

Executive Headteacher
Mr D Jeffries



Berkley C of E First School
Berkley, Frome, Somerset
BA11 5JH

Tel: 01373 887390
Email: office@berkleyschool.co.uk



Welcome to Hedgehogs class

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning designed to engage every child. It has been wonderful to welcome back our Year 1s and give a warm welcome to our new Reception children. Everyone has arrived with big smiles and plenty of enthusiasm, making a fantastic start to the year. We are already so proud of our Year 1s, who have done a brilliant job of helping the new Reception children settle into classroom life. We are eager to see how each child grows and progresses in their own unique way.

*What to Expect This Year
For Reception Parents:*

- *The Morning Routine:* Children arrive to settling activities followed by our core subjects: phonics, maths, and English.
- *The EYFS Curriculum:* Learning focuses on three prime areas (Communication & Language, Personal & Social Development, and Physical Development) alongside four specific areas (Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts).
- *How They Learn:* Throughout the day, children learn through a mix of focused adult-led lessons and child-initiated play to build on what they have been taught.

For Year 1 Parents (Key Stage 1):

'Let your light shine'



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



- *A Structured Transition:* The school day will become slightly more structured as the year goes on, but the children will still learn in a variety of ways both inside and outside the classroom.
 - *Active Learning:* They will continue to learn through play, exploration, discovery, role play, and hands-on challenges.
 - *The Curriculum:* While they are moving onto the KS1 National Curriculum, we will also carry forward and support any remaining Reception (EYFS) goals to ensure a smooth transition.
- Across both year groups, the children will be fully supported throughout the day by myself, Mrs Mustow, and Mrs Allsop.

English, Maths & Reading for All Hedgehogs

English

This year, we are launching Drawing Club during our English sessions to bring the magic of writing to life. Each week, our learning will centre on a specific book, blending rich vocabulary with imaginative adventures. Through drawing, the children will explore characters and settings, creating "magic codes" that naturally progress from early mark-making in Reception to writing descriptive sentences in Year 1.

Maths Exploration

Across both year groups, maths is taught through practical, hands-on activities and discussions to develop strong reasoning and recording skills. In Reception, children will focus on subitising, understanding patterns and shapes, and learning the composition of numbers up to 10. Year 1 children will build on these foundations by exploring larger numbers, counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s, and introducing concepts like money, time, doubling, halving, and addition and subtraction facts. Learning will be captured in a mix of written work in their books and photographs of practical activities.

Guided Reading & Books

Your child will participate in a weekly guided reading session to practise their phonics, with a focus on word recognition, fluency, prosody, vocabulary, and comprehension (Reception will begin these sessions in Term 2). There will also be plenty of other opportunities to read in class throughout the week. We will send home a decodable phonics book, and

'Let your light shine'



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



we encourage you to listen to your child read this book at least three times before it is changed.

PE – please make sure your child's labelled kit is in school on a Wednesday and Friday.

Outdoor learning – Please bring in named wellington boots and a waterproof coat and trousers or all in one which can be kept in the classroom.

Home learning

Reception – Reading and phonics focus. Homework challenges will start in January.

Year 1 -Each Friday there will be homework set to complete at home. This will relate to the learning that they have done during the week. In order for me to check it, I will need the homework books handed in on Thursday.

How can I help my child?

Personal and Social development

Modelling positive behaviours – good listening, empathy and how to interact in different situations. Highlighting the positive in your child 'I loved the way you shared/helped/kept trying....'

Spend time together, play games as a family – turn taking, celebrating others and own achievements.

Communication and Language

Engage in conversations, reading books together, create and share stories and sing songs. Engage in play based activities to extend vocabulary and conversation skills.

Reading

Ask your child questions about the story to develop comprehension, e.g. 'What happened to....', 'How did ...feel about what happened?'

Explore words in the text that might be new – find out what it means.

Can you spot any common exception words (e.g. the, was, be, my)

Make predictions about what could happen after the story.

Read a variety of different stories, comics etc.

Find words everywhere you go - signs, labels when shopping etc.

'Let your light shine'



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Maths

Count out objects from a large group— pay particular attention to one to one correspondence

See how many there are in a set without counting (subitising) – e.g. hold up three forks and child says how many.

Find numbers/shapes wherever you go

Count in rote, forwards and backwards

Play games - dice, dominoes, snakes and ladders.

Parent help

Could you spare an hour a week or a couple of times a term to hear children read? If so, we would love for you to come in and hear the children read.

Occasionally we may need additional help for trips and swimming outside of the school grounds. If you would like to help, please let us know and we can discuss further and organise a DBS check.

Any other information I may need to know

Each term I will send you an overview of what your child will learn.

Drop in sessions – date and times to be confirmed

Term 1

Meet the teacher

Phonics – learn what it is and take part in a lesson

Maths – see how we teach maths with your children

Term 5

Phonic screen check – feel prepared for the screening check.

Mrs Morrison. Mrs Mustow and Mrs Allsop

'Let your light shine'



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

