

# Starting School

Bacton Primary School  
September 2026



# About Bacton Primary School

Welcome to Bacton Primary School!

## School

- Friendly, supportive school
- Strong parent partnerships
- Work together, aim high!
- Excellent SEND provision
- Part of Oxlip Learning Partnership



## Early Years

- Creative and outdoor curriculum
- Oracy focus
- Play, learn and explore
- Developing key skills of independence, resilience, perseverance and confidence.

# Meet the staff



Mrs Sait  
Executive Principal



Mrs King  
Co-Executive / Vice  
Principal



Mrs Thomas  
Assistant Principal  
SENDCo  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Simonds  
Office Manager

# Early Years Foundation Stage

## Meet the staff



Miss Jewers

EYFS Class  
Teacher



Mrs Gray

Cover Supervisor

# The Early Years Foundation Stage

In Reception, children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS).

**There are 7 Areas of Learning:**

## Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development



## Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design



# Learning through play

Throughout the school day, children will take part in several different activities, which cover all 7 Areas of Learning. These include:

- **'Carpet time'** - the whole class comes together to listen to the teacher and share their ideas
- **Small adult-led group work** – staff tailor to the needs of each child
- **Independent jobs** – carefully planned tasks that children are challenged to complete by themselves in continuous provision.
- **'Busy time'** – each day the children have free flow access to the classroom and outside area. Learning opportunities are presented to the children to explore and the EYFS team make observations about the children during this time. We call our free flow time 'Busy Time'. It is a time for the children to make their own choices and to socialise, talk and interact with their friends.

**CHILDREN LEARN BEST THROUGH PLAY AND  
EXPLORATION**

# Daily Routines

The School Day	
8:45	School gates open – children are dropped off at Robin Class gate
8:50	School begins – morning registration
10:45-11:00	Play time
12:00-1:00	Lunch time
1:00	Afternoon registration
3:15	End of school day - children are collected from Robin Class gate.

## 8:45 – 8:50

Robin Class enter the classroom from the side gate and into the Robin outdoor area. This is where your child will say ‘goodbye’ to their grown up. The Early Years staff will be on hand to help put things away.

Saying ‘goodbye’ at the gate encourages independence and helps the children to be ready to learn.



# Register

During the register, your child will order their lunch for the day.

School lunches are free to all pupils until the end of Year 2. You may be eligible for free school meals for the whole of your child's time at Bacton, as well as other benefits such as subsidised school trips. [www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

You will be given a copy of the meal choices in advance, so that you can talk these through with your child – it is great if they know what they are ordering each morning. Also available daily: jacket potatoes and sandwiches; salad, fruit, yogurt for your child to select.

Week 1	
Pizza Monday	Pepperoni Pizza Margherita Pizza
Traditional Tuesday	Bangers & Mash Veggie Bangers & Mash
Mid Week Roast Wednesday	Roast Chicken Roast Quorn Roast Potatoes, Stuffing
Around the World Thursday	Spaghetti Carbonara Cheesy Pasta
Fishy Friday	Cod & Chips



Children can bring their own packed lunch from home, although we ask that this is healthy and balanced and contains NO NUTS.

# Phonics

After the register, the children will usually begin phonics. .

Children are taught phonics using the Little Wandle scheme and have daily phonics sessions.

They will learn to hear the individual sounds in each word and use these to 'sound talk' words and blend those sounds together to read and spell words. They will practise writing sounds and words in their Phonics books too.



m-u-m (mum)



We will hold an information session for parents in September to explain how we teach phonics and how you can help your child. Follow the link for more info: [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)

# Literacy

We put a lot of emphasis on ORACY skills and understand the importance of COMMUNICATION SKILLS for their development, including their ability to read and write. We follow the Talk for Writing approach to Literacy, where children need to TALK IT before they can WRITE IT.



We focus on one main story every few weeks and learn actions so that the children can learn it off by heart. We act out the stories through role play and small world toys. We make story maps and order pictures from the story. The children will also invent their own versions of the stories.



As we learn reading and writing skills, we will be able to rewrite parts of these stories, and our own versions too.



# Play time and snack time

Children will be provided with a snack for morning play time (a piece of fruit or vegetable).



We also have a play and snack time in the afternoon – please provide either fresh fruit or vegetables if you would like your child to have an afternoon snack.

Children will go onto the playground and have a turn on the play equipment. Our friends in Year 6 help us to line up and come back into the classroom.

# Maths

After play time, it is maths. We gather on the carpet for whole class teaching and will then choose our learning, where activities linked to our maths will be offered. The children will also complete an adult-led task during this time.

Our maths involves lots of resources, games, songs and stories. It is very active and fun!



# Lunchtime

**12:00 – 1:00**

The children wash their hands and are taken to the hall where they eat their dinner.

Midday supervisors are on hand to help with opening packets, cutting up food and encouraging children to eat a balanced meal.



# Lunchtime Play

Once the children have eaten their dinners, the Midday Supervisors take them out to the playground for the rest of lunch time. They can choose to use the play equipment or play games. If they need the toilet, they can ask a Midday Supervisor who will let them come back to use the Robin Class toilets.



# Afternoons

**1:00 - 3:00**

In the afternoons, we explore a variety of child-led / adult directed activities from all the Areas of Learning. It is likely these will focus on Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. The children will also take part in PE, RE and music sessions.



The children can explore the classroom and outside area, our role play area, reading area, creative zone and learn through play. They can investigate, explore and deepen their learning.

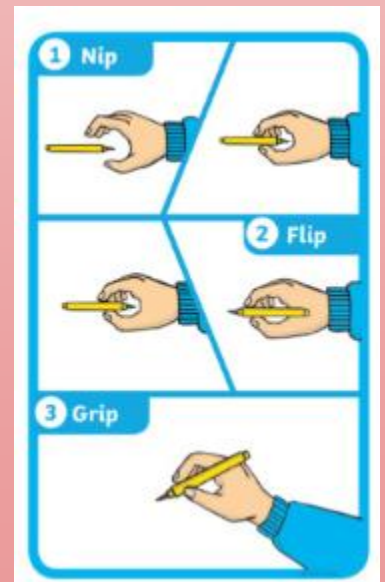
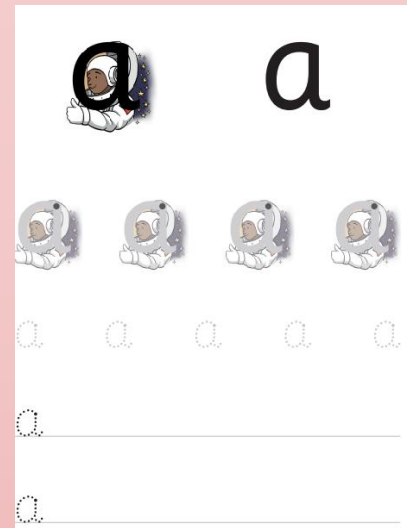


# Handwriting

Every day, we also practise mark making and letter formation.

To start with, this might be practising holding a pencil correctly, doing activities that strengthen hand muscles, and making marks and shapes that will be needed when writing letters.

This will also include practising forming letters, using the correct letter formation.



# Home time

Towards the end of the school day, the children will share a carpet time with a story, rhymes and songs. They may also go to assembly in the hall.

**3:15**

The children collect their belongings and line up by the Robin gate to be collected. Please let us know if someone different will be collecting your child.



# Outdoor Learning

Wherever possible, we favour outdoor learning experiences. The Robin's outside area is part of our learning environment and we use this EVERY DAY.

To allow free-flow to our outside learning area, your child will need a pair of wellies that can be left at school everyday. Please also send your child to school with a coat every day.



In warmer months, please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school. '8-hour' or 'all day' cream is best as we are unable to help your child reapply sunscreen at school. Your child will also need a named sunhat when it is hot.

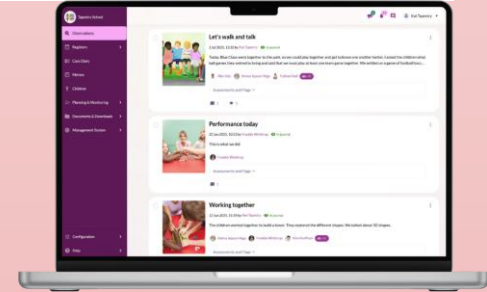


# Tapestry



We use a platform called Tapestry to:

- Record and track your child's development.
- Celebrate your child's learning journey.
- Share learning, which you can view and comment on.
- Post reminders, dates and news.



You can download the app and contribute to your child's Learning Journey by adding your own photos and notes on their learning at home.

This helps us to work in partnership with you, get to know your children, and celebrate their successes.

Please complete a Tapestry form so that we can link your account with your child's.



Arbor is our online school management system. Arbor can be used to:

- Book appointments, for example, Parents' Evening
- Pay for school trips and visits

The office staff will set up an Arbor account for you. You will be sent an email to create a login and a password. Please look out for this email at the beginning of the school term.

You can download the app to access Arbor.



# WRAP-AROUND CARE

## **Breakfast club (from 7:45am until 8.50am)**

Children are provided with breakfast, including cereal, fruit, toast and a choice of toppings.

## **After school club (until 5:30pm)**

Children are offered a range of activities, as well as a drink and a snack.

Bookings are made in advance using Arbor.

Costs can be found on this system.

Please ensure your child is collected promptly by 5:30pm.



# Attendance

Your child should attend school every day.

If they are ill, please contact the school by calling the office. 01449 766224

[admin@bactonschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bactonschool.org.uk)



We celebrate good attendance in class and across the school.

Research shows, good attendance increases educational progress and attainment.

# Medical



- Basic first aid is given at school when necessary by qualified Paediatric First Aiders. If your child requires first aid, they will bring home an incident form. Please ensure all contact details are up to date in the event of us needing to contact you.
- Any sickness or diarrhoea must be followed by at least 48 hours absence.
- Any absence must be notified by the start of the school day.
- Prescribed medication can only be administered by prior arrangement with the office. NB: Please ensure you do not allow children to bring in their own medication.
- Please notify the office of any allergies.

# Uniform

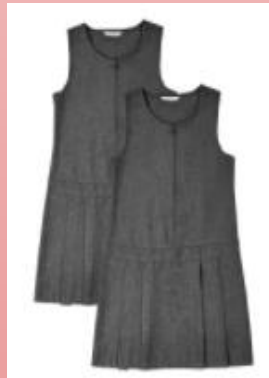
Children should wear:

- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- White polo shirt
- School sweatshirt / cardigan
- Black school shoes (no trainers)
- Red gingham dress in the summer

Sweatshirts, cardigans and PE kits (shorts and PE t-shirt) can all be ordered online [www.brigade.uk.com](http://www.brigade.uk.com) Alternatively, you can purchase non-branded items from supermarkets etc.

Please label EVERYTHING.

(Jewellery should not be worn)



# PE Kits



Children will need a red round neck t-shirt, black shorts, white socks and a pair of trainers.



They can also wear plain black sweatshirts and black jogging bottoms.

No hoodies or zips please.



# Book bags and water bottles

We do ask that children have a school book bag. Storage for bags is tight in the classroom and simple book bags are easy to accommodate. These can be ordered from the school office.

We do ask that you add a small key ring to the handle of your book bag so that your child can easily identify it.



Your child will also need a water bottle at school every day filled with **PLAIN WATER ONLY**. Please do not put these in bags as they can spoil books.

Children have access to water throughout the day.

Please name everything!



# Communication

School Office: 01449 766224

Mrs Dawn Ferguson (Admin Assistant)

Mrs Donna Simonds (Business Manager)

[admin@bactonschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bactonschool.org.uk)

There will be an adult at the gate each morning should you need to pass on a message about the day. You can also arrange a time to talk to a teacher should the need arise.

Please use Tapestry to share any experiences or at home learning.

NB: Please do not use Tapestry for any urgent or medical information – contact the school office directly.



# Communication

- **Weekly newsletters** - dates, information, 'coming up'
  - **'This Week' on Tapestry**
- **Parent Share sessions** (for you to join your child in school)
  - **Parent information sessions** (e.g. phonics)
- **Parents' Evenings** (Autumn Term and Spring Term)
  - **End of year reports**
- Your child will also receive a weekly reading book (more info to follow) and some home tasks will be sent home e.g. phonics home books

# Helping your child prepare for school

It would be really helpful if you could support your child over the summer with the following, in preparation for them starting school:

- Washing hands and going to the toilet independently
- Wiping / blowing their nose
- Putting on their own coat and dressing / undressing independently
- Using cutlery and opening packets of food for packed lunches
- Holding their *own* belongings
- Recognising their own name
- Helping to clear away toys
- Concentrating on an activity until it is complete (colouring, puzzles)
- Sharing and turn-taking
- Understanding that school is for learning! 😊



You could:

Share stories, talk about pictures and new word meanings.  
Encourage mark making - colouring, drawing, writing.  
Count anything - stairs, claps, jumps.  
Sing number rhymes and songs together





# Important Dates and Transition

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2:15-3:00pm**– Taster session (you can accompany your child, children from Under 5s will be brought over).

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2:15-3:00**– Stay and play session (please drop your child off and collect from Robin Class gate).

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 10:00am -12:00pm**– Stay and play session (please drop your child off and collect at Robin Class gate)

**Pre-school settings** – please add your child’s preschool information to the form – we will contact the settings to discuss your child’s transition

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – your child’s first day at school!



**We look forward to working together to make your child's first year at school as exciting and fulfilled as possible!**

