



# Welcome to Class 1 at Betley Primary School.

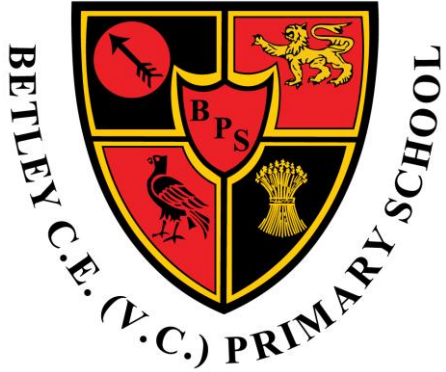




Beginning school is a major event in the life of a 3 and 4 year old and it won't be long before your child will be starting with us at Betley C of E Primary School either in our Nursery or Reception year. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your child is well prepared for this important event. We aim to make it a happy and memorable experience. We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to settle quickly into school.

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## General Information

Our contact details are:  
Betley C of E Primary School  
Church Lane  
Betley  
Crewe  
CW3 9AX



Telephone Number: 01270 820286

Email: [office@betley.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@betley.staffs.sch.uk)

School website: [www.betley.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.betley.staffs.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Sam Ray  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Gemma Whittingham  
Chair of Governors: Mr Jim Cartlidge and Mrs Jan Phillips  
The Great Oak CE Learning Federation

*If you need to access the school during the school day (when the main gates are locked), please ring the bell on the front gate and a member of staff will allow you in, please report to the office.*

# Our Vision

At Betley Primary School our children develop a love of learning, are well motivated, enjoy themselves and take a pride in their school.

Our aim is to provide the highest quality education within a Christian context and enable the children to become well balanced and healthy individuals, capable of achieving their full potential.

Our caring staff have high expectations and work hard to build strong partnerships with parents. We believe that when that partnership is strong and supportive, all our pupils flourish.



# Meet the staff



Mrs Ray  
Executive Headteacher



Miss Whittingham  
Executive Deputy Headteacher



Miss French  
Class 1 Teacher



Mrs Shore  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Shaw  
School Secretary



Miss Summerfield  
Teaching Assistant





## Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages. As a primary care provider you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

To facilitate this we have a Class Dojo, an online virtual timeline that you are able to assess via a personalised login and passcode. Through this we keep you up to date with things that are happening in and around school. You can also contact us via the messaging service which is checked daily by staff.

We will meet regularly to discuss your child's progress and next steps. We also ask for information about your child's current hobbies and interests. This enables us to support your child to progress but most of all enjoy their time at school.

Our parents' association is called Friends Of Betley School, FOBS: they run numerous events throughout the school year to raise as much funds for the school. All proceeds go towards a variety of school causes including; trips, PE equipment and resources for in the classroom. There will be meetings throughout the year and opportunities for parents to help out. Please let us know if you are interested.

## Parents as Partners (cont)

We provide many opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education. These include:

- A class assembly
- Educational visits
- Sports events
- Weekly newsletters
- Drop in sessions to view children's work

*Most importantly, our family ethos is central to our school and as such we operate an open door policy where parents are actively encouraged to meet with staff at the earliest opportunity to discuss any concerns.*



## Preparing your child for school

Your child will be in a class of approximately 30 children. It would make starting school much easier if your child is able to do certain things with a good level of independence. What should he/she be able to do?

Can he/she...

- Dress and undress themselves?
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go when they need to?
- Tidy up after himself/herself?
- Recognise their own name? Please tell your child's teacher if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed himself/herself?
- Share toys and equipment?
- Handle a pencil?
- Sing some nursery rhymes?
- Attempt to count to 10?
- Listen well and follow simple instructions?





# How can I help my child prepare for school?

Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.

Get them used to a routine of early to bed and up early. Leave enough time for you and your child to get ready in the morning with as little stress as possible.

**Never threaten them with school!** Speak about school in positive terms.



## The School Day

8.50 Red door opens for children to enter classroom

9:05am Register

Morning session - phonics, free time, snack

Outdoor play

Math meetings

12:00pm Lunch time

1:00pm Afternoon session

3:00pm Assembly (Every other Tuesday assembly at Church)

3.25pm Home time

NURSERY - hours are flexible - you can choose any combination of morning and/or afternoon sessions

Throughout the year, Class 1 go out and about in the village and therefore our timetable may change. You will be told in advance if this is to happen.



# The School Day (cont)

## Morning Procedures

Children are brought into school via the main school gate into the playground. Children are then brought onto Class 1's yard through the small multi-coloured gate.

## Collecting your child

**Pick up at 12.00pm** - your child will be taken to the main entrance of the school for you to pick up. Please make your way to the main entrance

**Pick up at 3.25pm** - your child will come out of their classroom and you will need to make your way to the back red door through the multi-coloured gate (the same door as drop off).

## First day at school

- Arrive on time • Leave cheerfully • Don't linger about looking through windows (first day tears are nothing to worry about)



## School Dinners

Mrs Williams prepares hot meals for us every day in our school kitchen. A menu is sent home to parents regularly and a copy is displayed on the kitchen notice board. Meals are charged at £2.34 – made payable to Mrs Shaw in the office.

Children may prefer to bring in a packed lunch but please be aware we encourage a healthy eating policy at school.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently receive free school meals via a government scheme.

## Snack Time

Children currently have a variety of morning snack in Class 1 including toast, cereal, muffins, crumpets, yoghurts and pancakes. To enable this to happen we ask for a weekly donation of £1 paid via Miss French. Children also have access to the class fruit bowl which is filled daily.

Children under the age of 5 receive a glass of milk for morning snack free via the government scheme.

Children over 5 can continue to receive a carton of milk at a cost of £1.00 each week payed via the school office to Mrs Shaw.



# The EYFS curriculum

In Class 1 our Foundation Stage children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS). This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles.

**The Unique Child** - We understand that every child is an individual child who is capable in their own right. The holistic child has a variety of needs that need meeting over their time in the Foundation Stage.

**Positive Relationships** - Social interaction is key to children's development. Children become strong, independent learners, as well as scaffolding their learning through positive social interaction.

**Enabling Environments** - Providing a safe, secure and stimulating base for your children is key to their development. The framework allows for experiences that respond to the child's individual needs/ interests, as well as developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

**Learning and Development** - Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

# Early Learning Goals

Within 'Development Matters' there are 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas. This framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting, the activities and opportunities we provide as well as how we assess your child's development. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards.

## Prime Areas

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

## Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically





## Clothes to Wear for School

Our school uniform consists of a red sweatshirt and white polo T-shirt, grey trousers(or shorts) grey skirt (or pinafore) and black shoes. Summer uniform consists of an optional red polo T-shirt and grey shorts for boys and a white and red Gingham dress for girls. The only jewellery permitted is studs or sleepers for pierced ears which need to be taken out or covered up in PE sessions.

Uniform can be ordered through the school website via our uniform link.

For physical activities, children need shoes or pumps that can be managed independently. All shoes must be fully enclosed at all times, so no sandals please. We would like our children to wear a smart PE kit of a red t-shirt and black shorts. This can also be ordered through our website or at any leading supermarket.

As our learning environment is both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you make sure your child is equipped for these area at all times of year. Please ensure their clothing is practical and suitable for the seasonal changes. Waterproof jackets and winter clothing for cold weather; sun hat and protective clothing in the summer months. We ask that sun cream is applied before the children get to school so that they are ready for the day.

If possible, we ask for children to have a pair of wellies in school at all times as we have water play out most days. We also recommend children have a change of clothing in school for 'messy play' (or accidents) too.

# Things to bring to school

- Wellies—we play outside in all weathers!
- Suitable coat—nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet.
- Spare clothes—just in case we get wet in water play or have an accident.
- Hats, scarves and gloves.
- Sun hats.
- LABELLED Water bottles to be left at school Monday to Friday.
- Book bags
- And during the early days and weeks, if your child has a 'comforter' (e.g. teddy bear) we can also find a space for that!



# Helping Prepare your Child for School

Here in Class 1 we go to great lengths to help your child be prepared for their next stage of learning, as well as developing the confidence and skills to be an independent learner.

A good motto to stand by is:

**Teach me to do it myself!**

In preparation for school, here are some things you can do with your child to help them develop the basic skills on the road towards their Early Learning Goals.

## Speaking

- Speak clearly and confidently
- Model using the right words and set an example
- Speak in full sentences
- Use clear, simple instructions
- Engage in discussions with your child and allow them the time to speak without being interrupted
- Ask for their opinions
- Tell them about your day and ask about theirs

## Listening

- Show your child how to be a good listener by listening to them and others
- Be patient—don't interrupt or finish their sentences for them
- Give them your full attention when they are speaking, showing them eye contact and good body language.
- Respond to what they are saying by asking questions or ask about their opinions.
- Listen to your child reading

## Number Skills

- Count daily with your child
- Count objects, actions, numbers and a range of things.
- Identify numbers wherever you go—a neighbour's house number or the number on a bus.
- Help children putting numbers in order.
- Let children help with the tidying and sorting. Can they sort the DVDs by colour?
- Identify shapes around the home.
- Use fingers to represent a number



### Writing

- Encourage your child to mark make without feeling pressured.
- Use the home diaries.
- Get your children colourful pens, gel pens and exciting new tools to encourage them to mark make.
- Let children write their name on cards or letters.
- If your child is already writing with a pen or pencil, support their pencil grip so they do not develop a bad habit.

### Behaviour

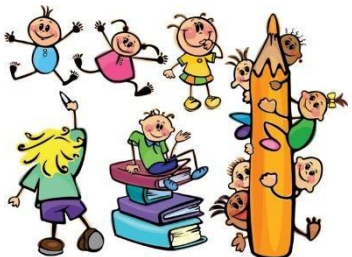
- Agree clear and realistic rules— and stick to them.
- Give your child boundaries so they know what is expected of them.
- Encourage your child to always say 'please' and 'thank you' .
- Support the school rules and regularly check in on our Dojo system.
- If your child's behaviour is proving difficult we can work on a home school reward system together.

### Organisation

- Children like routine—so set regular times for bed, getting up, meals and family time.
- Primary school children need 10 -13 hours sleep a night
- Name all items of clothing
- Help your child remember to bring everything—book bag, PE kit, drinks bottle, reading book etc.
- Let your child take hold of their own things on the way to school—they will know where to put snack money, books, bottles and bags.
- Let your children help you at home with the cooking, cleaning and shopping—they relish an opportunity to feel useful!
- Be patient when your child is helping.
- Lay your child's clothes out in the correct order each morning so they can dress themselves—this really helps for PE!
- Children are expected to toilet themselves once they begin the Foundation Stage.

### Extending their learning

- Link your child's learning to family activities - make the most of the optional creative homework tasks.
- Go to local museums, parks, wildlife reserves and into nature.
- Talk about the world around them and encourage them to ask questions.
- Get to know what your child is learning
- Take time to listen to your child and explain things carefully, developing their understanding and vocabulary.



# Useful websites



- <http://www.betley.staffs.sch.uk/>
- <https://www.freedomtolearn.co.uk/>
- <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/eyfs-statutory-framework/>
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/SoundStimuli.html>
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/AnimalBingo.html>