

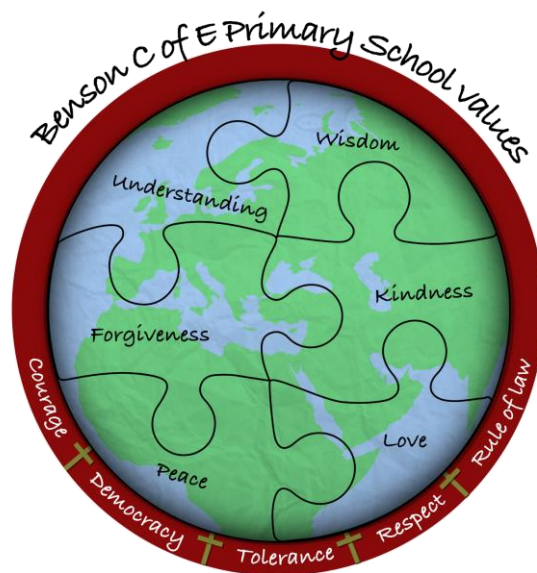


Benson Church of England Primary School

School Prospectus

2016-2017

Working Together - Valuing Everyone - Learning for Life



Welcome

Our Vision

Working Together, Valuing Everyone, Learning for Life

- We have high expectations, encouraging everyone to achieve their best and reach their potential.
- We promote independence, a love of learning and curiosity so we can flourish in school and in life.
- We work together as a team, our Christian values help us to celebrate diversity and build resilience.
- We recognise our responsibility to care for our local environment and the wider world.
- We rise to challenges with self- belief and courage.
- We nurture our school community, developing the wellbeing of every person.



## Staffing

Children are taught in six classes as follows. We also have a nursery class for 3-4 year olds.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
Nursery	Willow	Mrs Caroline Broadwith Mrs Sally Harris
Early Years	Elm	Miss Kirsty Scragg TA: Mrs Theresa Badenhorst TA: Mrs Angela Huntly
Year 1	Oak	Mrs Jo Tanner TA: Mrs Tania Hadfield
Year 2	Chestnut	Miss Lianne Berry TA: Mrs Joy Skeels
Year 3	Maple	Miss Kelly Willis-Stovold TA: Mrs Claire Wilson
Year 4	Ash	Miss Emma Long TA: Mrs Tina Bone TA: Mrs Mel Belgrove-Jones
Year 5	Sycamore	Mrs Gemma Bibby & Mrs Ali Stokes TA: Mrs Debbie Lock TA: Mrs Vicki Jarvis
Year 6	Hawthorn	Mrs Shelley Mottram TA: Mrs Debbie Lock TA: Mrs Vicki Jarvis

The School's Headteacher: Mrs Helen Crolla.(Safeguarding Officer)  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Shelley Mottram (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)  
SENCO: Mrs Catherine Boddy

**Admin Team:**

Rachel Tyroll -Administrator  
Dianne Sheldon – Finance Officer

**Premises Staff:**

Yasmin Sweeney (Caretaker)  
Louise Dawson

**Lunchtime Assistants:**

Rebecca Day                      Sandra King    Jonny Cousens  
Tina Bone                         Vanda Smith  
Louise Dawson                 Joy Skeels

**Nursery – Willow Class**

The nursery class opened in September 2015. We are able to accept children that are 3 years old and parents are encouraged to use their 15 hours of funded care at our setting. There are 2 sessions each day (8.45am – 11.45am and 12.15pm – 3.15pm) There is also a lunch club from 11.45am – 12.15pm, at a further cost of £2. The nursery staff work closely with the Reception class staff to ensure that there is a smooth transition for those children that remain at our school. This is a welcoming and purposeful learning environment, where children are nurtured and prepared for their transition into school.

**Admissions**

We welcome children into our Early Years Class in the September before their fifth birthday. We handle admissions for part-time places to the foundation stage ourselves. There is the option to attend part time so please discuss this with the Early Years staff.

We follow the policy that has been established by the County Council. Details are given on their website: go to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/portal/publicsite](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/portal/publicsite) then follow the links to education and learning and schools. We encourage you to visit our school as part of your decision making process.

We welcome children transferring from other schools and work hard to ensure that they settle in as quickly as possible. Parents of children in schools in the Wallingford area should discuss moving schools with the Headteacher of their current school.

Benson Arrows is a group established to ensure smooth transfer, for those pupils moving as a result of MOD postings. This provides pastoral care and communication for families experiencing such moves.



## Curriculum

Within the primary setting your child will experience four stages.

Nursery - Ages 3-4

Reception - Ages 4-5

Key Stage One - Ages 5-7

Key Stage Two - Ages 7-11

## English

English is taught through daily lessons. Reading, writing and grammar are covered along with experience of a variety of text types. Speaking and listening activities, including drama are used to explore genres before children write their own. Where possible English is linked to topic work so that children feel enthused and want to write. These skills are often followed up in the form of creative homework tasks. Phonics, Spelling and Handwriting are taught within discrete sessions.

Reading is taught through guided group activities and we are fortunate to have volunteers, who read with children individually. We have a well-resourced school, to foster a love of reading.



## Maths

Daily maths lessons cover calculations involving the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Children are taught to use and apply their mathematical skills, in a range of contexts. Maths Learning Walls provide aids for learning and challenge activities.

All lessons begin with mental maths tasks to challenge the children and improve skills. Children are encouraged to learn their multiplication tables to apply within these tasks.

Other areas of maths are also taught so that measurement, Shape and Data Handling can be experienced within practical tasks or problem solving activities.



## Science

Science is taught through topics, where possible. This enables teachers to engage children and make links with other areas of the curriculum. Specific skills, such as observation, investigation and recording are also taught, to enable children to apply these in a variety of contexts. The school is currently working with the Abingdon partnership to promote learning in science.



### **Our Curriculum**

Other subjects, that form part of the wider curriculum, are organised into termly topics. These include history, geography, music, art, DT and PSHE. Teachers plan engaging activities, starting with a *hook lesson*, to inspire the children and encourage their curiosity. Topic themes are communicated to parents, via the School's website. Homework tasks link literacy and topic themes, enabling children to be creative and work on a project. Topic books provide a record of learning across the variety of subjects.

Teachers plan hands on experiences for the children, in the form of trips, listening to speakers and dress up days. Children have the opportunity to shape their learning experiences by discussing what they would like to find out. The new 2014 National Curriculum is now being used by teachers.

### **Religious Education and Collective Worship**

As a Church School, we promote our values through daily acts of worship, linking them to religious stories or celebrations. We enjoy close links with the parish of St. Helen's Benson. Our parish priest takes worship regularly for us.

Our School Values are as follows:

- Understanding
- Peace
- Forgiveness
- Love
- Kindness
- Wisdom

In addition, the British Values of: Tolerance, Respect, Rule of Law, Democracy and Courage

Our principle faith is Christianity and we base our teaching on the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus. This means that children will have the opportunity to learn about all world faiths. Children will be encouraged to ask questions and respect the beliefs of all cultures.

### **Computing**

Computing is taught as specific skills and embedded throughout topics. Children are encouraged to use ICT in a variety of ways. The school has an ICT suite which is used to teach IT skills and laptops to aid research in class.

### **Gifts and Talents**

Through differentiated tasks within lesson time and additional activities, children with particular gifts or talents are encouraged to flourish.

### **Physical Education**

Children are offered a wide variety of sporting activities, ranging from football to archery. There are many after school clubs, run by coaches. Our Specialist PE coach encourages the children to take part in local and county tournaments. As a School we are very successful.

### **PSHCE, including Relationships and Sex Education**

Children experience circle time in addition to lessons that focus on building positive relationships and staying healthy or safe. The School has a visit from The Life Bus every year, where children have lessons about keeping healthy and drugs.

The School believes that a conversation about human sex education should start at home. The School complements this with a visit from the School Nurse, to talk to children in Years 5 and 6. Further down the School, children focus on building positive, safe relationships.

### **Homework**

Homework takes the form of weekly maths reading and spelling. More creative tasks, linked to literacy are set by teachers termly. This allows children to develop their knowledge about a topic.



### **Assessment**

Teachers assess children's learning in a variety of ways, through observation, guided group work and marking. Children receive feedback on their learning and are given clear targets to help them make progress. The children are also taught to self and peer assess so that they are fully involved in the evaluation of their learning.

End of phase or Statutory Assessments take place in Foundation Stage, Year One (phonics screening), Year 2 and Year 6.

### Reporting to Parents

Teachers meet with parents in the autumn, to discuss how children have settled into their new class and talk about progress towards their end of year targets. A second meeting is held in the Spring Term, where parents receive information about progress towards targets. Teachers will then write a detailed End of Year Record of Achievement in July. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child’s learning at any point during the year.

### The School Day

<b>Nursery</b>	Willow Class	8.40am : Door open 8.45am - 11.45am: Morning session 11.45am - 12.15pm: Lunch club 12.15pm - 3.15pm: Afternoon session
<b>Foundation Stage</b>	Elm Class	8.40am : Doors open for self -registration and activities 11.50am-1.00pm: Lunchtime 3.15pm: School finishes
<b>Key Stage One</b>	Oak and Chestnut Classes	8.40am : Doors open for registration and early learning activities 12pm-1pm: Lunchtime 3.15pm: School finishes There will be a short KS1 afternoon playtime
<b>Key Stage Two</b>	Maple, Ash, Sycamore and Hawthorn Classes	8.40am : Doors open for registration and early learning activities 12.10pm-1pm: Lunchtime 3.15pm: School finishes

### Clubs

There are a variety of clubs on offer to the children. These are led either by members of staff or specialists. The clubs list, with further information, can be found on our website.

### Medicines

Children are not permitted to bring medicine into school. It is preferable for any medicine to be administered at home. However, if you require assistance please see Rachel in the office.

### Child Protection

Mrs Helen Crolla is the Child Protection Officer for the School. The safety of all children is taken extremely seriously. We have positive links with Didcot HUB, who offer support for families. Please refer to our Child Protection Policy in the Key Documents section of the website. Safeguarding information is shared with external agencies as appropriate, in order to keep all children safe.



## **School Lunches, Fruit and Milk**

Children either have the option of ordering a hot school lunch or bringing a packed lunch from home. A free school lunch is available to all children in EYRS and KS1, as is free fruit, with the option of purchasing fruit for older children. Milk is available for younger children.

## **Health & Safety**

### **Travelling to School**

If you bring your child to school by car, please park safely and responsibly. Your consideration of other road users and local residents is much appreciated. **Parking is not permitted in the school grounds.** The exception to this rule is parking for disabled pupils. The school has spaces for disabled parking in the staff car park.

### **Emergency Closure**

The School Website and local radio stations will inform parents of any emergency closure. The School will also use its texting service to parents.

### **Inclusion**

The School's Senco is available to advise parents who may be anxious about their child. The school has good links with outside agencies, for example behaviour support or the Speech and Language Service.

## **Educational Trips & School Activities**

### **Policy on Charging**

The school asks for a voluntary contribution towards day trips and activities which take place during school time. If there are insufficient contributions the activity may have to be cancelled. The school takes the view that no child will be deprived of any activity where parents are in financial hardship. However, as we do not ask for voluntary contributions unless absolutely necessary, contributions are much appreciated.

The school operates an on-line payment system called "School Money" which parents are given password access to so payments for trips, lunch etc. can be made.

The cost of residential trips are dealt with as a separate issue and all details are given prior to booking.

### **Residential Courses**

Residential Education is provided for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and is seen as an important aspect of the total education which we offer to our children.

The Year 5 pupils usually spend 2 nights away at a residential centre whereas the Year 6 course is usually spent at one of the Outdoor Residential Centres run by PGL over a 4 night period.

## **Benson Barrows**

Benson Barrows is a nurture group that is run by a member of staff for children of service families. It provides a support group for the children especially when a parent is away on deployment.

## **Keeping you informed...**

Our aim is to keep you regularly updated with news and views from school. This is achieved through a variety of ways.

A fortnightly newsletter is sent with details of recent/forthcoming events together with specific information relevant to the work of the school.

Class teachers send out newsletters at the beginning of each new school term giving details of your child's learning.

Friends of Benson School (FOBS) send letters on a regular basis to inform you of their latest fund-raising events.

We also write contributions for the Benson Bulletin – our local community newspaper. There is a parent notice-board outside the school, close to the Early Years garden.

You can also find information on our school website at [www.benson.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.benson.oxon.sch.uk).

## **Governors**

We have a strong and committed governing body and from time to time vacancies occur for parent governors to join the team. If you feel that you would like to find out more about becoming a parent governor at Benson, please contact the school office – we will be pleased to hear from you.

## **School Uniform**

We are grateful for the co-operation that parents give in maintaining a high standard in our school uniform.

The school has its own sweatshirt, cardigan, fleece, waterproof, tracksuit and tee shirt printed with the school logo. Full details can be found using the link on the website.

## **Girls**

### **Winter Uniform – Terms 2, 3 and 4 inclusive.**

Grey skirt, tunic or trousers. White blouse and school tie. (Elm Class optional tie)

School sweatshirt or school cardigan.

Grey tights or white socks and suitable shoes (not trainers).

### **Summer Uniform – Terms 5, 6 and 1 inclusive.**

Red gingham dress or grey skirt, short sleeve blouse or white polo shirt.

## **Boys**

### **Winter Uniform – Terms 2, 3 and 4 inclusive**

Grey trousers or shorts. White shirt and school tie(expected).

(Elm class Long or Short sleeved polo shirt, no tie)

School sweatshirt.

Grey socks and suitable shoes (not trainers).

### **Summer Uniform – Terms 5, 6 and 1 inclusive**

White polo shirt or short sleeve white shirt (optional tie).

## **SPORTSWEAR**

Navy shorts or skirt. White school tee-shirt with logo. Plimsolls. (Trainers are preferred for outdoor P.E.) P.E. Bag.

Football – appropriate trainers/boots may be worn.

## **Winter Games**

A school tracksuit complete with logo can be purchased from the school office as an optional extra to school sportswear.

## **Swimming**

Swimsuit/trunks, swimming cap, and large towel.

Every child will need a painting overall, an old shirt is suitable.

Please ensure that all items are named.

Children require a book bag and P.E. bag, available from the school uniform suppliers.

**Please ensure that your child has the correct equipment at school every day.**

## **Complaints**

We aim to encourage open communication with all parents. You are welcome to make contact with the school whenever the need arises. The Headteacher and teachers will be most willing to meet you at a mutually convenient time. However, if you are not satisfied with how a particular matter is being dealt with by the school and its staff, the following channels of communication are open to you:

- The Governors, Parent Governors, Chair. (See website for contact addresses and telephone numbers).
- The Children, Young People and Families, Oxfordshire County Council, Macclesfield House, New Road, Oxford OX1 1NA. Telephone number 01865 815449.

## **How you can help us...**

If you would like to come in and help us at school you will always be warmly welcomed. Your child's class teacher – or other members of staff will be pleased to discuss this with you. All offers of help are gratefully accepted, whether on a regular or occasional basis.

