



2024

A PARENT AND
CARER GUIDE

TO THE
EARLY YEARS
FOUNDATION STAGE
AT
BERKSWICH CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

EYFS: this is how the Government and Early Years' practitioners describe the time in your child's life between birth and age Five.

Throughout Nursery and Reception, your child will partake in an ambitious curriculum which is designed in a sequential way to ensure progress towards our end of year curricular goals.

At Berkswich C of E Primary School, our curriculum incorporates everything we want the children to experience, learn and be able to do. It meets all the requirements of the educational programmes in the statutory framework (2023) for the, EYFS, and has the flexibility to allow us to respond quickly to children's new interests and/or needs.

The intent for our children is for them to enter the next stage of their education ready to tackle new challenges with confidence and a positive mindset. Learning in EYFS provides an essential foundation upon which learning in future years is built.



Our Nursery is a Hygge Accredited setting.

Hygge is the **Danish approach** to living well, that focuses on being in the moment and embracing the feelings of warmth, simplicity and togetherness.

When we think about Hygge we are really focusing on the **FEELING**.

Hygge in the Early Years



THE SEVEN AREAS OF LEARNING



Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven interconnected areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the three prime areas first. These are:

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

**PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

These are:

LITERACY

MATHEMATICS

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. At Berkswich CE our experienced EYFS teaching team ensure that tasks and challenges are suited to your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking. Our environment indoors and outdoors is continually enhanced with resources designed to scaffold and maximise learning.



A young child with dark skin and short hair is the central figure, wearing a bright blue raincoat and dark boots. They are holding a bundle of green leaves and thin sticks in front of their chest. The child is standing on a path covered with fallen yellow and brown leaves. The background is a soft-focus forest with green trees and foliage. The entire image is framed by a thin white border. In the top-left corner, there is a close-up of green leaves. In the bottom-right corner, there is a detailed illustration of a pink rose with green leaves.

"WHEN WE GIVE
EVERY CHILD THE
BEST START IN
THEIR EARLY
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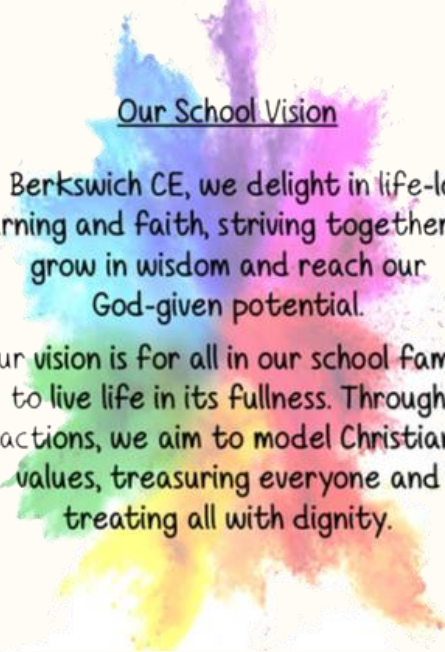
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS 2021

BERKSWICH CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Our vision makes us who we are and helps us to stay focused on what we do and how we do it.



Our School Vision

Berkswich CE, we delight in life-long learning and faith, striving together to grow in wisdom and reach our God-given potential.

Our vision is for all in our school family to live life in its fullness. Through actions, we aim to model Christian values, treasuring everyone and treating all with dignity.

This is reflected in our school values;

Compassionate Inclusive Persevering Respectful Responsible
A team-player

When the children enter the EYFS, they quickly learn that experiences, challenges and new learning can be seen through the lens of being brave and resilient in the face of challenge, being kind and responsible people and being curious, creative knowledgeable and imaginative.

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

During Nursery and Reception the children will access a variety of enrichment activities both inside of school and outside of school.

For example, we will visit our local church St Thomas' to learn about the important features of a church. We also have weekly Forest School sessions in our woodland area. All our enrichment opportunities link to our bespoke Early Year's curriculum.

Our enrichment activities are a special set of learning experiences which dovetail our curriculum covering spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The full list of our enrichment experiences can be found on our website.





HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

Building positive relationships with the families of Berkswich CE Primary School, creating a 'triangle of trust' between children, parents and practitioners begins in the Early Years. We understand that when parents relinquish part of the care and teaching of their child to the staff in our setting it is a big step. We pride ourselves on creating an environment that is warm and welcoming. Each day leads to a deeper knowledge and understanding of each child and their family.

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. You are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child. Working together as partners will set the scene for your child to thrive at Berkswich CE Primary School.

Make time for your child to run, jump, climb and **PLAY OUTDOORS!**

Cook / bake together.

Allow your child to see you reading for pleasure or writing for a purpose such as making shopping lists or writing birthday cards.

Play games that encourage sharing and taking turns.

Share a book.



Play board games that involve moving a certain number of steps on, and play with dice and dominoes.

Sing and tell nursery rhymes.

Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch.

Talk to your child at every opportunity (e.g. What you are doing that day)

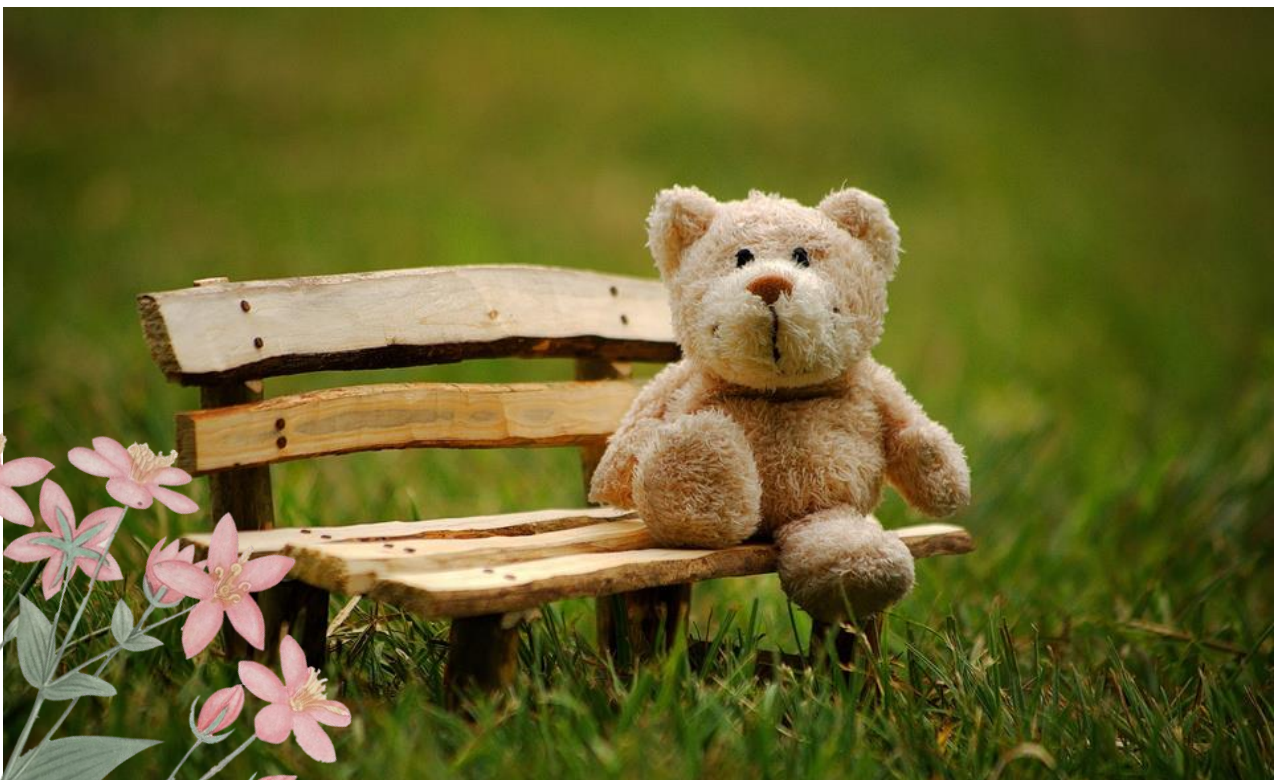
HOW CAN I FIND OUT HOW MY CHILD IS GETTING ON?

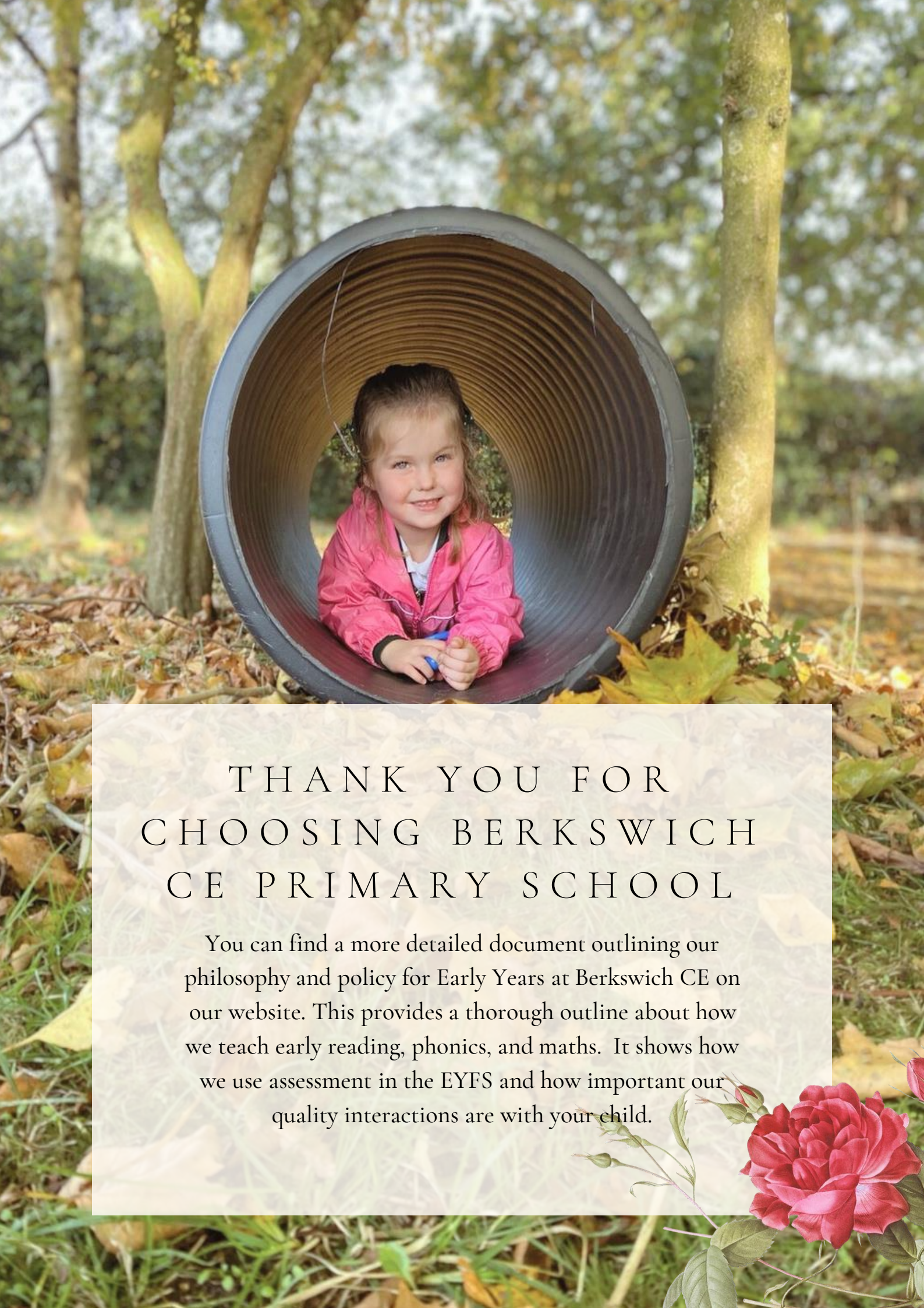
We provide many opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education and find out how your child is getting on. These include:

- Access to Tapestry online learning journal. This provides parents/carers with real time access to observations teachers have taken in class.
- Parent evening - in the Autumn and Spring term, you will be invited to discuss your child's progress. A summary of their development will be discussed with you and how you can support their learning at home.

- A written report come home in the Summer term.
- You will have many opportunities to come into school with your child for 'Stay and Play' and 'Learning Together' sessions.
- We have an EYFS Instagram account, where we share exciting things that we are learning.
- You will be invite to many of our school events, such as our Christmas Fayre, Nativity performances and Sports Day.

Throughout your time at Berkswich CE Nursery, you can find information on current learning on our class webpage, and a weekly newsletter will be emailed to you containing school news.



A young girl with brown hair, wearing a bright pink jacket, is sitting inside a large, black, corrugated plastic pipe. The pipe is lying on the ground, surrounded by fallen autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. In the background, several trees with green and yellowing leaves are visible, suggesting an autumn setting. The girl is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING BERKSWICH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

You can find a more detailed document outlining our philosophy and policy for Early Years at Berkswich CE on our website. This provides a thorough outline about how we teach early reading, phonics, and maths. It shows how we use assessment in the EYFS and how important our quality interactions are with your child.

A large, vibrant red rose is positioned in the bottom right corner of the image. It has many layers of petals and is surrounded by green leaves and some smaller buds. The rose is set against a background of autumn leaves and grass.