



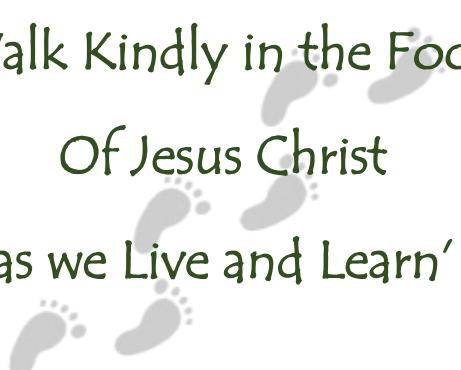
BLESSED ROBERT WIDMERPOOL
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage-
the beginning of an educational adventure.



Our Mission Statement:

'We Walk Kindly in the Footsteps
Of Jesus Christ
as we Live and Learn'



For more information please visit:

The school website at <http://brwacademy.com>
The school Facebook account or the school Twitter page @BRWSchool

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage.



We hope your child has a happy and enjoyable experience with us. The Foundation Stage includes children from three years of age to the end of the reception year. The Foundation Unit is staffed by 2 full time teachers and 2 full time teaching assistants. It offers the best possible start and opportunity for success for your child.

It should be noted that a place in FS1 does not guarantee a place in FS2.



Times and Routines

Foundation Stage 1	
Morning	Afternoon
8.50am- 11.50pm Enter the site via the Milford entrance and proceed through the green gates into the playground. A member of staff will then let you into the Foundation Stage area at 8.50am. Doors open for the children to go home from 11.50am.	12.25pm - 3:25pm Enter the site via the Main Office entrance off Listowel Crescent. At 3.25pm collect your child from the Foundation Stage playground (entry via the Milford entrance).
Full-Time	
We have a limited number of 30-hour places. These are for children of working parents who fulfil the Government criteria. Find out more here: https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working School does make a charge for lunchtime supervision of full-time Foundation Stage 1 children – please speak to Mrs Shakh in the office to find out more.	

Foundation Stage 2

8.50am - 3:25pm

Enter the site via the Milford entrance and proceed through the green gates into the playground. A teacher will come outside to collect your children at 8.50am and return them to you at 3:25pm.

It is important that your child is brought and collected by a known adult.

If you are unable to collect your child and need to make other arrangements, you will need to inform either a member of staff or the school office prior to collection. It is also important that the school is aware of any change of details to ensure records are kept up to date.

What to bring

Bag containing a spare set of clothes - It is likely, however well trained your children are, that they will have an 'accident' in the first few days of school. **Please note - we expect children to be toilet trained before they start.**

Suitable clothing for all weathers - the children will be outside every day. Please bring a coat and, if possible, wellies in a bag to hand on their peg.

Named water bottle - containing water not juice.

Comforters - We do not encourage the use of these in school. However, for the first few days if your child is used to a blanket or dummy to calm themselves down we suggest you bring it in and leave it with a member of staff.

Snacks



During the session children are provided with milk and fruit free of charge.

Lunchtime

Foundation Stage 1 children who stay for lunch, bring a packed lunch from home. They eat their lunch in the hall and then return to the Foundation Unit to continue playing. Lunchtime supervision charges must be paid in advance.

Absences

If your child is sick or ill, please keep them at home for **48 hours**. Please contact the school by telephone on the morning of your child's illness. **School number:- 0115 915 2392**

First Aid



The school has a number of Paediatric First Aiders. Minor injuries will be treated at school. However, in the event of a head bump your child will be issued with a letter with details of how it happened and advice for after care. In the event of a more serious injury you will be contacted immediately. It is therefore essential we have at **least 3 contact numbers** for people who are able to collect your child in the event of an emergency.

Medicine

We will not administer medicine unless it has been prescribed by a doctor. In the case of prescribed drugs you will need to contact the school office to fill in the necessary permission forms.

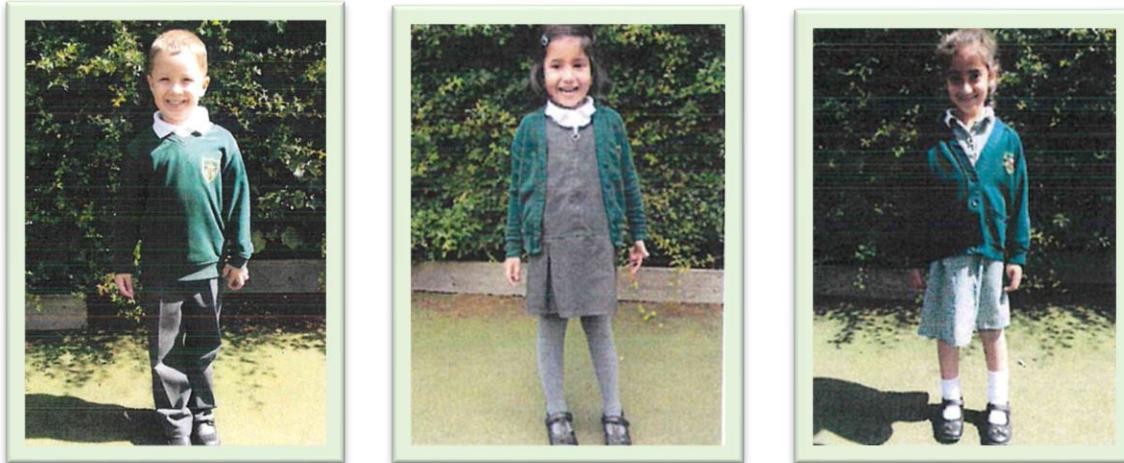
Please ensure that the school is always aware of any particular needs your child may have. If your child has long term medical needs, parents should contact the head teacher to discuss their provision.

Inhalers

Staff should be made aware if your child has asthma and an in-date inhaler should be kept in school. Inhalers and spacers should be stored in a small bag e.g a pencil case with the child's name clearly labelled on.

****It is your responsibility to ensure an inhaler is kept up-to-date****

Uniform



School uniform must be worn and this can be purchased online from

<https://just-schoolwear.co.uk/school/blessed-robert-widmerpool-primary/>

for items with a badge or at all supermarkets and department stores.

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

All children must wear black shoes for school – no boots or trainers please.

Boys wear grey school trousers or grey shorts in warmer weather and a white polo shirt and a green, round neck school jumper. If your child is in the early stages of being toilet-trained, they can wear jogging bottoms which are easier to remove quickly.

In winter, **girls** wear grey tights, a grey pinafore or skirt and a white polo shirt with a green cardigan. In summer, girls can wear checked school dresses with a green cardigan.

Foundation Stage 1 children do not require PE kit.

Jewellery

Jewellery is **not** permitted in school except for a single stud worn in pierced ears. Studs may not be worn on P.E days unless a child is able to take them out his or herself.

Hair

Hair should be tied back using discrete hair bands or bobbles in school colours.

Lost property

We strongly recommend that you ensure **ALL** your child's clothes are **clearly labelled**.

Staff

Foundation Stage Leaders



Miss Chapman
Foundation Stage Co-ordinator
Foundation Stage 1 Teacher (Mon-Wed)



Miss Matthews
Foundation Stage Co-ordinator (Thurs-Fri)
Foundation Stage 2 Teacher



Mrs Chahal
Foundation Stage 1 Teacher (Thurs-Fri)

Teaching Assistants



Miss Leonardi



Mrs Korol

CURRICULUM



Blessed Robert Widmerpool Foundation Stage Unit:

- *values a broad, rich, play-based curriculum in which children can develop their communication skills, confidence, curiosity and resourcefulness within an experiential setting that builds on and extends what they know already.*
- *is a place where nature and the outdoors is valued highly and is integral to children's everyday experience as a way of nurturing their well-being and giving them the space in which to explore, develop physically and learn.*
- *is a place where children are expected to be kind, respectful and loving towards all others and know that this is how they and their families will be treated too.*
- *supports children to know Jesus, to reflect on His teaching and to make it part of their own lives.*
- *gives children a strong foundation on which to build their future academic learning.*

All activities in the Foundation Stage are in line with the government document 'Development Matters – non-statutory curriculum guidance for the foundation stage. This document is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64e6002a20ae890014f26cbc/DfE_Development_Matters_Report_Sep2023.pdf

Personal Social and Emotional Development



From the very beginning of their time here we support children to develop their social and emotional skills. This ensures children foster good habits and behaviours from the start. Children are supported in their play by knowledgeable adults. Teaching is done through small group activities as well as one to one when the need arises.

Communication and Language Development



Speaking and listening are critical skills for your child to learn. We give children lots of opportunities to develop them during the school day. If you have concerns for your child's speech development, we can refer them onto our School Trust Speech Therapist for early diagnosis and support. If your child is learning English as an Additional Language, they may take a little longer to develop these, but through practical activities soon begin to understand and, later, express themselves. Staff use and encourage children to use Makaton sign language and symbols to support **all** children.

Physical Development



In school, the children have a wealth of opportunities to develop both their fine motor (small movement) and the gross motor (large movements) skills. These are offered both in the indoor and outdoor curriculum. The children also have P.E sessions in the hall which help to foster gymnastic and dance skills.

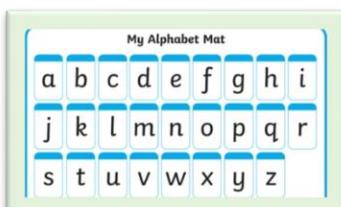
Literacy



Reading and Writing

From the beginning, reading and sharing books is important. In class children have stories read to them every day and, to encourage reading at home, we also offer a weekly library service. They will also have a daily phonics session to encourage tuning into rhyming, rhythm, initial sounds and oral blending and segmenting of words. Later, they will learn to recognise letters and sounds and begin to read and write short words. They will then take part in guided reading sessions and, when appropriate, they will start to bring a reading book home.

Writing skills are fostered from very early on in the Foundation stage. Lots of activities are provided to encourage good habits such as opportunities to write in the home corner or outside in the builder's shed and to strengthen muscles such as 'Dough Disco' and 'Squiggle whilst you Wiggle'. Children are always encouraged to write in lowercase first.



Mathematical Development



Children learn best through practical, fun activities, otherwise known as play! Through a wide range of natural resources and materials such as sand, water, beads and number lines we help children to foster the skills of counting, composition (how numbers are made up), change, comparison, numeral recognition and, ultimately how to think logically and problem solve. The children also have a daily maths group session.

Understanding the World



We offer a wide range of practical activities to develop children's understanding about the world around them. As children learn best through first-hand experience we also take children out of school to learn about the local area.

Once your child has settled into school for a term, they will be invited to Forest School sessions at Glapton Wood. We will let you know of the dates your child will be involved. Forest School is a unique and powerful opportunity for children to develop their relationships, resourcefulness, resilience and their ability to reflect in an outdoor, open-ended environment.

Expressive Arts and Design



Children have daily informal music activities and regular focused sessions to develop their singing, dancing and musical understanding and skills. There is also a balance of teacher led group activities and child led art activities to help the children develop their creative skills.

Religious Education

As a Catholic school, religious learning is highly valued and threaded through every day at school. Children learn to say prayers at the beginning, lunch-time and end of the school day. They take part in weekly focused sessions following the guidance in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory – learning about their Jesus, their faith and how to put their faith in to action. Catholic Social Teaching is woven into activities, for example, knowing that the value of 'Stewardship' means they should take care of our world. When ready, children also begin to lead Collective Worship in Class Groups and take part in Mass in school or at Corpus Christi Church.



Beginning of the Day Prayer

O My God I give to you,
All I think and say and do.
All my work and all my play,
I do give to you today.
Amen



End of the Day Prayer

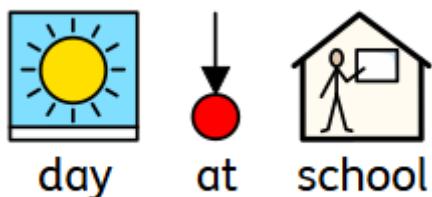
Thank you Jesus for a lovely, happy day.
Thank you for my friends.
Please take care of everybody.
Amen

Outdoor play



The outdoor area plays a central role in the children's learning. All opportunities offered inside are reflected in the outdoor curriculum. There are even some activities that can only be offered outdoors as you can see by the fun we had in the pictures above.

Example of a session at School



12:25pm	My grown up drops me off at the door. I self-register, putting my name underneath my photograph and put my label on my cup, ready for a snack.
12.30-1.10pm	I can choose what I would like to play inside and who I would like to play with.
1:10pm-1:20pm	I go to my carpet and we say good afternoon to our friends and do a few minutes of phonics work.
1:20pm-2:15pm	I can choose to play at an activity inside or outside. All the games and toys are carefully chosen by my teachers to follow my interests and help me learn lots of new and interesting things. My teacher may come and find me to do a special activity with her.
2:15-2:30pm	I go to my carpet and we do some number activities together.
2.30-3.00pm	Time for more play of my choosing before we all help to tidy up.
3.00-3.25pm	We have a story, singing or other activity together, then I fetch my belongings and get ready to be collected.

School Visits

Children will be offered school visits over the school year. These visits tie in with the topic, in order to extend learning. Parents may be asked to make a contribution to the visit to cover travel and admission costs. In order to run these visits, we always need parental support. If you are able to help on these visits, please let us know. Thank you.

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Homework

There is a school library service where you are encouraged to read a book to your child. As they progress through the unit they may also be asked to complete a simple phonics (letters and sounds) activity and/or take a reading book home to practise. We also have termly challenges that link with the topic, for example, to make a map of the way to school or create a box model dinosaur.

Special Needs

If we are concerned about a particular child, we will make contact with parents at an early stage. Should it be considered to be appropriate to involve outside agencies we would always seek the permission/consent of the parents/carers first.

Parents' Consultations

Staff are always available at the start and end of each session. If you would like to discuss your child's development in more detail you are always welcome to make an appointment with the class teacher. In FS1, We also have 'Stay and Play Days' which include an opportunity to talk to the Class Teacher, play with your child and look at their Learning Journey. This is a book where we evidence their learning over their time in the Early Years Foundation Stage. If or when your child is in Foundation Stage 2, we also offer a more formal parents' meeting twice a year and a report in the Summer Term.

Parent involvement

We encourage parents to come into class to help with various activities. We also ask for support on our larger school visits and at our Forest School sessions.

Governing body.

The school has a hard working and committed Governing body. Foundation Governors are appointed to ensure the Catholic ethos of the school is maintained. Governor details can be found on the school blog:
brwacademy.com

Policies

In school we have policies to state our plan of action across a wide range of educational and welfare issues. They are available to read on the school blog.

Complaints.

The school has a complaints procedure which can be found on the school blog.

WAYS TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHILD TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

School readiness is not just about knowing how to recognise their name or count to 5 – although these are great skills too! It's much more than that, it is about helping your children feel confident, capable and ready to take on this new chapter.

Here are a few simple, but powerful ways to prepare your child holistically:

Emotional Readiness:

- *Teach them to recognise and name their feelings. “I feel sad” is a big step for a little person.*
- *Role-play situations they might encounter at school, like asking for help or taking turns.*

Social Readiness:

- *Arrange playdates or group activities where they can practise sharing, waiting and communicating with peers.*
- *Model and practise greetings like, “Good Morning” or “Can I join in?” to help them feel more confident.*

Practical Skills:

- *Encourage independence with everyday tasks like putting on shoes, managing their coat zip and opening lunch containers.*
- *Teach them simple routines, like washing hands or tidying up after snack time...it makes them feel capable!*

Building Resilience:

- *Let them make small mistakes and work through frustrations with your support – problem-solving skills are so important.*
- *Celebrate effort over perfection: “You tried so hard with that puzzle – great job!”*

We pride ourselves on having a happy, hard working and creative environment. We will look forward to your child joining our community.