



# Welcome to Buckminster Primary School

Information Pack  
2015-2016





# Welcome Pack Content

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# Introduction to Buckminster Primary School

Buckminster is a small, rural school for children aged four plus to eleven years. The school is situated mid-way between Buckminster and Sewstern, and was built in 1898.

The school has five classrooms together with a school hall, library and community room. This year the Year 1 and 2 class will be based in one of the mobile classrooms. Outside we have an enclosed play area for the Foundation children which incorporates opportunities for adventurous and creative activities. The play area also has a covered area which allows the children to use the outdoor area in all weather conditions. In addition to this there is a tarmac playground with play equipment and a large sports field in which the 'Muga' our all weather sports pitch is positioned.

The Foundation children also have the opportunity of going to Forest School in Little Dalby on a fortnightly basis. Buckminster School planted our own woodland which we hope to be able to use in the years to come.

We have a lovely farm garden which all children in the school take responsibility for and thoroughly enjoy spending time caring for the animals and growing their own vegetables.





# Staff at Buckminster Primary School

- Head Teacher- Mr J Brown
- Office Manager- Mrs S Birch
- Year 5 and 6 Teacher – Mr Pettener
- Year 4 Teacher- Mrs K Parkin
- Year 3 Teacher- Mrs K Hunt & SENCO
- Year 1 and 2 Teacher- Mrs T Goddard
- Foundation Teacher- Miss B Longley
- Classroom Assistants- Mrs J Roberts, Mrs B Thompson & Mrs L Potts and Miss A Taylor.
- French Teacher- Mrs Read
- Music Teacher- Mr Emmitt
- Lunchtime Supervisors- Mrs J Hayman, Mrs S Watkin, Mr W Watkin, Mrs S Heaney & Mrs H Wallace.
- Premises Officer- Mr W Watkin





# Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum



- The Foundation Stage is the period of education for children from birth to the end of the Foundation year.
- The Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the recognition that children learn through play and active learning.
- There are seven areas of learning and development that shape the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Three areas of learning are:
  - **Communication and language;**
  - **Physical development; and**
  - **Personal, social and emotional development.**
- These areas of learning, called the *prime* areas are particularly crucial in enabling children's learning, as they reflect the key skills and capabilities all children need to develop and learn effectively.
- We also support children in four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. These areas are:
  - **Literacy;**
  - **Mathematics;**
  - **Understanding the world**
  - **Expressive arts and design**





# Monitoring Progress

Each area of learning has its own '**Early Learning Goal**' which monitors the progress that has been achieved by the **end** of Foundation Class. Teachers will make best fit judgements against each of the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELG). Children will be described as 'emerging', 'expected' or 'exceeding' in each ELG.

## The first few weeks

We will find out what your child already knows and can do and use this information to help us develop an individual learning programme for your child.

Your child will have their own 'Learning Journey' which records information of your child's achievements throughout the year. This may be in the form of a photograph, an observation or some of your child's work. Parents can assess these freely from the classroom. The Learning Journeys will be sent home for parental contributions when possible.

You will be invited to discuss your child's progress at Parent's evenings which are held every term. At the final parents' meeting in July you will receive a full written report.



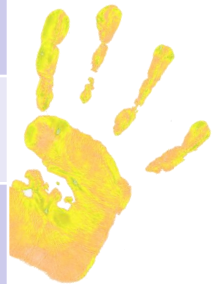


# Our 'New Creative Curriculum'

This year we are following cycle B

	Cycle A	Cycle B
Autumn 1	Elmer	Under the Sea
Autumn 2	Dinosaurs	All About Me
Spring 1	Around the World	Pets and Animals
Spring 2	Around the World	Bears
Summer 1	Transport	Plants
Summer 2	Minibeasts	Traditional Tales

The Creative Curriculum is a carefully planned, thematic approach to teaching and learning designed to support children's natural curiosity and stimulate their creativity and it focuses on 'real life' experiences wherever possible.





# Term Dates Academic Year 2015-2016



## Autumn Term

School opens: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Mid Term Break: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

School closes: Friday evening 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015



## Spring Term

School opens: Wednesday morning 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Mid Term Break: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016

School closes: Thursday evening 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016



## Summer Term

School opens: Monday morning 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

May Day: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016

Mid Term Break: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

School closes: Friday evening 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016





# School Dress

Children should come to school dressed in a way which is appropriate, which shows care for appearance and gives them a sense of belonging.

**School Uniform:** Children must wear either the navy school jumper or cardigan with the school logo on, a white shirt or blouse and the blue and white school tie. Boys must wear grey trousers in the winter months and shorts are permitted in the summer months. Girls must wear grey skirts (pinafores are not to be worn) with either grey tights or white socks. In the summer months girls can wear a navy blue gingham summer dresses.

The PTFA are providing all children with a Buckminster tie and book bag and a home school diary.

**PE Kit:** A pale blue polo shirt, plain navy shorts and plimsolls (indoors) old trainers (outdoors), and a navy tracksuit for outside.

**PE kit must be in a drawstring bag- these can be obtained from the school office.** It is also useful to have a **spare set of named underwear and clothes in school.**

It is **vital** that all your child's property is marked with his/her name, especially school uniform. We will take no responsibility for loss of any unmarked clothing as we do not keep a 'lost property box.'





# General Information

**Milk:** If you wish your child to have milk in school on a daily basis you need to register on the 'Cool Milk' website [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) or fill in a 'Cool Milk' form. Children are **advised to bring water bottles** into school which they can access freely during the day.

**Fruit:** This is provided daily for infant children which is given out during the day.

**Book Bags:** These can be purchased from the school office for £3.75, although this year the **PTFA** are providing every child with one **free** of charge. Book bags need to come to school everyday with their reading books and should be checked at the end of every day for any letters. Children are heard read regularly either individually or in groups. Please discuss your child's book with them and hear them read as they progress. School provide a School diary with a reading record which parents can use to record their child's progress or any comments about their child's reading. Staff will write comments in these books and they will be checked on a regular basis.

**Home School Diaries:** These will be given out in August and will be used to communicate all messages between home and school.





# General Information

## Continued...

- **Newsletters:** Weekly newsletters are emailed or sent home to keep parents up to date with current events and dates for your diary. If you do not have access to email please inform the school office for you to receive paper copies. All newsletters will be put on the school website. [www.buckminster.leics.sch.uk](http://www.buckminster.leics.sch.uk)
- **Absence from school:** If your child is away from school for any reason you must make contact with the school either in writing, by telephone or in person before 9.05am.
- **Holidays:** No holidays can be taken during term time unless it is an exceptional circumstance and approved by the Head teacher.
- We offer a **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** at Buckminster School. The Breakfast Club starts from 7.40am and runs until 8.40am and the After School Club runs until 5.20pm. If you would be interested in attending either of these clubs please speak to the school office as soon as possible.





# The School Day

School hours are 8.55am to 12.15pm and 1.20 to 3.20pm for both infants and juniors.

**Start of the day:** In the morning the school gates are opened at 8.40am and children are welcome to come onto the school playground where they are supervised by an adult. The bell is then rung at 8.50am and all teaching staff come and collect their class ready for registration at 8.55am. For the first half term children in Foundation can be brought into their classroom by their parents at 8.50am when the whistle goes to help them settle in.

**Home Time:** At 3.20pm reception children wait in their classroom with their teacher. Parents are asked to wait on the large playground outside the small gate leading into the Foundation play area. When parents can be seen, children are dismissed by the teacher. If you know that you will not be picking up your child at the end of the day it is important that you inform the class teacher in the morning.





# Day to Day routines

**School dinners/ packed lunch:** School dinners are provided in the middle of the school day. Since **September 2014** all pupils in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 in state-funded schools in England are eligible for free school meals. School dinners are ordered on a daily basis therefore allowing for flexibility during the week. If children wish to bring in a packed lunch we encourage them to bring in a healthy lunch (no fizzy drinks and sweets please) but as storage is limited we do ask that lunches are sent in proper lunch boxes. The lunch boxes are stored at room temperature so it may be useful to include an icepack.

**Show and tell:** In Foundation we do encourage children to bring things that are meaningful and of interest in to share with the rest of the class. On Fridays children can bring things in from home to share with the rest of the class.

**Cooking:** All children get a chance to cook in pairs every term. **We are always looking for volunteers to help with this throughout the school, if you are interested please speak to the class teacher.**

**Playtimes:** Break time is at 10.40am and all children go out to play at the same time.





# Forest School

- The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences.
- Children visit the same local woodlands on a regular basis and through play they have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.
- We visit Forest School every other Wednesday at Little Dalby and we provide the children with waterproofs and wellingtons. Children do not need to wear school uniform on these days and come to school dressed according to the weather in old clothes. Children need to come to school in long sleeves and long trousers so their legs are covered. A spare set of clothes would be useful in case children get wet or dirty.
- We are looking for a parent helper to come with us, can you help? Due to small class sizes we now take the children to Forest School in cars due to the cooperation of parent helpers. If you think you would be able to help please speak to the class teacher.





# The Hollies- Little Dalby





Do you have any  
questions?

