



Blundeston CEVC Primary School



Welcome to Our School



"A Place to Flourish"

Courage • Independence • Resilience • Teamwork

We would like to welcome you to Blundeston CEVC Primary School.

We are delighted that you have chosen our fantastic school for your child's primary education.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you all!



Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We are very proud of our Early Years Foundation Stage. We understand the importance of high quality early years education. Children will be learning both indoors and outdoors, predominantly through their own child-initiated play. They will have short teaching sessions for maths, phonics and RE (Religious Education).



Our skilled practitioners and our exciting curriculum support our children to develop their skills in the three characteristics of effective learning:- playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically.

Our rich curriculum ensures that children are given a range of opportunities in each area of learning, throughout the day and in different contexts.

We use Tapestry to record each child's learning journey, their achievements and assessments against the EYFS Early Learning Goals. Parents are also encouraged to contribute (login information will be sent out in September).

At the end of their Reception year, each child will be awarded either Emerging or Expected for each Early Learning Goal. A child will achieve a "Good Level of Development" if they achieve the expected level in the 3 prime areas of learning (Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development) as well as in Literacy and Mathematics.

We plan an objective-led curriculum for our continuous provision, supported by our knowledge of the children through talking and listening to them and making careful observations. This enables us to plan the next steps for each child.

Timings

The times of the school day are 8.40am to 3.20pm. Reception children and parents come in through the main pedestrian gate and walk round to the Reception classroom. This gate is opened at 8.40am and then again at 3.20pm. Registers close at 8.50am. Lunchtime is 12.00-1.00pm with daily collective worship at 2.50pm (Reception children tend to stay in their classroom initially for this and then join the rest of the school later in the year).



PE

Reception children have a timetabled slot for PE each week, although they will have the opportunity for physical play outdoors most days. Please ensure children have PE kits in school. Our PE kit is a plain white t-shirt, navy shorts/joggers and trainers or plimsolls. Earrings should be removed on PE days, or covered with tape. Please provide micropore tape in such instances. It would be really helpful if you could encourage your child to practise getting dressed and undressed before they start school.

Water

Children should bring a water bottle to school. Children should only bring water in their bottle each day.

Snacks

Children will be able to have a piece of free fruit each day at snacktime. There will also be milk available.

Book bags

These should be brought to school every day. Please check these regularly.

Uniform

Uniform (with the school logo) can be purchased from Screens in Lowestoft: <https://www.screensschoolwear.co.uk/> Our uniform is navy or grey trousers/skirt/dress, a pale blue or white t-shirt and a navy cardigan/jumper/sweatshirt. Our PE kit is a plain white or navy t-shirt, navy shorts/joggers and trainers or plimsolls. A logoed navy top and hoodie are available from Screens. You can also buy items that don't have the school logo on from supermarkets/other clothing stores - this is absolutely fine. Please continue to check that all uniform and PE kit is labelled. Screens also sell items such as book bags, PE kit bags, hats, coats, water bottles etc.



We ask that the children wear sensible shoes as they will be involved in lots of physical play outdoors!

Attendance

As part of our Christian ethos, we want **everyone** to reach their full potential and flourish, so we encourage 100% attendance for our children. Taking into account time off for illness, which is inevitable, attendance can quickly drop. In line with our attendance policy, which reflects national guidance, all term-time holidays will be unauthorised, (fixed penalty fines will be issued for unauthorised absences of 10 sessions or more in any ten week period – a session is a morning or an afternoon).

Once your child is school-age (5 years old), we will let you know when their attendance drops to 95%. This will then be monitored closely.

Arrival after 8.50am will be logged as a late mark and arrival after 9.00am will be registered as an unauthorised absence.

We ask that any medical appointments are made outside of school hours. However, we do understand that sometimes this is not possible - we will need evidence on these occasions, such as a letter or appointment card.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they should be kept off school for 48 hours (a full 2 days) since the last bout. This is to avoid the spread of infection. Please follow this procedure, even if your child is keen to come to school or feels well again!

We ask that parents make contact with school on every day of their child's absence and that we have 2 contact numbers, as well as emergency contact numbers.

To promote good attendance, in normal circumstances, we have a weekly class attendance race with the winning class receiving a treat each half-term. We also promote individual attendance with our raffle ticket competition. Children will receive a raffle ticket for each week they are in school every day, on time. A lucky winning ticket is then pulled out of the box each term to win a prize!

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Our breakfast club is available daily during term time starting at 7.45am, costing £3.50 per session. Children are able to enjoy a healthy breakfast, as well as join in some fun activities before the start of school.

We also run an after-school club. This runs from 3.20–4.30pm every day. Our Sports TA Apprentice will be offering a combination of sport/games. A member of school staff will be indoors running activities, including arts and crafts. There is a snack and drink available too. The cost is £3.50 a session.

Being a Church School

We are very proud to be part of the Norwich Diocese and have great links with our local church. During collective worship, our children are encouraged to think, be still and reflect.

Children visit our church at special times of the year, such as Christmas, Easter, Mothers' Day, Remembrance Day and during Harvest. They also visit to support their learning in RE.

We teach the same RE curriculum as other local schools (mainly Christianity as well as other world religions).



St Mary the Virgin Church, Blundeston

Lunches

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals every day, paid for by the government. However, if you are in receipt of benefits, please complete an application for free school meals online (<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals>). This means that the school will then receive Pupil Premium funding to support your child in school (uniform bundles, visits, clubs etc.)

Our school dinners are cooked on site and are delicious and highly recommended! A sample menu is available to view on our website: <https://www.blundestoncevcp.co.uk/school-meals/> (Please note, there is no cold packed lunch option available, although we do offer this on trip days). Please do talk to your child about the menu as they will need to tell their teacher what they would like each day. Jacket potatoes are available every day with different fillings. Please advise us of any food allergies.

Your child can also bring a healthy packed lunch from home (please no fizzy drinks, nuts or nut spreads as we have children with allergies in school).



Our Playing Field



Medical

Although we are not obliged to, we can give prescribed medication to children that is for 4 times a day (not Calpol). This needs to be in the original container and you will be required to sign a permission form, available from the school office, prior to this being administered by a member of staff.

If your child has any toileting difficulties, please do let us know. We always encourage parents to send in spare clothes for their child.

Headlice are an inevitable part of primary school life, unfortunately, particularly in early years when children play closely together. We always suggest being vigilant and combing/checking your child's hair daily. It is really important to get rid of any eggs as if these are left in the hair, they obviously then hatch!



Our Outdoor Apparatus

Safeguarding

We are proud of our strong safeguarding culture at Blundeston, which was recently recognised by Ofsted. Safeguarding and child protection is a priority at our school – we see it as everyone’s responsibility and we take it seriously. We will talk to you about any concerns we have (if appropriate) as often this helps clarify a situation. We do have a legal duty of care to pass on any serious concerns to the relevant authorities.

We have a comprehensive Early Help Offer to support our children and families. We have good in-house support, but also a network of external agencies we can access too.

We do ask that mobile phones are switched off when parents are in school, for everyone’s safety.



Message from the School Office

Please return any forms to the school office as soon as possible (these can either be returned by post to the school address or put in the box in the main foyer).

Please also keep us up to date with any changes to mobile phone numbers and email addresses.

We will email you with letters (as PDFs) and will text you with reminders (these will be brief!)

Parents’ evening appointments will be available to book through our online booking system in the Autumn and Spring terms.

School Money (Eduspot) is the website where parents pay for dinners (from Year 3 onwards), trips and make donations for charity days, as well as give consent for school visits.

Finally, please let the office know as soon as possible if someone else is collecting your child so we can get a message to the teacher.



If you do have any questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

We are here to help!



Headteacher: Mr Chris Edwards

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www.blundestoncevcp.co.uk