



Foundational Knowledge

Intent

In October 2024, Ofsted's research report Strong Foundations in the First Years of School stated: "By the end of Key Stage 1, all children need foundational knowledge: how to communicate, read, write and calculate." At West Buckland Primary School, we define foundational knowledge as the small, essential set of knowledge, that make later learning possible. This is not an exhaustive list of everything that matters but it is a commitment to the things we prioritise relentlessly. By the end of Key Stage One, every child in our school will have been explicitly taught, supported, modelled to, and will have practised, to secure the foundations outlined below. All future learning depends on getting this right.

Implementation

In reading children will:

- Apply secure phonic knowledge to decode accurately
- Blend automatically
- Read common exception words fluently
- Read age-appropriate texts with accuracy and automaticity
- Demonstrate secure understanding of what they read

In writing children will:

- Hold a pencil correctly
- Form lower-case and capital letters correctly and fluently
- Spell phonetically and ensure common exception words are secure
- Write and punctuate simple sentences
- Be able to read aloud their written work

In number children will:

- Recognise and understand numbers to 10
- Recall number bonds within 10 automatically
- Add and subtract single-digit numbers fluently
- Count reliably forwards and backwards within 0-100
- Use precise mathematical language in context

In oracy children will:

- Speak formally in full sentences
- Use taught vocabulary accurately and in context across all areas of learning
- Explain their reasoning aloud
- Listen purposefully and respond relevantly
- Know when to speak and when to listen, interacting with confidence and purpose

Impact

Across our school we will ensure that new learning is delivered in small steps through deliberate practice. New knowledge and skills will be explicitly taught, modelled and mastered across all areas of learning. Our expectations will be consistently high across all subjects through a strong and engaging Curriculum. Where a gap is identified, intervention will be timely and precise. We pride ourselves on having children who read confidently and fluently, whose writing shows pride, and whose number skills are automatic. This will be achieved by the end of KS1 through classrooms that are calm, focused and purposeful.

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