

Buckfastleigh Primary School

Early Years Curriculum Statement

INTENT

At Buckfastleigh Primary School, we believe that all children deserve an education rich in awe and wonder and full of memorable experiences that allows children's natural creativity and curiosity to flourish. We aim to build on from their individual starting points and inspire them to develop a lifelong love of learning.

We teach through weekly themes but allow time to follow the interests and fascinations of the current year group. We strive to provide a wide range of opportunities for our learners to try new things and take on new challenges, building resilience. We have ambitious expectations, encouraging all children to develop perseverance and self-belief to allow them to reach their potential and support those who need additional help to maximise their chances of achieving the Early Learning Goals.

We recognise that all children are unique, celebrating and welcoming differences within our school community. Our children will be provided with opportunities to develop their independence and sense of wellbeing and support them to regulate their feelings so that they feel confident in school. They are equipped with all the tools they need to transition to Year 1 effectively and given the firm foundations upon which the rest of their education is successfully based.



IMPLEMENTATION

Our curriculum follows the Early Years Statutory Framework for the Early years Foundation Stage. Children learn by playing and exploring, being active and thinking critically and creatively; this takes place both indoors and in our outdoor area. The Prime Areas of Learning underpin everything we do at Buckfastleigh. Children need to master these areas to enable them to progress with their learning and development. With this in mind, we have developed our provision to support these areas, providing opportunities for children to practice taking turns, talking to each other and building their fine and gross motor skills. We feel passionate about supporting children to become independent at managing their feelings and behaviour.

We teach through weekly themes to develop the children's knowledge and skills but allow time to follow the interests and fascinations of the current year group. We also explore the seasons and focus on occasions and festival dates, immersing the children in experiences to build their knowledge of themselves and others that may live in their local area. We support language and vocabulary development, both through our themes and the importance that we place on the use of high-quality storybooks and poems.

We develop the children's understanding of reading and writing through the Read Write Inc phonics programme and small group adult led writing activities. The children are also encouraged to engage in reading and writing activities independently through play. Mathematics is taught through 'White Rose' and 'Ten Town' and we further develop maths mastery through NCETM programme. We also provide open-ended resources for our children to explore, and problem solve. Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design are also equally important to us. The children explore the world around them, both inside and outside, taking ownership of their own learning and are encouraged to explore their creativity using self-chosen resources.

We provide focused intervention for those children who require further support, for example SALT sessions, 1:1 tutoring for RWInc and the use of social stories where needed.

The EYFS team observe and join in with play, gathering knowledge of our learners and supporting them to make progress. We keep parents informed about learning using Class Dojo to promote discussion with their children at home and add individual wow moments and encourage parents to engage in the same way.

We love to provide children with new experiences, such as a visit to Pennywell Farm, and provide opportunities related to where we live, such as local wellie walks and a visit to The South Devon Railway. We value family involvement and will plan this, for example visitors into school to link with our themes – parents who are nurses, dentists for people who help us, grandparents to share experiences.



IMPACT

- Children settle into school quickly and are ready to learn within the first few weeks of the first term.
- Children take ownership of their learning and can deepen their existing knowledge and learn new skills quickly.
- Children are successful readers by the time they leave Reception and they develop a love of reading because of the high profile that reading has within early years.
- All children make at least expected progress from their starting points.
- Most children achieve at least the expected Good Level of Development.
- Children are independent learners and are confident when transitioning to Year 1.

