

The Bliss Charity School



Starting School September 2023



Induction Booklet

Introduction

Starting school is an exciting new adventure for both children and parents! We want to ensure that school is an enjoyable and positive experience, as well as providing a stimulating learning environment.

The aim of this booklet is to offer as much information as we can regarding your child's start to their school-life. We hope to offer you suggestions that will help your child settle quickly and happily into their new routine.

We expect there will still be individual questions that you may have and our 'open door' approach means we are happy to answer these before your child starts school, either via email (office@bliss.northants.sch.uk or s.caller@bliss.northants.sch.uk) or by speaking to Mrs. Caller during your home visit or transition afternoon.

Key Staff When Your Child Starts School



Mrs. White
Headteacher



Mrs. Caller
Class Reception Teacher

Learning in the Early Years

Class Reception will be taught with the recognition and understanding that children learn best through play and active learning. Your child's learning will be based on seven key areas, with a topic-based approach:

Three Prime Areas

Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Four Specific Areas

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

Prime Areas



Communication and Language

Your child will learn to ...

- Hold a conversation with peers and adults
- Enjoy listening to stories, songs and poems, showing good attention
- Talk confidently and clearly
- Show awareness of the listener
- Follow instructions
- Answer questions



Physical Development

Your child will learn to ...

- Move confidently
- Negotiate space and obstacles
- Control their body
- Handle equipment
- Use a range of small tools



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Your child will learn to ...

- Become self-confident
- Have awareness of their own feelings and feelings of others
- Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing and undressing independently
- Become independent
- Tell the difference between right and wrong
- Build relationships with others

Specific Areas



Literacy

Your child will learn to ...

- Listen to and say sounds, linking them to the alphabet
- Read and write familiar words and sentences
- Comprehend what has been read to them
- Develop their vocabulary



Mathematics

Your child will learn to ...

- Be confident with numerals to 10
- Count beyond 20
- Develop deep number awareness to 10
- Understand patterns within numbers
- Compare quantities



Understanding the World

Your child will learn to ...

- Explore and find out about the world around them, asking questions about it
- Find out about past events in their lives and their family's lives
- Discuss what has happened in the past
- Find out about different cultures and beliefs



Expressive Arts and Design







Your child will ...

- Safely use a range of materials and tools
- Make things and explain the process
- Role play
- Make music and sing songs
- Experiment with colour



Curriculum

Over your child's first year at Bliss, they will be learning through a topic-based curriculum that covers the 7 areas of the Early Years syllabus. These topics are carefully chosen to ensure children are engaged in and enthusiastic about their learning. Class Reception's topics are listed below:

	<i>I am Special</i>	<i>Seasons and Celebrations</i>	<i>Dinosaurs</i>	<i>Superheroes</i>	<i>Stories</i>	<i>Land and Sea</i>
Class R						



Assessment and Monitoring

Within the first six weeks of your child starting school, Mrs. Caller will complete a baseline assessment with your child. This 20 minute statutory assessment is activity-based and will provide a starting point for your child in language, communication and literacy, and mathematics. However, we are very aware that the statutory baseline is just a snapshot of your child's knowledge and understanding. Therefore, we carry out a number of observations and work alongside your child regularly throughout the reception year to gain a much deeper understanding of their interests, skills, knowledge and understanding across the whole of the Early Years curriculum to ensure that their learning progresses according to their individual needs. We will share the outcomes of all initial assessments with parents at our first meeting towards the end of Term 1.

SEND

We are an inclusive school and welcome everybody into our community. The staff, governors, pupils and parents work together to make The Bliss Charity School a happy, welcoming place where children and adults can achieve their full potential and develop as confident individuals.

Everyone has both talents and challenges. However, for some people the variation between those strengths and challenges is more pronounced because of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). Sometimes this may be obvious; in other cases, it may be hidden. We all play a part in working towards a world where all variations of our population are accepted and enabled. There are many misconceptions around SEND conditions; many exist on a spectrum which means they vary in how they present in different people.

Our teachers and teaching assistants have experience and continuous training in order to meet the needs of individual pupils. SEND training forms part of the continuing professional development of all staff. We welcome talking to you about how to support your child in order to meet their individual needs.

Tapestry

After the first term, we use an on-line platform called 'Tapestry' to share your child's experiences. Information on how to log-in and view this will be given to you when your account is set up at the beginning of Term 2.



We also strongly encourage parents/carers to share children's experiences from home. We appreciate that you know your child better than we do so information from home helps us to build a much clearer and deeper picture of your child's interests, skills, knowledge and understanding.

Assessments

Characteristics of Effective Learning | Leavel

Early Years Foundation Stage

PSSED CL PD L M UAY EAD

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making Relationships	Not Assessed	No Refinement
Self Confidence & Self Awareness	Not Assessed	No Refinement
Managing feelings and behaviour	Not Assessed	No Refinement

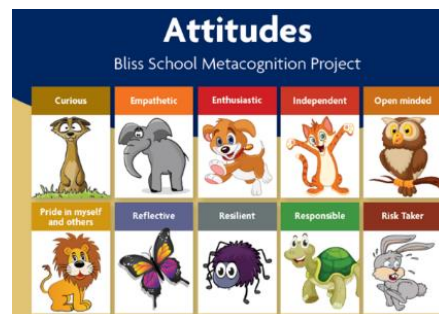
Your child's 'Tapestry Journal' is available at the end of their time in Class Reception for you to download and keep as a record of their first year at school.



Recognition and Rewards

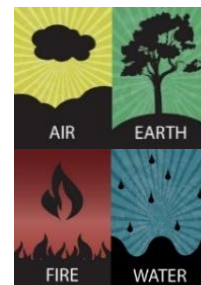
Metacognition Awards

In Class Reception, we celebrate children's achievements in all areas of their learning. They gain tokens for a vast range of behaviours, from listening carefully to others, to sharing with their friends nicely. These tokens are also awarded when children demonstrate attitudes that are linked with our school's metacognition programme. In Class Reception, we focus on the ten attitudes from our school programme – these are taught over a period of time and are revisited throughout your child's time at Bliss. When your child has gained 3 tokens, for a specific attitude, it is celebrated in a school celebration assembly.



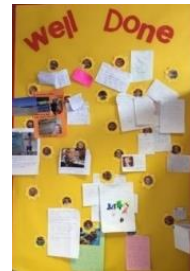
House Points

Before they start school, your child will be put into one of our houses: Air (yellow), Earth (green), Fire (red) or Water (blue). This information is in your induction pack. Family members are placed in the same house. Children can 'earn' house points for many actions, such as displaying polite manners, remembering school rules or demonstrating thoughtful acts. The house points are counted from across the school weekly and the scores are accumulated over each term with a house winner announced at the end of every term and at the end of the school year.



Well Done Board

We love to hear and see what your child has been doing at home and we celebrate this through our 'Well Done Board'. On paper or a post-it note, please record something your child has done at home. This could be something they have learnt to do, e.g. riding their bike, sleeping in their own bed or helping to make their breakfast. Your child will have the opportunity to share what they have done with their friends and adults. This not only helps us find out what your child has done but it is a great opportunity for children to develop their language and communication skills. Children love sharing what they have done at home and it develops their understanding that there is a link between home and school.



Buddies

At Bliss we are very proud of our 'buddy' system which has been successful for many years. Children in Years 4 and 5 volunteer to become a buddy for new children starting school. Staff ensure these children are fully aware of their role and that they are committed to looking after our youngest children. We do not put family members together as we believe that being with other children – beyond familiar friends and family – helps your child to develop the ability to form new relationships. We also do not mix boys and girls together as sometimes your child may need to be taken to the toilet by their buddy during a break time. The role of the buddy is to help your child become familiar with school facilities and routines, helping them to settle quickly into school life. Your child's buddy will also be another friend who will support them to become independent in the school environment. The buddies collect the reception children at break times, taking them onto the playground; they support the children in Class R when they stay for lunch; and they are a friend whenever they are needed.



Lunches

During the first term, your child will be supported by their buddy during lunchtimes to ensure they understand the routine of lunch, helping with food cutting or unwrapping/opening and supporting their transition onto the playground. Class Reception have lunch first and then spend the remaining lunch time on the playground, engaging with a wide range of activities and toys. If your child is having a packed lunch, please ensure their bag/box is familiar to them and is labelled clearly. Ordering hot lunches is simple. You and your child can pre-order meals on a daily to termly basis from Dolce via the SchoolGrid App. Your child will be registered from the start of September. You will then receive an email from 'SchoolGrid' to create an account, from which you can then order your child's meals. There are also options for children with food allergies. We recommend that you order for a few weeks to identify meals that your child likes or dislikes. We will notify you via a slip if your child has not enjoyed a specific meal so you can adjust their choices for future weeks. Please use the website to have a look at the type of menu that is on offer prior to September, ready for when your child starts school.

Dinner Times		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
TRADITIONAL	MONDAY	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney
	TUESDAY	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney
	WEDNESDAY	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney
	THURSDAY	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney
	FRIDAY	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney	Spiced Chicken Curry, Basmati Rice, Naan Bread, Sweetened Condensed Milk, Mango Chutney

PE

PE is part of the Physical Development area of the Early Years curriculum. As well as daily opportunities for physical development in the reception classroom and outdoor areas, there are two dedicated PE lessons each week in Class R. PE days will be shared with you once the timetables for September have been set. PE could take place in the school hall, in the playground or on the village green or village playing field. Please send your child to school with their PE kit in a named bag. A drawstring bag with your child's name on the outside is perfect for children to be able to identify their own kit. Please do not send your child with a backpack for their PE kit.



Please ensure ALL PE kit is labelled to help your child gather their own belongings when changing and dressing. PE kits stay in school for each term – we will then send them home for a wash (if you would like to wash this kit more frequently, please let us know and we will send it home as requested). Young children often have unexpected toileting accidents so please provide spare underwear and socks in their PE bags. Due to varying weather conditions, please ensure your child has suitable clothing for both indoor and outdoor use.

Please see our school PE uniform expectations below:

PE Kit

- Logoed, house-coloured t-shirt for PE
 - Fire (red)
 - Water (blue)
 - Earth (green)
 - Air (yellow)
- Plain white or house coloured t-shirt.
- Plain, blue or black shorts.
- Plain, blue or black jogging bottoms.
- Black, blue or white socks.
- Clean, trainers or plimsolls.

- Long hair (shoulder length) must be tied back with simple accessories.
- No jewellery* – including earrings – should be worn for PE. Pupils should be able to remove their earrings for this lesson or not wear earrings on PE days.

*Where an item of jewellery cannot be removed then it is the teacher's responsibility to try to establish a safe situation to enable participation.
Where safe participation cannot be assured, the pupil cannot take part in that element of the lesson.

Outdoor Classroom

We are very lucky at Bliss to have an amazing 'outdoor classroom'. Class Reception go to the outdoor classroom every Thursday afternoon. These times are a great opportunity to explore the outdoor environment, investigate nature and develop role play experiences. On this day, your child does NOT need to wear school uniform. They can come into school in old clothes that can get muddy. We recommend long trousers and sleeves as children are encouraged to climb the trees and there are areas that have twigs and plants that may irritate bare skin. We also ask each child to bring in a pair of NAMED wellies that can stay at school. These are used when the children go to the outdoor classroom, use the sandpit and go on village walks.





Reading

At Bliss, we put a large emphasis on supporting your child to become a strong reader who has a love of books. Reading is such an important tool that your child will rely on to access a wider range of information. It is proven that if children can read well at an early age, then the standard of their writing, their understanding of new concepts and their ability to retain new knowledge of the world, as they get older, is dramatically improved.

To ensure we work together to support your child in their reading, we will be recording regularly in their 'Reading Record', which they will each receive when they start with us, letting you know what they are working on in class – this will happen at least once a week.



We expect parents to also record in the 'Reading Record' on a regular basis. Your child will read more at home than they will with adults at school so any information you can share regarding your child's skills, understanding and needs will be extremely valuable in helping us to support your child's progress. Your child will also be able to choose a book from our reading corner to bring home and share with you. These can be changed on a daily basis and your child will be reminded regularly to change their book if they wish to. However, it will become more and more your child's responsibility to change their books over the course of the year to help develop their independence skills.



We will give your child a book bag as a gift. This bag will also be used for any letters that need to go home with your child. Please ensure you check your child's book bag daily and remove any work or letters that are in there. Please put any messages that you wish staff to see into your child's book bag as we endeavour to check these on a daily basis. Please do not send your child with any other bag for their books as the bags they are given are perfect for the storage facility we have for each house group.



Uniform

All children are expected to wear full school uniform when attending The Bliss Charity School. We believe that wearing a uniform creates a sense of community and belonging for our children and encourages them to be proud of being part of the Bliss family.

Daily Routines

Once your child is in school full-time, their daily routine will be:

Start of the school day (8:45 am)
Morning break (10:15 am - 10:30 am)
Lunch (11:45 am - 12:45 pm)
End of school day (3:15 pm)

Ready for School Each Day

We know how difficult it is to ensure your child comes to school each day with everything they need. Below is a quick guide to help you remember:

<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
Book bag Reading record Suitable coat (weather dependent) Hat/cap and gloves (weather dependent) Packed lunch (if not having hot meal) Named water bottle (no squash/juice)	Outdoor classroom clothes (Thursday) Return of any homework set
<u>Termly</u>	<u>Optional</u>
PE bag with named kit for all indoor & outdoor kit Wellies	Show and share (specific days for different houses) Well Done Notices

How to Help Your Child to be Ready for School

Children's progression, throughout their time in Class Reception, is always amazing! Do not worry if your child is unable to do particular things and try not to compare them to siblings or peers. Below are some ideas that would be extremely useful for your child to be able to do before they come to school.

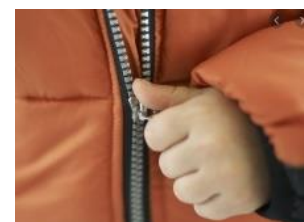
General hygiene

- Ensure your child can go to the toilet independently and manage their personal hygiene. We have urinals in the boys' toilets so please make sure – if you have boys – they have used a urinal before.
- Teach your child how to blow their own nose and understand the importance of disposing of used tissues appropriately.
- Wash their hands correctly using soap for 20 seconds (x2 Happy Birthday).



Ready for PE

- Ensure your child can dress and undress themselves as much as possible.
- Encourage fastening buttons on clothes/zips on coats.
- Ensure they can put their shoes on, take their shoes off and fasten them independently.



Ready for Lunch

- Ensure your child can sit up at a table to eat.
- Practise using a knife and fork correctly.
- Understand the need to cut food before eating.



General

- Understand the importance of tidying up after themselves.
- Be able to follow simple instructions.
- Know and use their full name.
- Recognise their own name.
- Be able to count to at least 10.



- Identify numerals to 10.
- Develop a good bedtime routine.
- Encourage your child to explain what they are doing/have done.
- Encourage your child to listen to what you have been doing/are doing – speaking and listening are the foundations for reading and writing.



There is an excellent document from the East London Research School and the Department for Education, that helps explain what to expect for your child's development in their first years. There are also great ideas how you can help support your child with their learning – What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents (<https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>)

Term Dates 2023-2024 (Term 1 and Term 2)

School Opens Term 1	Tuesday 5 th September 2023
Half Term Close	Friday 20 th October 2023
Re-Open Term 2	Tuesday 31 st October 2023
Christmas Close	Wednesday 20 th December 2023
Staff Training Day	Thursday 21 st December 2023

The children will be placed into two groups for Week 2 for their transitional start.
You will be notified of whether your child will start coming to school for the morning or afternoon sessions in your new starter pack – they will be in either Group A or Group B.

Week 1

Home Visits – Tuesday 5th September, Wednesday 6th September, Thursday 7th September and Friday 8th September (AM).

Week 2

Monday 11th September & Tuesday 12th September = Group A in the mornings (8:45 am – 12:45 am) and Group B in the afternoons (1:00 – 3:15).

Wednesday 13th September and Thursday 14th September = Group B in the morning (8:45 am – 12:45 am) and Group A in the afternoon (1:00 – 3:15).

Friday 15th September - all children in all day

Week 3

Week Commencing Monday 18th September.

Children attend school full time.

Illnesses and Absences

Children may come into contact with a variety of infections when they start school. In the event of absence, please telephone the school as early as possible on the given day or by 9:15 am at the latest. This also applies to any doctor, dental or hospital appointments.

If your child is unwell or hurt (needing to be collected) during the day, parents/carers will be contacted as soon as possible. Please make sure we have up-to-date telephone numbers and emergency contacts for your child.

If you need to drop-off – or need to collect – your child during the school day, please go to the school office.

Medicines in School

Medicines can be administered in school by school staff, subject to the school policy. Please take all medicines to the office to be signed in. Asthma inhalers can be given to Mrs. Caller.

Medicines will only be administered if parents/carers have signed consent for us to do so.

All medicines administered by staff will be recorded on Medical Tracker and emailed home, including if your child has required their asthma inhaler.

Holidays

Please be aware that no term-time holidays will be authorised. Please do not book holidays during term-time. Taking your child out of school not only affects their education but that of others in the class too, as adult support has to be re-directed into helping them catch up when they return to school instead of being used where it is most needed. Please be aware that taking a term-time holiday can incur a Penalty Notice from Northamptonshire County Council's Educational Inclusion and Partnership Team. Thank you for your support.

Communication

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding either your child starting school or once they have started.

You can contact us by telephone: **01327 340758**

- Email Mrs. Caller (s.caller@bliss.northants.sch.uk)
- Email the Office – Mrs. Howard (e.howard@bliss.northants.sch.uk and/or office@bliss.northants.sch.uk)

Most information about The Bliss Charity School can be found on our website: <https://www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/>
Please follow us on Twitter ([@BlissCharitySch](https://twitter.com/BlissCharitySch)).

Other useful information links: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-education>

