



# *Blossomfield Infant & Nursery School*

## *'Blossom at Blossomfield'*

*Eastcote Close, Shirley, Solihull B90 3QX*  
*Telephone: 0121 744 5522*  
*Email: office@blossomfield.solihull.sch.uk*

## *Our Values*

### *At Blossomfield*

- We are happy and feel safe*
- We are all different, we are all equal, we are all special*
- We want to be healthy and active*
- We care for each other and the grown-ups care for us*
- We look after our world, near and far, so it can look after us*
- We learn to make good choices for ourselves and others*
- We have fun learning together even when it's hard*
- We achieve the best we can*

## *'Blossom at Blossomfield'*

*Children, Parents, Governors and Staff worked together to produce our values.*

## Foundation Key Stage (FKS)

In Nursery (FS1) and Reception (FS2) the curriculum is based on the Government's Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This enables teachers and support staff to plan an interesting and stimulating curriculum which will meet the diverse needs of all the children.

There are seven areas of learning:

The 3 prime areas are:

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

The other specific areas are:

- Literacy – Reading & Writing
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design



The curriculum is delivered through learning themes which integrate many of the areas of learning in a range of activities.

The themes for each half term can be found on the school website ([www.blossomfield.org.uk](http://www.blossomfield.org.uk)) and are sent home to parents in a weekly newsletter.

The children are encouraged to become independent learners, asking questions, solving problems and developing Literacy and Numeracy skills, to support many other aspects of their learning.

Staff plan for each day, ensuring the children have a range of different experiences both indoors and outdoors. The environment is stimulating, giving the children opportunities to make progress through structured and imaginative play.

Each term, there may be a visit out of school, to a venue related to the learning theme. Previous visits have included the Butterfly Farm, The Bear Factory and The Zoo. We may alter the venue should a new opportunity arise.

Successful personal, social and emotional development is critical for young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning. At Blossomfield, all that we do is underpinned by the reinforcement and recognition of positive behaviour and the development of self-esteem and a desire to learn. Children have opportunities to work with adults and other children in a variety of groupings and using a range of learning styles.



Parents play a vital role in their child's education. At Blossomfield we are keen to develop a partnership with parents, exchanging information, knowledge and expertise.

We welcome parents into school to help, as directed by Katy Morrison who co-ordinates helpers in school. If you would like to help, please contact Mrs Chick or Mrs Shepherd in our school office.



## **KEY STAGE 1 (KS1)**

After two years, the children move into Year 1. This is the beginning of KS1.

### **Curriculum**

KS1's work is based on the requirements of National Curriculum 2014.

Classes are organised in single age groups. Within each class children experience a range of teaching strategies, and teaching methods may vary according to the subject and the needs of the children.

Children will be taught in whole class, groups and individually, allowing for challenge and differentiation. Children are encouraged to develop their own learning styles, using a range of strategies to access the curriculum.

### **Inclusion**

The three principles of inclusion are:

- Setting suitable learning challenges
- Responding to pupils' diverse needs
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning

At Blossomfield these principles underpin both the ethos and the taught curriculum.

### **English**

Through lively and effective teaching of English we aim to provide pupils with the skills and knowledge they will need to communicate orally and through the written word. We encourage the children to foster a love of books and become fluent and competent readers for pleasure and for information. We include phonics on a daily basis which gives the children the support they need to read and spell independently. We give them opportunities to apply their skills and knowledge to enrich other areas of their learning.

### **Mathematics**

In Mathematics our aim is to provide the children with the necessary skills in all aspects of mathematics to enable them to become confident and competent mathematicians. During the dedicated mathematics lessons the children will encounter a variety of teaching strategies to enable them to successfully work with numbers, measures, shape, space and data handling. We teach the children to apply what they have learned to help them solve 'real life' problems.





## Science

The children at Blossomfield are introduced to the wonder of Science through topics. They study life processes and living things, materials and their properties and physical processes, through a range of experiences which encourage the children's natural curiosity. Children are encouraged to formulate questions and carry out simple investigations, take care of their personal safety and to try to discover answers for themselves often using I.T.

## Humanities - Geography and History

It is through the study of History and Geography that children develop their understanding of the world in which they live. Most of the Humanities that we teach is delivered through our topic work, such as Homes, Weather and Children in World War Two. The children's understanding is deepened by educational visits to places such as, Avoncroft Museum or Weston Park where the children can experience what life was like for children 'at home' in Britain during World War 2. We advise parents of the topic titles for the year, and welcome any expertise or artefacts which can be offered.



## Design and Technology

In Design and Technology children will have experience in identifying and solving practical problems through the use of tools and materials. Children will have opportunities to design, plan, make and evaluate a range of mechanisms.

## Computing

The school is well resourced in the area of ICT. All classrooms have computers for use across the curriculum. In addition children have access to iPads and laptops to support their learning.

Children have opportunities to use ICT to develop their skills and knowledge in other areas of the curriculum. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard or screen which enhances learning in all areas of the curriculum.



## The Arts

Throughout their time at Blossomfield, the children have opportunities to experience the Arts first hand, through Art, Music, Dance and Drama. Whilst each discipline is taught within the curriculum, we also provide opportunities for learning through other subjects, for example, acting out a traditional tale or learning songs from other cultures. We also invite artists and specialists into school and the children visit other venues, to enrich their experiences.

### Art

The children at Blossomfield are encouraged to respond with interest and enthusiasm to a wide variety of stimuli using a range of materials. We help to develop their visual perception and the skills associated with creating a piece of art work. We also aim to make children aware of the different kinds and styles of art which they may see around them. They will have opportunities to draw, paint, sketch, use clay, collage, etc. The children may also visit art galleries or have visits from artists, working with a variety of media.



### Dance

Dance is included within the Physical Education curriculum for each year group. Children explore different stimuli as the starting point for creating dance phrases and short dances. They also explore dance through cross-curricular links such as 'The Water-Cycle' and dances from other countries. There are also opportunities to participate in Dance Festivals, organised by local schools.

### Drama

Opportunities in drama are provided both formally and informally throughout the school. Role-play is part of themed learning in all year groups and freeze frame and hot-seating techniques help children think about characters and characterisation. The children all participate in whole school and year group assemblies, as well as Christmas Performances, giving them opportunities to perform for different audiences. We believe drama is an excellent way to enhance children's confidence, self-esteem and collaborative skills.



### Music

We aim to make musical activities in school enjoyable and fun. By the time they leave school the children will have had an introduction to the elements of music through percussion and singing. They will have had experience of graphic notation, simple composing, performance and appraisal. The children also take part in music festivals and singing games with other schools in Solihull. Currently, all children in Year 2 have the opportunity to learn to play the recorder. Music specialists also visit school, working alongside staff.



## Physical Education

At Blossomfield we believe that Physical Education experienced in a safe and supportive environment is a unique and vital contributor to pupils' physical, social and emotional development. We therefore aim to provide the children with a broad and balanced physical curriculum. Our ultimate goal is to engage all children in regular physical activity in order to kick-start a healthy, active lifestyle.



Our education programme includes gymnastics, dance, simple athletics and games skills. We also have a number of visiting professional coaches and teachers who work alongside the school staff to provide a broader experience of a range of sports and activities for the children. For example football, golf, cheerleading, Zumba, multi-skills and yoga.

Participation in competitive sport is also important at Blossomfield. The children have the opportunity to compete against themselves and against their peers in school, as well as against children from other local schools in a safe and encouraging environment.

We have a range of small and large equipment to support the children's learning and skills development as well as a large hall and a playing field.

## Religious Education & Collective Worship

Blossomfield provides a religious education based mainly on Christian principles.

However, as part of our religious teaching the children also have opportunities to explore the culture and beliefs of other faiths. Children are encouraged to share their family's beliefs and celebrations. Religious education is a statutory requirement for all pupils in maintained schools. It is expected that all children will participate but a parent's right to exclusion on religious grounds will be respected where necessary.

The school meets daily, as a whole or in part, for Assemblies. When we celebrate special occasions, such as festivals or the end of term, we invite parents (hall space permitting).

There are class assemblies performed in the presence of the whole school to which parents of the children in that class are invited.

## Relationships and Sex Education

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) forms part of PHSE. The school's SRE Policy has been written in consultation with staff, parents and Governors. The policy is available for parents to read.

## English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Additional support may be available from the Local Authority EAL team. Staff will always liaise closely with parents and families to ensure that pupils have the best possible support to develop their skills in the English language. We also welcome opportunities for all pupils to experience languages other than English and encourage pupils, parents and staff to use other languages in school.

## Personal and Social Development



We place great importance on the Personal and Social Development of the children at Blossomfield. We regularly have circle times to discuss such things as the need for rules, or explaining our feelings and to explore any problems the children may have. Children are also taught Health Education which includes safety issues, the need for exercise and healthy eating. Through PSD and our assemblies we develop the ethos of the school.

We are pleased to have completed a Whole School Review and been judged to have maintained our foundation for health and well-being as a Healthy School. Children, Parents, Governors and Staff all worked together to achieve this outcome.

We use the 'Golden Rules' as the basis for our approach to behaviour in school. We emphasise the positive and ask children to make good choices. The Golden Rules are printed later in the pack and are available on the website.

## Special Needs

Blossomfield follows the Government guidelines for all children who have a special need and implements the necessary procedures.

Children are continually assessed by staff, and where possible, appropriate help will be given by the class teacher, support teacher, or Learning Support Assistant.

This includes both more able children and those with a learning difficulty or disability.

As well as working in partnership with parents, we are able to access advice and support from professionals within the local health and education authority

Some children may have difficulty with some aspects of education at particular times in their school career. We endeavour to work as a team with parents to address problems as they arise. Children are given activities suited to their needs and may work towards fulfilling appropriate individual targets. We follow a staged approach to Special Educational Needs in accordance with that suggested by the Government Code of Practice.

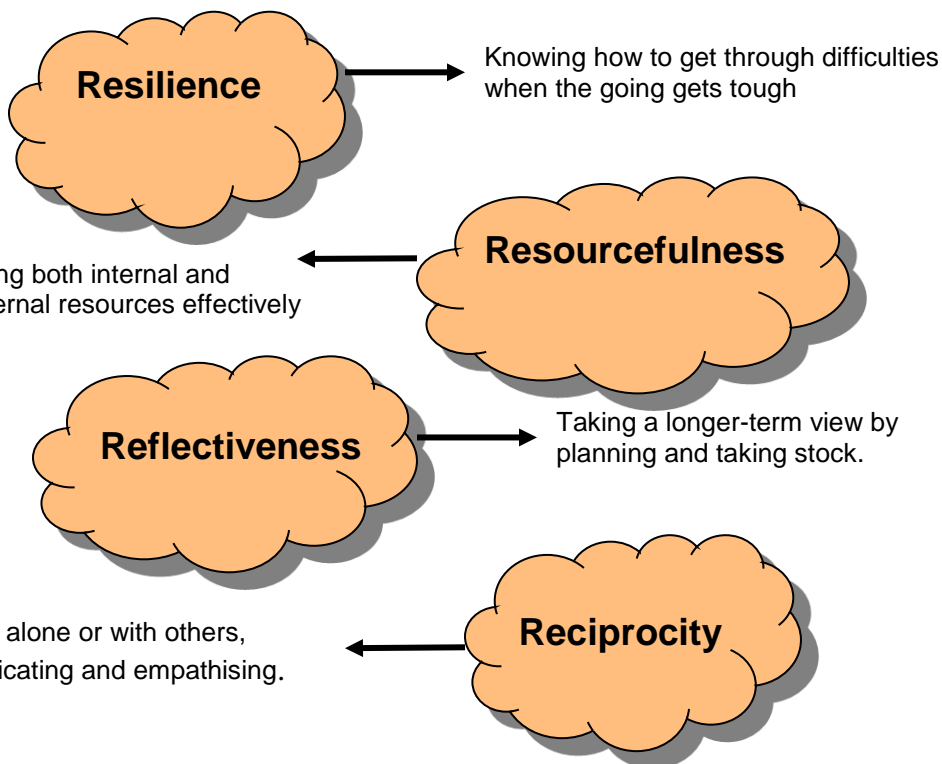
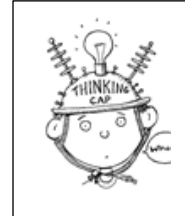
Children who are considered to be more able educationally are likewise assessed continually by class teachers and are given appropriate activities to stimulate and enrich their learning. Local Infant Schools collaborate to provide activities to enhance the curriculum of more able learners on a rolling programme of curriculum areas.



## In Foundation Stage we teach the children about ... **Building their Learning Power (BLP)**

**Building Learning Power** is about helping young people to become better learners, both in school and beyond the school gate. It is about creating a culture that systematically cultivates habits and attitudes that enable young people to face difficulty and uncertainty calmly, confidently and creatively. Children who are more confident of their own learning ability learn faster and learn better. They concentrate more, think harder and find learning more enjoyable.

BLP consists of 4 key learning dispositions



**We can think of the dispositions as being like ‘Learning Muscles’**

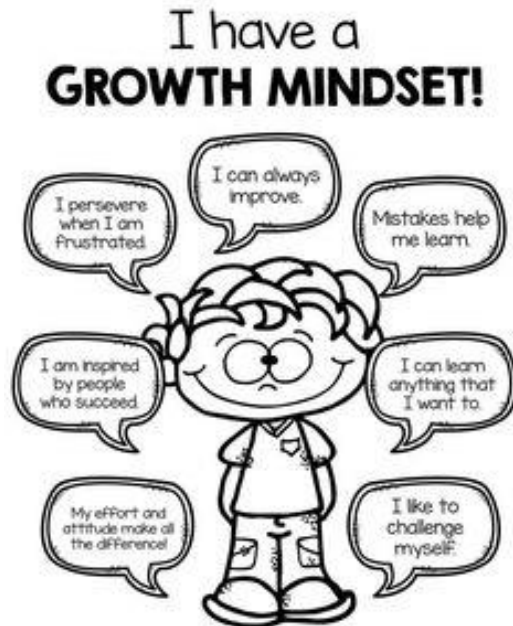
**Developing the dispositions will encourage children to be aware of how they learn and achieve lifelong learning.**



In Key Stage One we teach the children about ...

## Growth Mindset

Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference. Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity



## Philosophy for Children

### P4C

**Philosophy for Children** offers a way to open up children's learning through enquiry and the exploration of ideas. Children learn that their ideas have value, and that the ideas of other children have value too. Through Philosophy for Children they realise that they don't always have to be right, but they gain the confidence to ask questions and learn through discussion.

- This is part of our speaking and listening curriculum.
- Children are encouraged to think more deeply or laterally and to voice their opinions confidently.
- There is always a stimulus to begin a session, such as a story, a picture, a film clip or an object.
- The children have a brief discussion in small groups about this and then devise a question that the stimulus provokes.
- We collect their questions and then vote for the one we want to discuss further in a large group.
- Children show they want to speak by raising their thumb.
- They may agree or disagree with other speakers, giving reasons why.
- Discussions may or may not come to a conclusion but end with a moment for reflection.

## **Forest Schools**

The Forest Schools programme originated in Scandinavia as a way of learning in a woodland environment where people of all ages and abilities can develop socially, emotionally and physically through play. It has been shown as an inspirational process that offers children opportunities to gain confidence, improve communication and social skills leading to a rise in their self-esteem, all through a series of achievable, hands on tasks and games.

In Year 1, each class goes to our Forest School site. The children have enjoyed a wide range of activities such as hunting for natural objects, listening to bird song, playing in the mud and the favourite – cooking on a camp fire!

## **School Clubs**

Children can take advantage of a range of clubs provided by staff and private providers. Clubs are available over the year, including for example, Sewing, Choir and Gardening.

Children are also able to attend French Club. We are hoping that after school sports clubs will resume once our building project is completed.

## **Complaints Procedures**

Under the terms of the Reform Act there is a statutory procedure to deal with complaints by parents who feel that, in relation to the school's curriculum, the LA or governing body is failing to discharge its duties. The arrangements are not intended to deal with complaints about the actions of Heads or individual teachers, but specifically with curriculum, including religious education for worship, exemptions from the National Curriculum, and the provision of information and charging policies. It is hoped that any matter of concern could be dealt with at school through the Headteacher or Governors before proceeding to formal arrangements.

## **Governors**

We are extremely fortunate at Blossomfield to have a Board of experienced and committed Governors who meet each half term to review school issues and discuss strategies for maintaining and improving standards. Our Governing Body is made up of those appointed by the Local Authority, those co-opted from local industry, staff representatives and elected parent governors. Elections of parent governors occur when vacancies arise. At present our Board comprises:

Mrs Lorna Bosley	Chair of Governors	LA appointed Governor
Mrs Bernie Farkas	Headteacher	
Mr Dan Flavell	Vice Chair of Governors	Parent Governor
Mr Taljinder Tiwana		Parent Governor
Mr John Shaw		Parent Governor
Mrs Charlotte Bywater		Parent Governor
Mrs Sarah Church		Staff teacher representative
Mrs Debbie Rothwell		Staff non-teacher representative
Mrs Deborah Yardley		Clerk to Governors

You can contact any member of the Governing Body via the school office should you wish to raise any concerns or issues. Information about Governors can also be found on the school website.

## Admission Arrangements

The school currently has places for 330 children aged 3-7, 60 of whom attend on a part-time basis in the Nursery. Children who are 4 years old by 31st August are eligible for admission to school in the following September. All admission arrangements are administered by Solihull Borough Council.

All Solihull parents will be informed of their child's local area school and of the schools within their Catchment Zone in the autumn preceding the proposed admission in the following September. Parents will then be free, if they wish, to express a preference for any Solihull school.

When places are offered in the Spring Term, parents have two weeks in which to accept the offer. If you are in any doubt about admission arrangements please don't hesitate to telephone the school or Council House.

Information about the school is available on request and visits to the school are warmly welcomed by arrangement.

Pupils completing their infant school education at Blossomfield Infant School are guaranteed a place at either Sharmans Cross Junior School or Shirley Heath Junior School. Junior schools will send details of open evenings and days, to help you in your decision making.



Parents will receive a letter from Admissions during the spring term of their child's final year at Blossomfield, offering them a place at the Junior School serving the area in which they live.

**Schools Admissions, SMBC, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB**

**Tel: 0121 704 6693**

**Email: [admissions@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@solihull.gov.uk)**

## Arrival and Departure

Please leave your child at the school door - this encourages a feeling of independence and responsibility. A member of staff will be available each morning, to take any messages to the class teacher. If you need to talk to the teacher personally, please do this at the end of the day. You may of course ask to see the class teachers if it is an urgent matter.

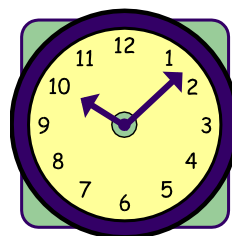
At home time, children will be brought to the playground by their teacher and should be collected from the playground; they must wait in school if you are late. Please contact the school at the earliest opportunity if you know you are going to be late or have arranged for someone else to collect your child.

Children are welcome to ride bicycles and scooters to school and leave them in the spaces provided. I am sure you realise that we can, however, accept no responsibility for them. Children must not, for Health & Safety reasons, ride around the playground either before or after school.

### Arrival and Departure

Children enter and leave school through designated doors which are signed. Please take time to find out which door your child will be entering and exiting the building. If you are unsure please ask a member of staff who will be happy to help.

Staff are on hand to supervise, direct and take messages at the beginning and the end of the school day. They wear high visibility jackets so that they can be easily identified.



## School hours

Attendance: 8.50am - 3.15pm

YEAR	Morning session	Afternoon session
Reception	8.50am – 11.45am	12.45pm - 3.15pm
Year 1	8.50am – 12.00pm	1.00pm - 3.15pm
Year 2	8.50am – 12.15pm	1.15pm - 3.15pm

Staff will be in their rooms ready to receive the children at 8.50am. The children will be welcomed at the door by a member of staff.

**Please be on time. We begin school and take the register at 9.00am. Children can be upset if they arrive in class late. If you are late for any reason, please take your child to the main door to sign in. They will be taken to their class by a member of the administration staff.**

Please also be aware that the children are your responsibility until 8.50am when they come into school. We cannot be responsible for children left on their own in the playground before this time in the morning. Children are also your responsibility after 3.15pm when they leave us. All children will be 'handed over' to a known adult at the end of the day. Children are regularly reminded to return to school if they lose their adult. They are reminded not to leave school premises alone.

If your child is absent please telephone school by 9.00 am to let us know. **If your child has sickness and / or diarrhoea, please do not let him/her return until he/she has been clear for 48 hours.**

Each week in celebration assembly we award a class certificate, cup and 'Attendance Bear' to recognise good attendance. This is given to the class with the highest level of attendance.

## Nursery Hours

8.45 - 11.45am 12.15pm - 3.15pm

Nursery children and parents and carers are welcome to wait in the Foundation Outdoor Area. However, to ensure safety, children must not use any of the apparatus or equipment before or after sessions.

## Blossomfield Childcare

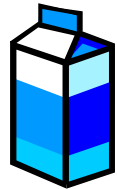
Additional Day care is available through Blossomfield Childcare.

Wrap around child care is available at Pinecones pre-school, for children who attend Nursery in the afternoon. Before and after school provision is available at the Tree House Kid's Club.

Blossomfield Childcare staff will be able to provide you with an information pack which includes details of the services that they offer. You can contact them by telephoning: 0779 958 2256 or by emailing them at: [childcare@blossomfield.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:childcare@blossomfield.solihull.sch.uk)

## Morning Break

You may place an order for milk by registering with 'Cool Milk' ([www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)) for your child to drink at the mid-morning break. A daily drink of milk is paid for by the Government for under 5s. This is ordered through Cool Milk who administers this scheme. Milk is paid for in advance directly to Cool Milk after your child's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Water is freely available at any time if your child is unable to have milk. Please do not send in separate drinks or snacks as children are given a piece of fruit each day supplied free by the National School Fruit Scheme.



## Water

In September please provide your child with a named 'sports bottle' of water which will be filled and left in their classroom for them to drink during the day. These bottles will be sent home each weekend to be sterilised. Please remember to return their named bottle each Monday so that your child can have a drink whenever they want. Only send bottles with a sports top as this minimises the risk of spillage.



## Parking

We ask that you please park thoughtfully and legally on the roads nearby to school. We encourage families to walk, cycle, scoot to school or to 'park and stride'. That is to park away from school and walk for part of the journey.

**Please do not to drive up Eastcote Close. Parking in Eastcote Close is prohibited and there is no turning circle at the top of the close to turn safely. The school car park is for staff only and entry must be authorised by a member of the school staff.**

**No child should be in the car park at any time for reasons of safety. Please help us to keep the children safe by adhering to this rule.**

## Disabled Parking

If you are a Blue Badge Holder, please provide the office staff with your name and car registration number and you will be able to park in the disabled space in the car park.

## School Uniform

School and parents prefer children to wear uniform every day. Uniforms can be purchased from Early Years in Shirley. Basic items including plain maroon sweatshirts can be bought at major chain stores, but it is preferable for the children to have the Blossomfield logo embroidered on. This helps staff and helpers when children are taken on school trips to immediately identify our children.



### Girls:

#### Winter:

Grey pinafore, skirt or skort

Girls may wear trousers but they must be a 'school' style. No leggings or other fashion trousers

White short sleeved polo shirt with soft collar

Maroon sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper, with school logo

White or grey socks or tights

Sensible shoes please – not slip-ons. If boots are worn to school, shoes must be changed into on arrival. Trainers are not permitted.

A school fleece is available and also a reversible showerproof fleece.

#### Summer:

Pink and white checked dress

Maroon sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper, with school logo

White or grey socks

Shoes or sensible, shoe type sandals please – not trainers, slip-ons, strappy sandals or 'jelly shoes'. These don't give enough support and can be dangerous when a child is running.

#### Hairbands

Simple, narrow headbands, preferably material (not plastic). Plain bobbles – please keep 'headscarf' type hairbands and fancy bobbles for parties.



### Boys:

#### Winter & Summer

Grey long or short trousers

White short sleeved polo shirt with soft collar

Maroon sweatshirt or jumper, with school logo

White or grey socks

Sensible shoes please – not trainers or slip-ons (no laces in Reception please, unless your child can manage them independently)

A school fleece is available and also a reversible showerproof fleece.

### **Clothes for PE**

All children will need:

- Black sports shorts (no pockets) and white T-shirt.
- Pumps (slip-on or Velcro fastening preferable).

You do not need to supply a pump bag as these will be provided.

**All items worn or brought to school must be clearly marked with the child's name.**

**No jewellery or earrings should be worn at school for Health & Safety reasons.**

Any child wearing earrings on a P.E. day will be asked to remove them as staff are not permitted to do so. Should they be unable to take them out themselves, staff will make a professional judgment regarding the nature of the activity as to whether the child may be able to take part in P.E. on that day. Please note that; **No jewellery or earrings should be worn at school for Health & Safety reasons.**

**Please ensure a spare pair of pants and socks is in your child's pump bag for emergencies.**

If your child can tell the time or is learning to do so at school they may wear a plain wristwatch. We cannot be responsible for any loss or damage and so we ask that children do not bring any valuable personal possessions to school. Unclaimed lost property will be sent to a charity shop at the end of each half-term.

We prefer children to have a book bag for reading books, diary, letters etc. A school book bag is available to purchase from the office at a cost of £5.50.

## **Nursery Uniform**

Although Nursery does not have a uniform as such, a school sweatshirt in Nursery sizes is available to purchase from Early Years should parents wish.

## **Charging Policies**



Within the terms of the Education Act 1988 it is the policy of this school's Governing body to request voluntary contributions from parents for activities in school time (e.g. educational trips, or drama groups visiting) which can only take place if there is sufficient funding. The charging policy is available in school and on the school website.

## **Children's Fund (School Fund/Nursery Fund)**

Children's Fund is charged at £39.00 per year paid either annually or termly, via ParentPay, to cover such things as children's cooking, costumes for Christmas performances, party food, discos, subsidising visitors to school, e.g. authors and artists, pantomime visits and renewable resources e.g. sand, clay, playdough.

This is a voluntary contribution but it enables us to provide resources that our school budget will not stretch to. We are very grateful for this extra funding and do keep parents informed as to how it is used.

## **ParentPay**

Most payments made to school are made via ParentPay. Information on how to access this will be provided when your child starts school.

## **Health and Safety**

Please note that Blossomfield School is a non-smoking site. Smoking on our premises or in our grounds is strictly forbidden. We also ask that parents refrain from using electronic cigarettes anywhere in school. Dogs are not allowed on the school site.

## **First – Aid / Emergency Contact**

Simple first-aid is administered on the premises, but it may be that we need to contact parents. **It is vital that we have up-to-date information on where a parent, child-minder or other nominated adult can be contacted in an emergency.** Please include a land-line and mobile number if available. When your child starts school please notify us, by fully completing the Pupil Data Collection form, of any allergies or medical needs your child may have.



## School Meals



All infant age pupils (Reception, Y1 and Y2) are entitled to a free school meal at lunchtime; this includes the provision of a packed lunch on school visits.

We encourage the children to have a cooked meal at lunchtime. Delicious healthy meals cooked on the premises, are provided each day. There is a choice of menu including a vegetarian option. We have a 'food in school' policy which was developed with parents and children.

At Blossomfield we have decided that parents should retain the option to send a packed lunch for their child's mid-day meal. At the beginning of the academic year we ask parents to commit to either free school meals or home brought packed lunches. If your child starts the year with a packed lunch and wishes to change to free school dinners, this will be possible but once the commitment has been made, the expectation is that this option will stay in place for the rest of the academic year. If your child starts the year with free school dinners it will not be possible to switch to home packed lunches.

If you would like your child to have a free school meal, you must complete the SMBC online registration. This is done by using the Parent Portal which is part of the existing school admissions on-line system. Details of how to access this are in your new pupil pack.

If your child is bringing a packed lunch, please mark the sandwich box clearly with your child's name and class. It is helpful if sandwiches are small in size and items like oranges already peeled. We aim to encourage a healthy diet and so chocolate and sweets are not allowed.

Water is provided for all children at lunchtime so no child needs to bring a drink to school.

## Partnership with Parents



Parents' consultations are held in the autumn and spring terms each year when parents can meet the class teacher, see their child's work and talk over their child's progress. Children with special educational needs or disability may have additional or separate consultations, which may include the class teacher, the inclusion leader and other specialist professionals.

Other curriculum events during the school day or in the evening will be notified well in advance. We will also ask your co-operation in signing the Home - School Agreement.

Every year group sends a weekly newsletter, usually via email, to let parents know what their children will be doing that week and other necessary information.

Open Days are held periodically, when current and prospective parents are invited into school to see the school at work. Parents are also invited to year group assemblies and other whole school events.

In July parents of all children in school will receive a written report on their child's progress with a slip for parental signature and comment. Should you have any queries or problems we will be happy to see you.



The Headteacher is usually available for urgent problems; otherwise appointments can be made to see the class teacher, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher.

It is our policy to contact parents where there is concern about a child's progress, health or behaviour. We welcome discussions with parents about various aspects of school life that may from time to time cause concern or need explanation. Please feel you can talk to us. There is, however an established procedure to deal with more formal complaints about the curriculum and religious education. Please make an appointment to see the Headteacher in these circumstances.

## Parent Teacher Association

The PTA is a lively organisation which raises valuable funds for school. Events include Summer Fair, Christmas Fair, discos, family events, etc. A board in the playground gives further information. If you would like to be involved, please speak to a member of the PTA or the office staff.

## Parental Partnership



To further enhance our relationship with parents, we also have a Parental Partnership Group which meets half-termly. Parent representatives from each class including Nursery meet with a staff representative to discuss such issues as charity events, school resources, clubs etc. All parents are encouraged to contribute to agenda items. Membership of the Partnership Group is for one year only and so there will be an opportunity for you to get involved in this initiative should you wish. A letter will be sent home in September giving further information.

## Community & Family Support Mentor

Yvonne Cooper is our Community and Family Mentor. Yvonne is currently available two days a week to support you in a non-academic role. If you would like to meet with Yvonne to discuss her role within school or for personal reasons regarding your child and/or family please speak to the office staff who will ask her to contact you.

## School Medical Service

The Area Health Authority provides a valuable service for the early discovery of any condition which, if neglected, might interfere with a child's progress during school life or after.

School Nurses do height, weight and simple vision tests in reception and inform parents if there is any problem. Children can be seen at the Eye Clinic or Opticians if necessary. Hearing is tested by the audiometrician during Foundation Stage/Reception.



## Medicines in school

Parents are requested not to send medicines to school with their children. Medicine will only be administered during school hours, if it has been prescribed **and is for four doses per day**. If this is the case we ask you to make arrangements with the Headteacher or Secretary to either administer the medicine yourself or complete the necessary consent form for staff to administer the prescribed medicine on your behalf. **Non-prescription medication will not be administered in school, unless**

**it forms part of a care plan, drawn up with the school nurse service, with parents.** This alleviates any possibility of error. Asthmatic children may keep their medication in school to be used as required for which there is also a consent form. Please speak to the office staff should this be necessary. If your child has a chronic condition which requires medication on a regular basis, please speak to the office staff.

#### Sun Screen

During sunny weather, please apply a high factor sun cream to your child **before** they come to school as we are unable to apply sun cream to children. Children should also bring a named sun hat to school.

## **Safeguarding**

This school recognizes its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children and young people entrusted to its care by establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop. The staff and governors of this school are committed to establishing and maintaining an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to. All statutory regulations relating to DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) procedures are strictly followed.

## **Child Protection**

We believe that every school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

The Education Act 2002, Section 175, has placed a duty on the governing body with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in school.

The governors recognise that all staff and volunteers have a full and active part to play in protecting pupils from harm. We will, therefore, refer to and/or consult with Children's Services Assessment and Referral Team regarding any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of pupils in line with our school policy and procedures for safeguarding children, the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and national guidelines.

## **The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection:**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Child Protection is a member of the Senior Management Team and in this school it is Mrs Bernadette Farkas (Headteacher). The Deputy DSL is Mrs Katy Morrison (Deputy Headteacher) Mrs Sarah Church (Foundation Stage Leader) is an additional DSL. The Childcare Manager, Jade Page, also has DSL status. All staff undertake statutory training and are aware of procedures to follow should there be any concerns or an issue is raised. If you have any questions about Child Protection procedures, please speak to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

The governors support the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection in carrying out her responsibilities as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (July 2015). The Designated Member of the Governing Body with responsibility for Child Protection is Mrs Lorna Bosley.

## **Equal Opportunities and Race Equality**

All children irrespective of cultural heritage, gender, ability or disability, have access to all areas of the curriculum. We teach children to recognise and respect people's differences as well as their similarities, and to accept and to treat everyone in a way that we too would like to be treated. We are proactive in making practical and reasonable adjustments in school in order to make the curriculum and school premises accessible to all.

Children, staff and visitors are treated with fairness, justice and equality. Individuals receive the same opportunities irrespective of differences in social and economic background, race, religion, gender, culture, age and disability.

The Equality Policy is available on the school website.

## **Teaching British Values**

The definition of British Values was set out by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and added to Ofsted inspection guidance in July 2014 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.'



At Blossomfield Infant School these values are regularly promoted through high quality teaching, a rounded programme of assemblies and a positive behaviour policy allowing pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS BROCHURE WAS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE.