



Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage at Brinkworth Earl Danby's CE Primary School



(A complete guide to your child's first year at school).



Introduction

Starting school can be a daunting prospect for children and parents alike, with so much new information to take on board and routines to become familiar with. With this in mind we have put together this booklet to try to answer all those nagging questions that both you and your child may have, before the school year begins. (We have tried to include all the relevant information we think you will need, but if there is anything you feel we haven't covered please let us know and we will endeavour to include it in our next publication of this document).

Here at Brinkworth Earl Danby's CE Primary School we appreciate that early years' education is not just a preparation for the next stage - it is vitally important in itself. We understand that children will come to us with vastly different experiences, abilities and an understanding of the world unique to themselves. As a result we aim to offer a high standard of early years' education that takes into account the individual needs and nature of these young children and builds upon what they already know and can do.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Team

The class is made up of one full time and one part time Early Years/Reception Teacher and a daily Teaching Assistant.

Mrs N Gray - Reception Teacher

Mrs P. Haydon and Mrs B Lane - Teaching Assistants

We are here to make your child's first year at school as enjoyable as possible, so if you do have any worries or concerns, please let us know so that we can help. If you do feel that you need to speak to the class teacher at any point, please make an after school appointment as mornings are extremely busy and hectic times! - Thank you.

Aims for the Early Years at Brinkworth Earl Danby's

- To make the learning process a stimulating, interactive and pleasurable experience for all children.
- To focus on the process of developing skills, rather than merely the outcome.
- To provide for each child's individual needs: supporting and extending them where appropriate, and allowing them to learn and develop at their own rate.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, that is based around purposeful play and that can be built upon in Key Stage 1 and later years.
- To develop children's independence and self-esteem, by providing a safe, secure environment, in which children are not afraid to explore or make mistakes.



The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage- What is it all About?

- Your child will already have begun the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, if s/he has attended a pre-school, nursery or child-minder. The curriculum begins from birth and continues until age 5.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage aims to build upon what children already know and can do. It takes into account parental input and children's pre-school experiences.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage adopts a principled play-based approach.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage places great importance on the fact that parents are children's first educators. With this in mind an effective partnership between parents and the class teacher is encouraged to help to achieve positive outcomes for the child.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage is based on Four Themes; A Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Learning and Development and Enabling Environments.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage helps practitioners to plan care and learning that is right for each child at each stage of their development.
- If the Early Learning Goals are not reached by the end of the Foundation Stage, then the children can continue to work towards them in Year 1.

School Opening Times

Brinkworth Earl Danby's Lower School is open from 8.50am. If your child arrives at school by bus they will be met and escorted into school by a member of staff.

We also run a "drop and go" service where children coming to school by car can be dropped off at the front door after 8.30am to ease car parking issues. They will be supervised by a member of staff until 8.50am.

Morning session: 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Afternoon session: 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Registers are taken promptly by the class teacher at 9.00 am and at 1.00 pm. If you arrive after 9.00 am when the main doors have been closed you will need to buzz the door and a member of the office staff will let you in. You then need to sign your child into the late book. If your child arrives after the register has closed they will be marked in as officially late.

Playtimes are as follows:

Morning session: 10.30 - 10.45 am

Lunchtime: 12.00 - 1.00 pm



When it is time to pick the children up at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm please wait outside the front entrance by the green railings so that your child may be returned safely to you by the teacher. Alternatively your child may go home by bus, in which case they will be escorted to the bus by members of the staff at the end of the day.

School Entry Arrangements

Each child will have four induction sessions, two mornings and two afternoons, during the summer term prior to him/her starting school. This will help them become familiar with their teacher, teaching assistant and the other children who will be in their class. It will also allow the children time to familiarise themselves with the school environment and explore some of the resources that we have in the classroom.

We will be visiting your child in their nursery/playgroup setting during the summer term. At Brinkworth Earl Danby's School we consider these visits to be extremely valuable as they help us to gain important information about your child as well as to see them in a more familiar setting. All children and families are offered a home visit in September while the children are part time. This enables us to build up a holistic picture of your child, knowing their interests and things they like to play with. It also provides another opportunity for you, as parents, to discuss any worries or find out more about starting school.

Our reception children will start school on Tuesday 4th September 2018. For this week they will stay every morning until 12 noon.

For the week of 10th September 2018, they will stay for lunch and be collected at 1pm.

After this children will attend school full time and be collected at 3pm.

What do I do If.....?

My Child has a Medical Appointment:

As much as possible we do ask that medical appointments are made out of school time. However we do understand that this is not always possible. If your child has to be taken out of school for a medical appointment, the school must be advised in writing, so that it can be appropriately marked in the register. The letter/note can be handed to your child's class teacher or handed to Mrs. Hayes or Mrs. Holdsworth in the office. When you come to collect your child for your appointment, we ask for security reasons that you come to the office first.

My Child is absent from School through Illness:

If your child is absent from school through illness it is important that you inform the school, by 9am on the first day of illness. You do not need to inform us each day of your child's illness, but a follow up note is needed on their return to school, so that the absence can be recorded correctly. If the school is not informed the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

My Child has to take Prescribed Medicine:

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE SENT TO SCHOOL WITH TABLETS OR MEDICINE. Should medication be required, it must be handed to the Admin Officer on site, by a responsible person, with a completed and signed request for administration of medication. Forms are available from either site. Normally we would say that if a child requires medication he/she is probably not well enough to be in school. Children suffering from sickness or diarrhoea should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last attack.

My child has Head Lice:

The school office has useful information, courtesy of the School Nurse, on how to deal with cases of head lice. Do not be embarrassed to let your child's class teacher know if your child has head lice, it is very common. We will not disclose your child's name, but a general class letter will be sent out to make parents aware of the situation, so that they can treat their children too.

I have letters or information that need to be given to the class teacher:

Each child will have green bands given to them in their book bag. Please put a band around the book bag handle to show that important information is enclosed and place the letter/information in the bag. A member of staff will remove the band to show that the information has been dealt with.

Red bands are used by the class teacher to indicate that there is a medical note (usually for a bumped head) that requires your attention.

I want to take my child out of School for a Holiday:

In line with the Department for Education guidelines, the governors do not expect holidays to be taken during term time. The National Curriculum places heavy demands upon the time of both teachers and children and time lost is very difficult to make up, such is the pace required. Any requests for exceptional leave of absence must be made to the Headteacher, using the Exceptional Leave of Absence Form which can be obtained from the office.

I Change my Emergency Contact Number(s):

In your admissions pack you will find a Data Collection Form. This will need to be completed and returned to the school office. If any of the particulars you have given us change for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible; this way we will be able to contact you immediately should your child become ill, have an accident etc.

I do not wish my child to have his/her photograph taken:

Throughout your child's time at Brinkworth Earl Danby's School, your child will probably have the opportunity to have their photograph taken many times; whether it be for the local paper, during school plays, or for the school brochures. (Although the school never allows children's names to be published). We do understand that there are circumstances in which some parents may not wish their children to be photographed. If you do not wish your child to be photographed for any reason, please complete the form enclosed in your admissions pack relating to this subject and return to school so that any confusion may be avoided.

I wish my child to have a Mid Morning Snack:

Snack time is a very social occasion in the Early Years. It not only gives the children the opportunity to refuel with important vitamins and energy to help them to learn, but it also allows the children to take on roles and responsibilities; i.e. by giving out the snacks and drinks. Snack takes place just before mid-morning break. All the children are offered a small drink of water or milk. The children also have access to a healthy snack through the NHS free fruit and vegetable scheme. This will continue until the children are seven years old. The fruit and vegetables are sent to us throughout the week and include; satsuma's, apples, bananas, carrots etc.

I want My Child to have Milk at Snack Time:

Fresh free milk is available at school for all children in Foundation Stage. If you wish your child to have milk from Year 1 onwards, simply register your child with Coolmilk online by following the instructions on the "Cool Milk" form, contained in your new admissions pack, or complete the application form and send it off to the address shown on the form. You will not need to register with Coolmilk until your child starts in Year 1.

About School Dinners/Packed Lunches:

Universal Free School Meals are available for all children in Key Stage 1. These are freshly made in the school kitchen. Your child will be given a menu in the first week of starting school. Meals for 10th September onwards need to be ordered on the Monday BEFORE the week that the meals are required. All meals are ordered through the ParentPay system. Once your child starts school, you will be sent information on how to register with ParentPay. This will enable you to order school meals, pay for schools trips etc and it is also the method we use to communicate with parents via email and text messages.

How do I keep up with School News and Events?

We have a school newsletter. We prefer for parents to receive newsletters via e-mail; however if these facilities are not available to you then paper copies can be sent on request. Any letters sent that need consent/reply will also be sent as a paper copy and given to your child to put in their book bag. All copies of correspondence are put onto the school website so it may be helpful to keep checking to ensure you have not missed anything.

Class Newsletter

Throughout the year the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will explore several topics/themes. Many parents often ask how they can help their child with their learning at home. With this in mind a class newsletter is sent out when the children start a new topic, containing suggestions on how you can help your child at home. The letter will also be available to view on the Beech Class page of the school website www.brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk.

I want to order a School Uniform for my Child:

School uniform can be purchased either directly from "the famous school branches" based in Sandford Street, Swindon, SN1 1LF - telephone 01793 520843. They offer a postal service direct to your home or work for £4.95, or a free click and collect service. Alternatively uniform can be purchased online with Tesco (F&F) Uniform at www.tesco.com/ues, select our school from the list and you will see the customised items you can buy. Postage is free for orders over £15.

We believe school uniform and a smart appearance promotes a sense of identity and pride in our school. We ask parents to support the school uniform policy as follows:

Uniform:

Skirts / pinafore dresses in grey (an appropriate length and fit for school wear)

Shorts / trousers - grey tailored (shorts should be knee length)

Shirts / polo shirts - pale blue or white

Sweatshirts / cardigans - navy blue

Blue and white striped or gingham dresses for the summer

Socks - **WHITE, GREY OR BLACK**

Tights - white or grey

Shoes / sandals - black or brown - sensible and safe for children to run around in (No boots)

PE Kit

T shirts - navy blue (with school logo) or white - **NOT FOOTBALL SHIRTS**. (T shirts in house colours of red, blue, yellow and green are worn on Sports Day)

Shorts - navy blue

P.E. shoes - trainers or plimsolls

Please ensure that shoulder length and long hair is tied back with discreet hair accessories in the school colours only.

Jewellery - No jewellery except stud earrings, which will need to be taken out or covered up for PE lessons.

Also, school sunhats with the school logo are available for purchase.

Please ensure that all items of school clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. Biro pen is not suitable for labeling as it comes off in the wash.

Parents Board

This can be found in the cloakroom area of the Reception classroom. It contains spare copies of letters/forms and reminders about P.E. days etc. Please let us know if you require any additional information.

Classroom Helpers

In Reception we are always grateful for any time however long or short, that you can spare to help out in the classroom. If you feel you can support in any way, it is greatly appreciated. Please note that all helpers need to have a current DBS clearance.

BEDSA (Brinkworth Earl Danby's School Association)

We have a very active and enthusiastic school association, who organize fun events for both children and adults to raise money for the school. Events have included: Santa's Bash, Summer BBQ, discos for Upper and Lower School and other events. These events have allowed the school to purchase a number of resources that we would not ordinarily be able to. BEDSA have contributed considerably to school trips to keep our costs down. BEDSA are always on the lookout for new recruits and your support would be much appreciated.

Finally.....

We hope you have found this information useful and we look forward to welcoming you and your child to Brinkworth Earl Danby's School. If you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask, we will try to answer them as best we can.

Nicky Gray
(Reception teacher)