they be encouraged to be a well-rounded individual?

At Bussage C of E Primary School, we can safely say that the answer to all the questions above is a resounding YES! We care enormously about the children we teach, in terms of their academic, social and emotional progress, and of course their safety.

In partnership with you, we help your child to learn for life in all its fullness. Your role, as parent and carers, is vital as you are the ones who have provided most of your child's learning experiences so far. Whether this is your first or last child to go through school, there are bound to be lots of things that you are unsure about or would like to have clarified. If the answers are not in here, please feel free to speak to Mrs Bennett (Rainbows class teacher) or the Headteacher, Mrs White.

Preparing Your Child for School

Starting school for the first time is a very big step for any child and our aim is to make it as happy an experience as possible. In order to help children to settle well, we offer a staggered start to school during the first few weeks. Research and our experience shows that children are happier coming into school in smaller groups for shorter lengths of time to begin with, and this gives the Reception Team the opportunity to get to know the children well whilst being able to talk with you, the parents.

Initially we offer part-time education, however by the end of September all children are in school full time. Parents are often surprised by how tired the children are. The school day is different to the pre-school setting and children need to adjust to new expectations, a larger setting and larger numbers of children.

We see the children's time in school as a three-way experience between school, child and parent. It is important that you talk to your child about all of the exciting things they are going to be doing, all the new friends they will make and how much fun they are going to have. Allow plenty of time for your child to prepare for school – you need time to talk to them, and provide reassurance if necessary.

There are lots of things you can do at home to help your child with their transition to school. It would be helpful to your child if they can:

- Dress and undress themselves.
- Take off/put on their coat (including fastening it), gloves, hat.
- Put on/take off shoes and wellies.
- Use the toilet confidently; flush the toilet and wash their hands.
- Use a knife and fork.
- Share and take turns.
- When playing games at home, encourage your child to share and take turns fairly, do not always let them win. Also, teach them to tidy away their games.
- Recognise their name in writing (this does not mean being able to write their own name).
- Use a tissue to wipe/blow their nose then put it in the bin.

If your child can do these things they will feel happier and more confident in school.

School Vision and Values

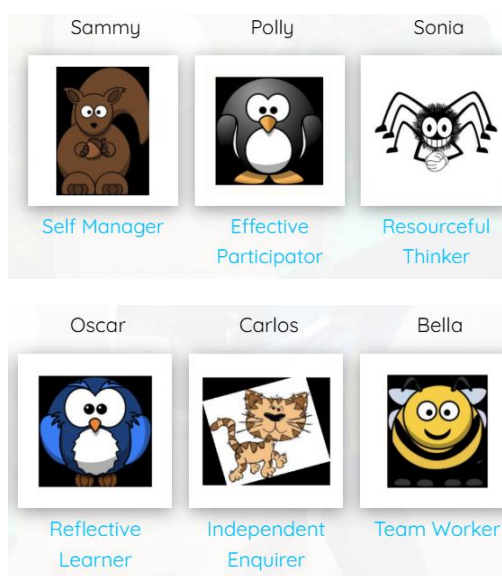
The Bussage C of E Primary School vision is built upon the four cornerstones of WISDOM, HOPE, COMMUNITY and DIGNITY.

Our school promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We want our children to develop learning behaviours to enable them to become independent life-long learners.

The six Bussage Learning Powers are:

- Independent enquiry (Carlos Cat)
- Reflective learning (Oscar Owl)
- Effective participation (Polly Penguin)
- Self-managing (Sammy Squirrel)
- Resourceful thinking (Sonia Spider)
- Team working (Bella Bee)



Our Curriculum

What happens in your child's first year?

Learning and teaching at Bussage C of E Primary School is based on a creative approach because we believe that rich experiences create rich minds.

A varied and exciting curriculum is planned from the **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile**. Through observation, conversations and play, we are very aware of the individual variation of needs, abilities and skills of the children and the activities we plan are sensitive to this. There is a balance between adult directed and child-initiated activities, giving children the opportunity to gain new skills and experiences, indoors and outdoors, and develop a love of learning.

Throughout the day all children will participate in PEG Time (Personal Education and Growth Time), with at least one adult available to be playing and interacting with them. During this child-initiated learning, adults will support the learning that is taking place in their play and will extend their learning further if appropriate. This is a great way for the adults to really understand what your child's likes and dislikes are, and it enables us to plan a curriculum matched to your child's needs and interests.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage? (EYFS)

The EYFS begins at birth then continues up to the end of their first year at school. This is what they will be learning during their time in the Early Years:

Areas of Learning and Development			
Prime Areas			
Communication and Language	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	
Listening, Attention and Understanding Speaking	Self-Regulation Managing Self Building Relationships	Gross Motor Skills Fine Motor Skills	
Specific Areas			
Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	Expressive art and Design
Comprehension Word Reading Writing	Number Numerical Patterns	Past and Present People culture and Communities The Natural World	Creating with materials Being Imaginative and Expressive

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

These describe the behaviours children use in order to learn. The Reception Team will get to know each child well and offer learning experiences that match each individual's style of learning.

The Three Characteristics of Effective Learning of the Early Years Foundation Stage



Phonics

We teach phonics daily, following the Essential Letters and Sounds programme. ELS is a synthetic phonics programme to help children learn to read the 26 letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make. It also teaches them the digraphs (two letters that make one sound, e.g. 'sh') and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound, e.g. 'igh'). Phonics teaching begins soon after children start school and is a vital part of their learning leading to reading spelling and writing.



NCETM
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE
IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

Mathematics

We teach maths daily using the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) and the White Rose Maths schemes of work as a basis of our planning. These resources provide comprehensive, mastery-based schemes of learning for mathematics and promotes excellence in math education.

Recording and Reporting Learning

We welcome parent interest and are always prepared to discuss your child after school. All teachers are involved in after school clubs or meetings on some days, so it is best to arrange a suitable day and time if you wish to have a longer discussion. This can be done via the school office team.

Reception Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a national assessment in England for children starting Reception in primary schools. It is designed to provide a snapshot of a child's skills and abilities in literacy, communication, language, and mathematics at the beginning of their school journey. The RBA is used to measure progress schools make with their pupils from reception to the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2). Mrs Bennett will carry out this assessment when your child starts school.



Tapestry

We use iPads to document your child's progress in an online learning journey, that you can access at home.



Tapestry is a secure, online learning journal primarily used in Early Years settings like nurseries, pre-schools, and primary schools. It allows teachers and parents to record and share a child's learning experiences, observations, and progress. This platform facilitates communication between home and school, enabling parents to see their child's activities, celebrate milestones, and contribute their own observations, fostering a shared understanding of the child's development. Any observations or pictures taken during your child's PEG Time will be added to their online profile, and you will receive notifications when new observations have been added.

EYFS GLD Data Submission

This is a summative assessment that evaluates a child's progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at the end of Reception year. To have achieved GLD (Good Level of Development), a child must have reached the expected level in the prime areas of learning (Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development) and the specific areas of Literacy and Mathematics. Mrs Bennett will assess your child and report the data to Gloucestershire County Council in June 2027.

Parents Evening

During the Autumn and Spring terms we have Parents Evenings, when you are invited into school to discuss your child's progress.

End of Year Report

In the Summer term, you will receive a written report, which will give you a summary of your child's development and behaviour.

Our School Day

The school doors open at 8.40am and children should go straight into school via the courtyard. Please ensure that your child is here promptly as the external doors close at 8.45am, which is when registration begins. Any children arriving after this time should be taken to the school office to be signed in.

The school day ends at 3.15pm and pick up is from the courtyard. Please let your child know in advance if someone else is collecting them and please always inform the teacher. If an adult is not there to collect your child they will remain with a member of the Reception Team, and will be taken to the After-School Club which will incur a chargeable fee.

When dropping off and collecting your child from the courtyard, adults must remain in the courtyard and not enter the classroom. A member of the Reception Team will be there to welcome you. Please ensure that you have eyes on your child walking into the school building, don't just assume they have gone in.

Signing in and out: If you need to bring your child to school late or collect your child from school during the day, please ensure you sign them in/out at the school office where someone will always be able to assist you. Our school office team are: Mrs Turley, Mrs Rigg and Mrs Sampson. Please try to ensure that any appointments are outside of the school day where possible (dentist/doctor) and know that days off for holidays cannot be authorised (neither can days off for birthdays!) If you need to take your child out of school for exceptional circumstances, an absence request form must be completed and handed in to the school office before your child is absent. These can be found on our website or the office can email them to you. Please note that although some circumstances for absence can be authorised, they still work against your child's overall attendance percentage.

A Typical Day in Reception

8:40 – 8:45am Children arrive in the courtyard and come into school

8.45am Register

8:45 – 8:55am Dough Disco/Pencil Grip Song/Handwriting

8:55 – 9:20am Phonics

9:20 - 10am Learning Time and PEG Time

10 – 10:20am Snack-time

10:25 - 10:40am Collective worship

10:40 – 10:55am Playtime

10:55 – 11:55am Learning Time and PEG Time

11:55 - 12pm Toilet and wash hands ready for Lunch

12 - 1pm Lunch

1 – 2:40pm Learning Time and PEG Time

2:40 - 3pm Playtime

3 – 3:15pm Story time and home time

Uniform

Our children wear school uniform proudly to show and feel that they are part of the Bussage C of E Primary School family. We encourage children to wear school uniform, they are expected to look smart and be dressed for the appropriate season and weather.

The required uniform is:

- 'Bussage Blue' jumpers or cardigans
- White polo shirts or shirts/blouses
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores
- Blue gingham dresses / playsuits for summer
- Sensible footwear must be worn – black shoes or boots NOT trainers.
- Sandals with closed toes may be worn in the summer

For sporting activities:

- A 'house' colour t shirt (branded ones available at Bateman's Sports)
- Black or navy shorts/skort
- Pumps/Trainers (no laces)
- Black or navy jogging bottoms/leggings for winter outdoor sports
- A jumper/sweatshirt or hoody for winter outdoor sports (branded house team hoodies are available from Bateman's Sports if you should wish)

There is no expectation for children's general uniform items to be branded, however most children choose to wear our 'Bussage Blue' jumper or cardigan with our vision and logo on as it helps them to feel part of our school identity. If you wish to purchase branded school uniform items with our school logo, they may be bought from Bateman's Sports in Stroud. All other generic items can be sourced from shops, such as supermarkets, at low cost. The PTA also hold a stock of second-hand uniform which is available to purchase for £1 per item with funds raised going to the PTA. To be able to access second hand uniform the PTA hold regular sales and can be contacted via their Facebook page (F@B – Bussage Primary School PTA).

House Groups

Your child will be placed into a House Group and where possible siblings are placed in the same House. The House System is in place to support building of 'team' mentality and a feeling of belonging and togetherness. House points are used as a celebration of what is going well with a child. House points can be gained throughout the week for a variety of reasons: for producing great work, showing great enthusiasm, for challenging themselves, for improving at something, for following the Bussage Learning Powers, for showing kindness, compassion and respect or in fact any of our Christian Values, for being helpful.....to name but a few. We do team sporting events at points of the year with the largest event being Sports Day in the summer term.

Ridgeway Rhinos - red

Eastcombe Eagles - yellow

Stonecote Sharks – green

Toadsmoor Tigers - blue

Induction Programme

New Starters Library – From now through to Friday 17th July

Pre-School children can come to school to choose a book to borrow. This will enable children to gain confidence in coming to school and get used to seeing some familiar faces. Children can come as often as they want to.

Pre-School Visits

Mrs Bennett will visit or phone your child's pre-school setting to talk to your child's key worker.

Taster Session – Thursday 2nd July

Your child is invited to join us in either the morning (9.30-11.30am) or the afternoon (1.05-3.05pm.)

During this time your child will have the opportunity to take part in some familiar activities, indoors and outdoors, listen to a story and sing some songs.

Please bring your child to the front entrance of school where you'll be met by Mrs Bennett. Collection at the end of the session will be from the courtyard.

Please sign up to a session during the New Parents Evening or phone into the office to request a place.

Home Visits – Wednesday 2nd September, Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September

Home visits are a great way for you to have a little chat about any questions you might have or any personal information you may wish to discuss. It is an opportunity for your child to meet Mrs Bennett and Mrs White in an informal way. We would highly recommend these visits – the children talk about them throughout the year!

If you would like to have a home visit, please sign up for your preferred time at the New Parents Evening.

Starting School – Monday 7th September

Your child is in either Group A or B and will follow a part time transition into school in order to facilitate an easier start to their school life.

Children should be dropped off and picked up from the courtyard.

	Session	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 w/c 2/9	Morning			Home Visits		
	Afternoon			Home Visits		
Week 2 w/c 7/9	Morning	(M,T,W) Group A 8:50 - 11:30am			(TH, F) Group B 8:50 – 11:30am	
	Afternoon	(M,T,W) Group B 1:05 – 3:10pm			(TH, F) Group A 1:05 – 3:10pm	
Week 3 w/c 14/9	Morning	Group A & Group B (including lunch) 8:45 am – 1:15pm				
	Afternoon					
Week 4 w/c 21/9	Morning	Group A & Group B 8:40 – 3:15pm				
	Afternoon					

First Day Checklist:

- Named water bottle.
- Named sun hat, welly boots and coat.
- Named PE kit - shorts, t-shirt and pumps/trainers (no laces please unless they can do them!)
- Named book bag.
- Named spare set of clothes in a carrier bag.

Please label all of your children's items clearly and show them where the label is. This helps to ensure your child's items remain with them and it promotes independence.

How Can I Help at Home?

Reading

When children and parents share books regularly, reading becomes a more enjoyable experience and progress in learning to read is greatly increased. When enjoying books with your child at home please try to...

- Encourage your child to look at the pictures.
- Prompt your child to tell you what is happening in the pictures, using descriptive language.
- Discuss characters, e.g. how they feel, what they are doing.
- Predict what will happen next.
- Encourage your child to express preferences – favourite part of the story, which characters they liked/disliked, why they found the story funny/exciting/interesting/boring.
- Help children to recognise that words are made from letters and that we read from left to right.

Library Book - Your child will choose a Library Book from school every week, which they will bring home to share with you. There is no expectation for the children to read these books themselves, they are purely for you to enjoy as a family.

Reading Book – Once the children begin to learn their letters and sounds at school, they will be given a reading book linked to their current phonic knowledge. This will be sent home with a Reading Record, in which you will write a comment about how your child has done at home with their reading. You can write comments based on whether your child has enjoyed the book, has started to recognise phonemes, has been able to tell stories using pictures or is beginning to blend.

We really value your written comments and feel that it supports a positive home/school link. Please don't use the Reading Record to write other messages in that you need the teacher to know as they may not be seen straight away.

Writing

Children need to learn how to hold a pencil correctly and how to form letters correctly. They will be taught this at school and guidance will be sent home via Tapestry. Please encourage your child to practise holding a pencil correctly and forming letters correctly when writing at home. Please do not teach children to write using capital letters, only the capital letter at the beginning of their name.

Phonics

Children will be taught how to read and write phonemes (letter sounds) correctly at school. You can then support them at home by revisiting the learning they have done in school, using their Phonics Book.

Mathematics

During their Reception year at school, your child will learn about numbers (counting, number recognition and number bonds to 10), shapes (2D and 3D) and measures (length, weight, capacity). To support their learning at home, you could:

- Encourage them to count and recognise numbers in the environment, e.g. house numbers.
- Sing number rhymes, e.g. '1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive'.
- Play games that use dice to encourage subitising (quick recall of number of spots).

FAQs...

What happens if we arrive late?

The school bell is rung at 8.45am which signals the start of the school day. If you arrive after this time your child will be marked as late. Please bring your child to the office to sign in. We will walk them down to the classroom.

What happens if I need to collect my child during the day?

Please inform your child's teacher that your child will be collected early or phone/email the school office. This should only be for exceptional circumstances.

What if my child is unwell before school or during school?

To prevent the spread of illness to other children and adults we advise that children who have been sick or had diarrhoea are to be kept off school for 48 hours after the last bout of illness. Please contact the school office by 9:20am to let us know if your child is unwell.

If your child is ill during the school day someone from the school office will contact you and ask you to collect them as soon as possible.

What if I am concerned about something?

Please do not hesitate to contact us. Often a brief phone call or a chat can prevent a problem from developing. Mrs Bennett and Mrs White are always available if you need them. Please be aware that longer conversations are not usually possible at the start of the day as this is when Mrs Bennett will be greeting and settling children in for the day. Longer conversations can be made by appointment.

What if my home circumstances change?

Please inform the school office immediately about any changes in your address/contact numbers. It is essential that we have up to date details in case we need to contact you.

What if I am held up and cannot collect my child on time?

We will, of course, always look after your child until you arrive. We will not let your child go home with another parent or adult unless we have been notified of such arrangements in advance by you. If you are delayed for a longer period of time, your child will be placed in after school club until you are able to collect them (this is a chargeable activity).