



Early Years

In the Early Years at Benson C of E Primary School, we believe that every pupil is unique. We ensure all children have the opportunity to develop and learn in a safe and nurturing environment where play and learning is combined. Through practical learning experiences, we strive to equip children with a love of learning and natural curiosity. We are committed to giving our pupils the best possible start to their school life, teaching them skills that ensure their well-being is well managed and they thrive in the future.

Our Early Years curriculum is designed to provide a broad and balanced education that meets the needs of all our children. It facilitates them to gain skills, knowledge and understanding, as they start out on their educational journey, supporting them to progress from their individual starting points and preparing them for the next stage of their education.

We celebrate our youngest children through displaying their work, sharing observations with parents through the online learning journey Tapestry and allowing the opportunity for our children to take part in productions and shared assemblies.

Nursery

We have one nursery class for children aged 3 to 4, with up to 30 children on role.

How the curriculum is planned

Learning activities are planned using the EYFS curriculum and with the support of Development Matters, focusing mainly on the **prime areas of communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development**. For some areas planning is supported by White Rose Maths for mathematics, Rocket Phonics for early phonics teaching, SCARF for personal, social and emotional development and WellComm Big Book of ideas for communication and language development. Planning is based on the needs of the cohort.

The nursery team consists of a qualified teacher, two Level 3 practitioners and one Level 2 practitioner. When the qualified teacher is in the class, the ratio of adults to children is 1:13. When the

qualified teacher is not in the class, a level 3 practitioner is in charge and the ratio of adults to children is 1:8.

Our Nursery children are taught daily phonics using Rocket Phonics and maths using White Rose maths. This is to ensure consistent teaching inline with the rest of the school, and to ensure a smooth learning journey as children move into Reception.

In Nursery we use the speech and language toolkit WellComm to assess the children's level of communication. This assessment is carried out within the first 6 weeks of a child joining us. Parents are informed about the toolkit via a letter and then are informed if their child has scored amber or red which will then require intervention.

The Nursery children take part in Forest School for half a day each week throughout the academic year. Each child will experience Forest School which is lead and planned by our qualified Forest School Leader.

Parents are invited to parents' evening appointments twice during the year and receive an end of year report. More regular information about learning is through the online programme Tapestry.

Reception

During 2024-2025, there is a Reception class, a mixed Reception and Year 1 class and a Year 1 class.

When planning activities for Reception children, teachers in the Year 1 & Reception team refer to Early Learning Goals as well as the school's schemes of work to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is delivered across the seven areas of learning.

In phonics and reading the Reception children follow the Rocket Phonics programme. This programme teaches children sounds, word reading, letter formation, word writing and writing simple sentences. The Rocket phonics programme has colour coded books that children read with an adult at least once a week. Rocket Phonics colour coded books are sent home weekly along with a library book for parents to read with their child. These books are linked to the sounds that have been taught.

Reception children follow the NCETM Mastering Number programme in their daily Maths Bursts. In addition to this, we use White Rose Maths to teach simple geometry.

Children's work is recorded in a class floor book and a Rocket Phonics workbook. In the Spring and Summer terms the children also record work in individual English & Maths books.

Parents are kept up to date through informal conversations about their child's learning as well as formal parent meetings, and end of year report, and regular Tapestry online profile updates that include 1x maths, 1x phonics and 1x other.

	How the curriculum is covered	
Curriculum Area of learning:	Reception	Nursery
Communication and Language	Literacy – Literacy Tree Circle times Phonic interventions	Circle times Wellcomm – big book of ideas
Physical Development	PE Hub Fine and gross motor skill activities Outside play – gross motor	Fine and gross motor skill activities Outside play – gross motor Forest School
Personal, Social and Emotion Development	SCARF – School wide scheme	SCARF – School wide scheme
Literacy	Rocket Phonics Colourful semantics (to support the writing process) Topic based – Part of KS1 learning Literacy Tree (trial) – adapted plans	Rocket Phonics – first steps Book talk Story mapping
Maths	NCTEM – Mastering number White Rose Maths – geometry	White Rose Maths – taken from the calculation policy.
Understanding the world	Kapow – Geography and History Science – school designed curriculum	Forest school Seasons – planned activities Topic related planning
Expressive Arts and Design	Access Art DT – school designed curriculum.	Exploring materials and different medias – topic related.