



WEST BUCKLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AND NURSERY

Starting in Nursery

## Headteachers Welcome

I'm very pleased to be able to welcome you and your child to West Buckland Nursery.

We are very proud of our Nursery and of the governors, staff, parents and children who work together to make our whole school a happy, safe and engaging environment for everyone.

Our aim is for children to leave after their time with us as happy, confident, considerate young people who have the social and academic skills to play a full part in their secondary school and beyond into adult life. The small size of our school is, in our opinion, a great advantage to your child as the family atmosphere fosters respect and care for others. Every member of staff is dedicated to helping the children achieve the best they can and to working closely together, and with you, to ensure this happens. We value the contribution that every individual makes to the life of the Nursery and school and celebrate the many different successes the children achieve.

We have a strong belief that children achieve best when parents and staff understand each other well and work together to celebrate successes and overcome any difficulties. We encourage you to come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's education or life at school.

We welcome your involvement, not only in helping your child through the learning process, but by actively supporting all the other out-of-school events.

We hope that the information in this pack is useful to you and we look forward to a long and successful partnership with you and your child.

Below is specific information relating to the Nursery and their routines. For further detail on items such as equipment, uniform and timings, please refer to our Parental Handbook on our website.

Mr Cameron Mann  
Headteacher

## **Nursery Managers Welcome**

Welcome to West Buckland Nursery.

We opened on the school site in 2019 and are extremely proud of the wonderful setting we have. We are delighted to be part of the school and work as one.

It is our aim that all our children feel happy, safe and nurtured when with us. Achieving this enables the children to freely explore their learning environment, make new friends and learn through play.

Our experienced staff team ensure that there are always lots of new and exciting play opportunities and activities set up for children. We believe that children learn best when free to explore and lead by their own interests. Children here are gently encouraged and supported but very much lead their own journey.

The children are taught to believe in themselves, become independent and develop a positive attitude.

Our partnership with you, as parents, is vitally important to ensure we know your child as well as we possibly can. We actively involve parents and carers closely in the child's learning process and developmental journey using Tapestry to share updates, information, photos and messages. We also have an open door policy and value conversations with parents concerning their child's care and education.

Please do take the time to read more about our practice, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Mrs Bea Osbon  
Nursery Manager

### **How can I help prepare my child for Nursery?**

Starting Nursery is one of the greatest steps forward that your child will take in his/her young life. We all want that the transition between home and school is as smooth and happy as possible.

To make this transition as smooth as possible we will:

- Offer taster sessions on site
- Host additional visits to the Nursery
- Organise home visits to get to know your child and their interests
- Hold conversations with parents / carers to get to know each child
- Ensure all paperwork is complete before starting

### **How can I help my child to settle in easily?**

We know the beginning of Nursery can feel new and unsettling and evoke a mixture of emotions for you and your child. **Please don't worry!**

He/she will need to make many social and emotional adjustments such as getting to know new classroom routines, building friendships, and developing independence and self-confidence. These experiences are essential foundations to future progress in his/her learning.

At West Buckland Nursery we recognise and value the role that you as parents play in your child's learning. The learning that has already taken place at home and at Nursery will be the starting point for your child in school. We will have a meeting with each parent to share what your child can already do before they start with us.

### **What will the Nursery day be like?**

The early weeks and months can be very tiring for your child, so do not be surprised if you are greeted by a tired, and perhaps irritable, child instead of a happy one.

At the end of the session, if your child insists that he/she has done nothing, do not be too worried! We can assure you that his/her days will be full and stimulating with many new and exciting experiences.

It is important that together we foster a positive attitude to Nursery. We want every child to feel happy and secure so please share any relevant information with us and feel free to discuss any concerns with the practitioners.

### **Useful skills for starting Nursery**

Here are some things you can do with your child at home over the coming weeks to help make sure as ready as possible to start their next chapter in their learning journey.

We're not expecting you to become teachers and we understand that not everyone will find the time to do all of these activities – that's fine. Try to fit them where possible into your daily routines. These will help your child to feel more confident and independent when he/she starts Nursery.

- Getting dressed independently every day – practise closing buttons, putting on socks and shoes on the right feet, putting coat on and zipping up (with minimal help).
- Go to the toilet and wipe their bottom on their own – simple clothing like elasticated waistbands are easier to get on and off. Wash and dry their hands.
- Tidy up their toys and do simple household chores – giving them responsibilities will help them to become more independent.
- Begin to recognise their name in writing and to consistently respond to it verbally. Create a coat and shoe peg at home with their name on it to help get them used to having something similar at school – it seems like a simple thing but it'll help when we ask your child to go and fetch their coat!
- Use the words; 'please', 'thank you' and 'excuse me'.
- Follow simple instructions (this could be done when playing games, which will also increase their ability to share, concentrate for a short period and wait their turn. Some games where using colour names and dice would be a good place to start).
- Enjoy singing nursery rhymes.
- Taking turns, sharing and winning (and losing) games.

Routine and consistency helps children to adapt and this will help ease the transition into Nursery. You can start with small steps and gradually add to the routine:

- Get up at the same time every day and have breakfast.
- Prepare a 'school lunch box' – you can choose one together if you don't have one yet (if you are going to have packed lunches).
- Look up the route to school and if it's within walking distance try it out – point to the Nursery and tell your child they'll be going there soon.

### **How do lunches and snack times work?**

Nursery children are welcome to either bring in their own healthy packed lunch or purchase a hot dinner. Our hot dinners are two courses, a main or vegetarian option with a pudding cost £2.40. Ordering of a hot dinner must be done in advance using the online menu and payment system through Parent Mail.

Milk can be ordered for your child direct from the suppliers. Spare forms are available from the school office. Milk is free until your child's fifth birthday but still needs to be ordered. Drinking water is always available in the classroom. A piece of fruit is provided daily for each child, which they are encouraged to try. This is free of charge.

### **How do children learn in the Nursery?**

The Nursery works closely with the rest of the school. We come together for events, celebrations, transition and administration. It is lovely to see our youngest children and oldest children interact and work and play together where possible. As such you will receive the whole school newsletter each week to share with you everything that has been happening and what is being planned.

In our Nursery we believe learning and play should be child led. We use 'In The Moment Planning' whereby children's individual interests are followed and used as a basis for activities and learning opportunities. Our Curriculum is created around a yearly calendar of global events. This supports children's understanding of the World whilst developing their cultural capital.

We use an online platform and app called Tapestry to share your child's learning with you. Photos, videos and observation notes are recorded using an iPad and uploaded to your child's account. This then sends the content to the app on your mobile device so you can see what your child has been up to. A separate letter, containing more details, must be read and signed before this system can be used and your account set up. Your child's progress is recorded on Tapestry and observations assessed against the Early Learning Goals framework. This is all shared with you and discussed at Parents Evenings.

### **Play as part of teaching and learning in the Nursery**

Each area of learning and development will be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is supported by adults. Adult engagement in children's play will provide opportunities to extend children's learning. Learning will be through a balance of activities led by children, and activities guided by adults.

At West Buckland Nursery we will respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

**How will I know what my child is learning from week to week and how well they are doing?**

In the Nursery we use Tapestry so that parents and practitioners can communicate easily with one another on a day-to-day basis. We will send messages to you via this App and will include photos of the activities your child is doing through the day. Tapestry can also be used for you to share what you have been up to at home.

A member of staff is on the playground each morning at drop-off or you can email the school office or leave a phone message. At the end of the school day, staff bring the children onto the playground and are almost always available for a chat. If you need to have a longer conversation or want to talk about something sensitive, staff will gladly make an appointment to see you at a mutually convenient time.

**Key worker information**

Each child will be allocated a key worker after their settling in sessions. This is done organically with a focus on who the child is naturally drawn to. The Key Worker is the first point of contact between the parent and our Nursery for any information and communication. Your child's Key Worker is responsible for collating observations, recording items on Tapestry and assessing your child's progress. They will lead your Parents Evenings meetings.