

Burghill Community Academy Foundation Stage Prospectus



Respect 🍏 Resourcefulness 🍏 Relationships 🍏 Risk Taking 🍏 Resilience 🍏 Reflectiveness

Welcome to Burghill Community Academy!

At Burghill we strongly believe in the importance of a partnership between staff and parents with a common aim of making school a happy and exciting experience. We understand that this can be an anxious time for everyone and that many parents have a long list of questions to ask. We hope that this booklet will go some way in helping with this. However, the school has an open door policy and our friendly staff are always willing to discuss any queries or concerns with you, so if we don't answer your questions here please feel free to email or pop in and see us!

Burghill Community Academy
Burghill
Hereford
HR4 7RP
01432 760240
admin@burghill.hereford.sch.uk
<https://www.burghillacademy.com>

Apple Class Staff

Class Teacher

Ms Cath Astley (Mon- Weds)

Mrs Aimee Digby (Thurs-Fri)

Teaching Assistant

Mrs N. Southall

email

castley@burghill.hereford.sch.uk

At Burghill we aim to :

- Provide a high quality of education for all children.
- Encourage the development of the whole child, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.
- Strive to provide a secure and happy environment where children, carers and parents feel valued.
- Encourage children to respect themselves and others.
- Provide a rich and stimulating environment for learning.
- Give the children the opportunity to develop their own ideas and beliefs, and to respect the ideas and beliefs of others.



Starting School

Children are welcomed to Reception as a whole class at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Staff liaise with the children's previous settings in order to make this transition as smooth and happy as possible.

Apple Class' day begins at 8.45am. The children are welcomed into the classroom via the playground door. They are then encouraged to hang up their coats on their named pegs in the corridor.

Book bags are kept in named drawers in the classroom.

We actively encourage drinking of water (not squash or juice) and keep the children's water bottles in the classroom for easy access.

Independence is encouraged from the start and children are able to organise their belongings for the day and enjoy informal activities with their friends.

Please may we ask that children do not have large bags or ruck-sacks.

We would also be most grateful if you could make sure that any item sent into school is clearly named!

Snack Time

All children under the age of five are entitled to free cup of milk each day. This can be ordered online with 'Cool Milk'.

<https://customers.coolmilk.com/v2/register/>

If you have previously ordered milk don't forget to adapt your order on your account. When your child turns five a small amount will be payable. If your child does not drink milk, they can have water from their drinks bottle.

The school participates in the Government scheme to provide children with a fruit or vegetable snack that they have with their drink.

Children may bring in a wrapper free, healthy snack for playtime e.g. a piece of fruit, please note this must not contain nuts. We are a nut aware school so this also applies to packed lunches etc. Please check cereal bars etc carefully.

The Curriculum and your child's learning

It is acknowledged that between the ages of 0 and 5 a child learns at a faster rate than at any other time in their lives. It is therefore our role to provide a high quality, stimulating and challenging education for all our children.

The curriculum for Foundation Stage is divided into seven areas.

Three prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

And four specific areas through which the prime areas may also be strengthened and applied:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These areas are covered throughout the year within a variety of topics. The

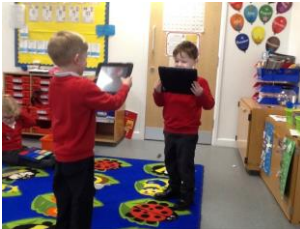


topics are developed with the children and we plan to produce a balanced curriculum that follows **their** interests. Child initiated tasks are planned alongside teacher led sessions such as Read, Write, Inc, Mathematics, RE, circle times, topic discussion etc. We have found this approach leads to enthusiastic learning!

All learning at school is also built on our school values- the 6R's, encouraging the skills that will be needed for life at school and beyond.

Tapestry On-line Learning Journal

Some of your child's daily activities and learning experiences are recorded using an online journal. The programme is accessible from any device, using a unique password and personal login. Parents are encouraged to upload their child's home experiences too. We can then use these to further your child's learning at school and it also shows the wonderful 'journey' your child takes in their early years.



How can you help your child?

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible. You can prepare your child for Reception by teaching them to do the following:

- Dress and undress themselves, including buttons.
- Put their Forest School kits on.
- Put on, zip up and take off their coats and hang them up.
- Use the toilet properly and flush it. Wash and dry their hands.
- Recognise their name- to read it, writing is not necessary.
- Take turns and share toys and equipment.
- Handle books with care.
- Establish a bedtime routine, ensuring they have sufficient sleep.

Read, Write, Inc.

We teach the children to read and write through the scheme 'Read, Write Inc'. Children in Muddy Boots will have already played Fred Games and learned some letter shapes and picture cues.

In Apple Class we begin to teach the letter sounds and formation within the first weeks of school and the children soon learn to combine the sounds to make simple words. Spending a few minutes each night recapping these sounds with your child can make an enormous difference to how quickly they learn. It's great fun too! **BUT it is vital that these sounds are taught correctly.** Each sound should be taught as a short, 'pure' sound i.e. without an 'uh', **SO** 'c' for c-a-t is pronounced 'c' not 'cuh' and 't' not 'tuh'.

It is very important that they learn these sounds correctly otherwise combining them to read and write becomes very difficult. The link below may help clarify pronunciation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yln6PpV1G1I>

Handwriting

Before our children are able to write, it is important that they develop essential fine motor skills. These are daily activities aimed to help.

- **Dough Disco** - this is a whole class session whereby the children further develop their finger, hand and arm muscles by 'dancing' to a piece of music whilst manipulating play dough.
- **Funky Fingers** - This involves fine motor skills such as threading beads, picking up objects with tweezers and spinning small tops. Once your child is competent, they shall then move on to specific handwriting sessions, but will continue some of these Funky Fingers activities, too.
- **Squiggle While You Wiggle** - this develops arm strength, as well as exercising the elbow and shoulder. The children have a cloth in each hand and dance specific routines to a piece of music. We have a daily session of either **Dough Disco** or **Squiggle While You Wiggle**.

More formal letter formation takes place as part of the RWI scheme and as a weekly activity.

Speaking and Listening

Talking to your child and engaging them in conversation is really important. It helps them to learn how to listen, to take turns and show an interest in people and the world around them and also how to form meaningful sentences. In Apple Class we enjoy weekly show and tell sessions, groups are rotated to ensure that all children get the opportunity to participate.



Reading Books

Within Reception we place an enormous value on the reading of books. We would encourage you to read with your child daily, it makes so much difference! From the outset we send home a library book for you to share with your child. This should be a pleasurable experience, giving the opportunity to discuss the storyline, pictures and characters. Pointing to words as you read will also help them to become familiar with the direction in which we read.

Group Reading in class begins when children can blend. These sessions teach the skills required to read and as we progress to understand text and explore a variety of genre.

A scheme book is sent home after the first few weeks. At first these may be books without words which can be used to encourage your child to observe the pictures and make up their own stories. Gradually the focus then changes to simple books, linked to RWInc, encouraging your child to use their knowledge of phonics to build up words.



Writing

Young children can find it difficult to control a pencil and may not be keen. There are pre-writing, hand strengthening activities such as dough or duplo play, digging in the garden and playing with sand that your child might enjoy. If they are keen, you can help by encouraging them to draw, trace and colour. Make sure the pencil is held correctly- comfortably between the thumb and first finger, resting on the second finger and not gripped too tightly.

Many children enjoy writing and in the early years this often takes the form of simple mark making. Although this is often impossible to decipher it will mean something to your child so always encourage their efforts!

Teaching your child to write their name can be a very rewarding activity. One important thing to remember is **not** to teach your child to write in capital letters as it causes confusion when they start to become independent writers. Capital letters should only be used for beginnings of names!

Mathematics

At Burghill, we teach through 'White Rose' a scheme designed to help children master the basics of maths through problem solving. The children are engaged and excited by their learning and are encouraged to explore and be curious about number, shape, space and measures.

There are many practical activities that can help your child to develop early mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills.

Number games such as snakes and ladders and dominoes will help your child to count and recognise numbers. Sorting household objects into size, shape, colour, number, material is also a useful activity. Chores such as laying the table can provide the opportunity for counting out sets of cutlery.

Playing with money, real or pretend, will help your child become familiar with the sizes and shapes of coins. Let them spend their own pocket money and wherever possible hand over the money and receive the goods and change.

Cooking is a valuable activity for introducing the skills of weighing, measuring liquids and estimating amounts as well as timing and turning dials to correct cooking temperatures.

Sand and water play can be the ideal time to explore amounts. By filling up empty bottles your child can develop the skills of estimating and comparing.

Physical Development

Apple Class have a PD session one afternoon a week. Children should arrive at school dressed in their kit. This includes:

A white t-shirt, red shorts and trainers.

Hoodies and tracksuit bottoms will be required when chilly.

The sessions take place in the hall during the Autumn and Spring terms and then outside as the weather improves. Activities include dance, apparatus, team games, ball and equipment based skills and gymnastics. We also improve our core strength and flexibility with Cosmic Kids Yoga.

Forest School and Outdoor Learning.

Apple Class are lucky enough to enjoy a weekly Forest School session with our qualified leader. These take place **on a Thursday** afternoon in our school grounds and involve a wide variety of activities linked to our topics or the environment. Your child will need a pair of wellies and an all in one for these sessions.



Outdoor learning also forms an important part of our curriculum and children have daily access to our covered outdoor area.

Home - School Links

Building effective relationships between home and school is very important to us. Sometimes it is difficult to talk first thing in the morning, but staff are usually able to do so after school. We can also be contacted by email and will quickly respond. Please don't sit on a worry we are always ready to listen and help!

Parental help is welcomed in school. We especially encourage parents to hear readers and to participate in small group practical work such as cooking, Forest Schools or craft workshops. Look out for our messages on Arbor requesting support!

We warmly invite parents to join us on a Friday morning for celebration assembly- a lovely look back at the week and individual's achievements. Assembly starts at 9am.

Throughout the year we plan some stay and play sessions for parents. We look forward to inviting you into class to experience some learning activities with your children.

At least twice yearly, a consultation evening is arranged for parents to discuss their child's progress with the class teachers. It also provides the opportunity to enjoy looking at the children's work and classroom.

Arbour

The school communicates and accepts cashless payments through Arbor. This e.communication system is also used to select and order **school dinners** from a menu. These are free until your child is Y2 and there is plenty of choice. They prove popular with parents and children alike!

Wrap around care is also booked here and we use this platform to send letters home, text last minute changes etc.

If you are new to Burghill, an account will be set up for you before term starts.

Website

Our school website provides lots of information you may be interested in, including:

Club Burghill- our wrap around care

Breakfast Club from 7.45am

ASC sessions until 4.30pm or 5.30pm

<https://www.burghillacademy.com/wrap-around-care>

Class pages and Twitter feed

<https://www.burghillacademy.com>

Our Prospectus with info about uniform etc.

White Polo shirt

Grey trousers/skirt or pinafore

Summer-red gingham dresses

Grey or red tights or grey/white socks

Red sweatshirt or cardigan.

Black school shoes

<https://www.burghillacademy.com/School%20Prospectus%20Burghill%202019.pdf>

Use the QR codes to access the uniform shop and school website:

