



The Blake CE Primary School

Cogges Hill Road, Witney, Oxon OX28 3FR

Telephone 01993 702840

Email office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk

Website <http://www.blake.oxon.sch.uk/website>

Headteacher Tim Edwards-Grundy



Loving, learning and flourishing in community

Welcome to Early Years 2023/24

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Early Years families! We have been so impressed with how your children have settled, and we are looking forward to a happy and successful year together. We hope this letter will provide lots of important information about the year ahead, however, please do ask if there are questions left unanswered.

The Early Years Team

RSOC: Mrs. O'Connor (Class teacher)

RDF: Mrs Fuller (Class Teacher)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Noel, Mrs King, Mrs Lee, Mrs Silverwood and Mrs Pontin.

Mrs Rowlands teaches on a Thursday morning.

Any members of the team may teach your child throughout the year.

Times of the School Day

We open our doors at 8:40am and enjoy welcoming your children individually into the classroom. The doors are locked at 8:50am, after which please make your way to the school office.

The children go into the hall to eat their lunch at 11:40am, followed by a lunchtime play outside, which finishes at 1:00pm. They will then have their second snack around 1:45pm and the school day finishes at 3.15pm.

Snacks and Water

The children have two opportunities for a snack in the school day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. The children should bring in a snack from home for the morning and then have a fruit snack provided by the government in the afternoon. Please ensure snacks are brought in a named pot or box. Snacks must be healthy and must not contain any nuts. We suggest fresh fruit or vegetables, but your child may also bring in a cereal or fruit bar, crackers or cheese if they prefer. No crisps, sweets or chocolate. Children must also bring in a named water bottle, which they can access and refill throughout the day. This must be water only.

Collective Worship

Later in the year, we will join the rest of the school for Collective Worship in the hall for the introduction for the new value of the month and for some special celebrations (Harvest, Christmas). We end each day with a reflection time and the school prayer in the classroom.

Curriculum

Please find attached an overview of our curriculum for the year. We enjoy a variety of topics including: 'All about Me', 'Light and Dark', 'Around the World', 'Growing and Sowing' and 'People Who Help Us'.

All of which will provide your children with exciting learning opportunities while ensuring key EYFS objectives are met.

PE

Our PE slot for the week is a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure PE kits are in school on this day. It is essential that all PE kit items are clearly named! Long hair needs to be tied back for PE and earrings need to be removed. If your child is wearing tights, please ensure they have socks in their PE bag. If there is a medical reason why your child cannot take part in PE one week, please let us know. We encourage the children to change independently and so any practise at home on this would be greatly appreciated! This enables the children to feel proud of their achievements.

We also enjoy 'Wake and Shake' and 'Movement Breaks' throughout the school day, providing regular opportunities for exercise and wherever the weather allows, we will also take the children to exercise on the school field.

Reading

Reading is an essential part of the Early Years curriculum. The Read Write Inc. programme will begin in the next few weeks, there will be a Reading meeting to share more about RWI with you; we will contact you nearer the time with details of this meeting. We read throughout the week during Phonics lessons and we aim to read with your child individually once a week. This may be with either with your child's teacher, a Teaching Assistant or a volunteer reader; reading will be recorded in their Reading Diaries.

Reading every day with your child at home is essential for their development and confidence. We appreciate your support with this, and would encourage you to ask questions and discuss the stories, to help develop their comprehension and enhance their enjoyment of their reading. Please record this in their Reading Diary.

Your child will come home with a book of their choice from the library. This book is to encourage your child's love of reading and to expose them to a range of rich vocabulary. We encourage you to share and enjoy these books together.

We very much look forward to a happy and learning-filled year with your children. If you have any questions about the curriculum or any other aspect of life in Early Years, please do ask!

Kind regards,

The Early Years team