

# Bursley Academy

## Early Years Foundation Stage



**Nurture, Inspire, Achieve**

Welcome!

“Coming together is the beginning,  
Keeping together is progress,  
Working together is success”

## **A 'big' Bursley Welcome!**

Dear Parents/ Carer,

First of all let me begin by welcoming you to a new school year and what I hope will be a rewarding experience for your child, yourselves and all the Early Years Foundation Stage Team. We are excited to meet the children and get to know them; creating lots of memories and learning opportunities.

I hope this booklet helps to provide some useful information that you may have forgotten about since we met at the induction night. However, after reading this there may still be questions that you might like to ask and we hope you feel at ease to do so. If you have any questions or concerns then please email the eyfs email: [eyfs@bursley.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:eyfs@bursley.staffs.sch.uk).

At Bursley Academy we value each child as an individual and encourage and nurture their self-esteem, positive attitudes and independence. We help children to develop good social skills and respect each other. We provide them with plenty of opportunities to develop and express their imagination and creativity. Activities and lessons are planned to meet the individual needs of each child in our school.

We realise that starting school can be a big step for some children, and so we try to make the transition as smooth and happy as possible. We are always happy and willing to discuss any problems or concerns you have, so please don't hesitate to pop in or give us a call!

Meanwhile we look forward to welcoming you and your child to Bursley Academy!

Mrs A Green

EYFS Lead

### Our School Motto

*Nurture, Inspire, Achieve*

Nurture



To nurture our friendships, interests and ambitions.

Inspire



To be independent and life-long learners.

Achieve



To do our very best, always.

### Our Core Values

Be...

Understanding

Resilient

Successful

Life long learners

Enthusiastic

You!

### Our Curriculum

**Head:** *The development of a deep and broad knowledge and skills base that build over time in all areas of the curriculum*

**Heart:** *The development of the whole pupil, ensuring good mental health, citizenship, resilience, independence and confidence as well as developing emotionally literate pupils*

**Hands:** *Practical and hands on learning experiences to help embed learning and develop a deeper understanding of how learning can be applied*



## Independence

One of our aims in the Foundation Stage is to encourage the children to become independent learners. You can help your child towards this goal by encouraging them to manage their own dressing i.e. taking off/putting on and fastening their coats, dealing with their bag/lunchbox etc. Please be assured that help and support is always on hand by staff and no child is left to struggle or become distressed.



## Topic

### *Ourselves and Our Family*

The first couple of weeks is a 'getting to know you' time and settling in period. During this time children will be introduced to other teaching staff members and helped to familiarise themselves with their learning environment. A child who is worried and anxious won't feel ready to take in the new experiences of school, so therefore it is important that the staff get to know you and your child. In order to do this well the staff will observe all children for the first couple of weeks to determine their abilities, likes and dislikes. By carrying the assessments out over a few weeks, children will have the chance to settle in and remember skills that they might have forgotten over their time away from a setting! These observations and assessments will also help us to ensure that we are best meeting the needs of your child.

Our first topic will be all to do with ourselves and our family, with a focus on the story The Colour Monster. Some of the activities the children will have the opportunity to explore will be drawing self portraits, sharing their adventure scrapbooks, reading many stories, such as, The Colour Monster, All Are Welcome, The Day the Crayons quit, make rainbows using all the colours, make rainbow toast, amongst many other fun activities. We will also be concentrating on singing nursery rhymes and number songs too.

It would be great if you could share a different Nursery Rhyme with your child each night before bed.

Twinkle Twinkle	Incy Wincy Spider	The Wheels on the bus	Old McDonald	Row, row, row your boat
 	 	 	 	 

## Phonics



### Nursery Parents

Nursery will be concentrating on Phase 1 within the phonics scheme. Phase One concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. Phase 1 is divided into seven aspects. Each aspect contains three strands: Tuning in to sounds (auditory discrimination), Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing) and Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension).

More information will be sent out to you at a later date.

### Reception Parents

Our school has chosen *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our systematic, synthetic phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling.

Your child will be sent home with a letter ring during the first half term for you to practise with. Please spend a few minutes each day going over the sounds with your child. **Any work that is done at home should be recorded in your child's Home/School Reading diary and signed by the parent or carer.** Your child's diary is checked weekly by the class teacher and it is paramount that parents check these daily for any notes sent home.

We will be holding a reading & phonics workshop during the Autumn term, a date will be finalised in the first week. If you cannot attend, we will be recording our power-point, so that you don't miss out and have the information to be able to support your child at home.

## Mathematics

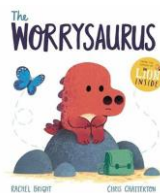
Activities within the first few weeks in Mathematics will involve sorting, matching, counting and shape/pattern work. Initially these will be largely practical and include the playing of number games, singing and acting out number songs and rhymes. The children will have a daily mathematics session, followed up with activities within the indoor and outdoor classrooms.

More information will be sent out regarding a Maths workshop.



## Reading

All staff value the importance of sharing books with children. Sharing stories at home is vital, and we hope that you are able to spare 10mins at bedtime to share a story with your child. Allowing your child to choose the story, talk about the front cover/illustrations, the title, author, characters etc. School reading books will not be sent home until week 4 at the earliest.



**This week's book recommendation is:**

### **The Worrysaurus by Rachel Bright**

This book I feel is very relevant to how children may be feeling when starting school with a little worry that can build up inside. It has a heartfelt message, which is delightfully conveyed. The illustrations are also fun and vibrant. A great read. The perfect book to help every anxious little dinosaur let go of their fears and feel happy in the moment.

**This week's useful website:**

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/how-to-read-with-your-child/>

## WORD OF THE WEEK

Each week we will choose a word of the week for you to discuss with your child, this will be on our newsletters. We will also discuss this word in class during the week. This will help to develop a child's vocabulary.

Word of the week - **WELCOME**

## PE

It is important that all children have the correct PE kit. Our PE kit policy states that only Navy or Black joggers/jumpers hoodies are acceptable. Please do not send your child into school with any other colour kit. If this happens you will be politely reminded of the policy and asked to bring in the correct uniform in readiness for your child's next PE session.

All children need to come dressed in their PE kit on their PE day. No uniform is needed on these days. The children will spend all day in their kits.

### **Nursery**

P.E. sessions for **Nursery** will take place on **Monday** and **Friday**.

### **Reception.**

Both Reception classes will have their PE session on a **Tuesday**.



## **The Learning Book**

Learning Book is a digital learning journey where you can observe, track and view information on a child's progress easily and securely.

Learning Book gives parents a smart, flexible way to review and interact with their child's early years education by transforming the link between home and the classroom. Increased visibility means parents can support the skills their son or daughter is learning at school or nursery by using the same teaching styles and processes at home when planning fun and educational activities.

Supporting your child's learning:

Do you know what your child did today at school or nursery? More importantly, do you know how that fits into their learning journey or what milestones they are currently working towards? Parents face enough time constraints as it is, and keeping up to date with your child's daily progress is not made any easier by limited contact time with their teachers. You need to be able to follow, review and understand what your son or daughter gets up to at school or nursery in order for you to give them the right support at home.

**You will receive an email from Learning Book with a username and password for you to access your child's learning journey by the end of September.**

### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

- School gates open at 8:45am - you need to enter the school via the back entrance  
Pick up times
- Reception finish at 3:15pm
- Nursery finish at 3:30pm
- Please bear with us when we are dismissing the children in the first couple of days as we are getting used to all new faces.
- Please remember everything needs to be labelled
- Snacks - children in reception need to bring one snack in for the morning, this needs to be a healthy snack and remember we have a NO NUTS policy within our setting.

I hope the information in this booklet has gone some way to answering any questions you may have had concerning your child's entry into school life. However, should you wish to speak to a member of staff at any time, please do not hesitate to speak to us when on the playground, by email or by arranging an appointment at the school office.

Finally, may I once again take this opportunity of welcoming you to the Bursley Academy Family and express the hope that this will be the beginning of a happy and rewarding partnership for all concerned.

Let the fun begin! 😊

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Green and the EYFS Team

