



Broadhempston Village Primary School

Broadhempston Village, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 6BL

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Welcome Pack



‘A small school with a remarkable reach’ Ofsted 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our school!

Broadhempston is a small, traditional village school which was built in 1870. We are located six miles east of Totnes in the heart of a thriving rural village and are well known for our links with our community and the outdoor learning experiences we offer.

We are a happy, friendly and welcoming family community – Broadhempston really is a special place to learn and work. We take pleasure in our successes both in achievement and personal gains – if they are important to the children, they are important to us.

The staff at our school are caring, experienced and committed to meeting the individual needs of every child to create a happy, secure environment. We really get to know our children and the families in our care and pride ourselves on knowing what motivates and inspires them and the best way to support them when they need it.

The development of the ‘whole child’ is what drives the staff at Broadhempston. The key aim of the school is to produce confident children who are literate and numerate, enjoy a breadth of opportunities to develop a sense of creativity and community and who have the skills necessary to support their future learning and make a difference on their doorstep and beyond.

There is an outdoor area to the rear of the school which has been re-covered with a special soft safety surface and is used as a play area and outdoor classroom for Reception and KS1. There is also a large playground and village hall opposite the school which is used by the children at playtime and lunchtime for PE lessons and special school and community events.

We provide Forest School sessions every half term for all classes. The children visit our outdoor site at The Beacon to explore and learn about their environment and gain self-awareness, confidence, self-esteem and social skills. They are given the freedom to explore and make choices about their learning.

We are supported by our amazing PTFA who work hard to raise additional funds for the school to provide extra opportunities for the children. This is done in a variety of fun ways including discos, summer fetes and Christmas fairs and a village garage safari to name just a few.

With links to our partner schools within the Trust, the church and the local community, our children are given varied learning experiences. As they move through the school the children have opportunities to develop their talents in a range of different ways that will underpin their confidence and enable them to achieve their goals. During their time with us, children learn how important it is to support everyone else and work in harmony to make our little school a very special place to be.

We are all very proud of our small school which has a big heart and we offer you a warm welcome.

Karen Barlow
Academy Head

Welcome from our Early Years Foundation Stage

'Where we play, learn and grow together'



Your teacher is Miss Emily Clements

THE FOUNDATION STAGE

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a framework for children's development from birth to the age of five. The last year of the foundation stage is often described as the Reception year and this is where your child will begin in September, building upon previous development gained from home and pre-school experience.

There are seven areas of learning and development, the three prime areas are:

- *Communication and language*
- *Physical development*
- *Personal, social and emotional development*

These form the basis for successful learning in the other four specific areas, which are:

- *Literacy*
- *Mathematics*
- *Understanding the world*
- *Expressive arts and design*

The children enjoy lots of fun, hands-on topic work, accessing these areas of learning by playing, exploring, talking, observing, planning and questioning both with adults and other children. We record observations of the children's learning on Tapestry learning journals - see adjoining letters for more info.

SCHOOL VISITS

We arrange transition visits for the summer term and one of these visits will include a meeting with Miss Barlow and Miss Clements to talk through everything you need to know about starting school.

HOME VISITS

If you'd like a home visit before your child starts at Broadhempston, do let us know and this is something that we can organise.

BREAKTIME SNACKS

All children in EYFS & Key Stage 1 receive a free piece of fruit or veg every day, as part of the government scheme. Many children like to bring their own snack in from home. If you'd like to do this, please ensure that it is a healthy snack. Due to allergies, please do not send any products which contain nuts or sesame seeds.



SCHOOL MILK

As part of the 'Cool milk' scheme every child under 5 is entitled to a free cup of milk, which they enjoy with their fruit. Please see website: www.coolmilk.co.uk for more information.

LUNCH

Your child may like to have our super school dinners cooked at our partner school, Landscope. Meat, Vegetarian and Vegan options are available. Alternatively, children can bring their own packed lunch. School lunch is eaten in the village hall. For more information about school lunches please see enclosed sheet.

If you decide to bring a packed lunch, we ask you to make healthy choices so no fizzy drinks please. For more advice on providing your child with a healthy packed lunch you can visit: <http://www.nutrition.org.uk>. Uneaten items are left in the packed lunch box so you can see what your child has/has not eaten

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN CLASS

We have a PE specialist, Mr Tanner, who comes in on a Tuesday to take the children for PE. The second lesson of PE for the week is delivered by the class teacher.

Weather permitting, we like to use the outdoor areas like the playground or the Headlands Playing Field. On other occasions we work in the village hall, especially during the winter months. KS2 we also go swimming at some point during their time at Broadhempston.

All school uniform can be ordered online via our school uniform provider Thomas Moore - [Broadhempston Primary School • Thomas Moore](#)

ORGANISATION

Many children choose to carry a backpack to store and organise their belongings such as books, letters, etc. will need to be taken to and from school.

We encourage children to drink water throughout the day, please sent them into school with a named water bottle each day.

Despite being a small school, things seem to vanish here quite mysteriously! Please ensure that EVERYTHING that your child brings into school is clearly named.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR STARTING SCHOOL

Many little things are important to help your child to settle into school. You can support in making it easier for by preparing them in advance.

- Teach your child to use the toilet without help and to wash their hands afterwards.
- Practise dressing and undressing.
- Practise using a small knife, fork and spoon.
- Practise shoe fastenings, buttons and zips.
- Teach your child to recognise their own name.
- Practise taking off their coat, hanging it up and putting it on again.

This website has some useful information about starting school:
beststartinlife.gov.uk/preparingforschool

PART TIME START

Starting school can be a gradual process if that suits your child's needs - your child could begin mornings only for the first few days if required. Just have a chat with the teacher before your child starts.

BOOKS

Once the children have settled in, we will hold a reading meeting to enable you to learn about our very successful approach to helping children learn to read. Miss Clements will share how we teach reading and phonics during our reading meeting, offering tips and advice on how to do this at home.

After this meeting, the children will begin to bring home a reading book, a reading diary and word pack with high frequency words, for your child to practise reading. Regular practise and re-reading of books is essential and we appreciate your help with this. Please encourage your child to talk about the story and pictures and each time you read with your child, please make a note in the reading diary so we can see which books they have read.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Arrival:	Between 8:45am and 8:55am
Break time:	10:45am (15 minutes)
Lunchtime:	12:00pm (1 hour)
Afternoon begins:	1:00pm
School day ends	3:30pm



If you have any concerns regarding your child and starting school, no matter how small, please pop in to see us, email admin or phone the school on 01803 812689.



Other Key Information for New Parents

Miss Karen Barlow is Academy Head. If you ever need to chat about your child, her door is always open.

Mrs Steph Gibbs is our administrator. She is always smiling and happy to help, being the first port of call when you come into the building!

Important documents: The school needs to see your child's birth certificate as a legal requirement. If we have not already seen it then please bring this into school the next time you visit.

Photographs: Throughout the day, photography is used by the staff to capture key learning moments. We use a variety of different online platforms to store these photographs including Tapestry – your child's online learning journal, our school website and Facebook. You will be asked to complete a 'Using Images of Children' form to express your preference with regards to how these images are used.

Parent/School communication: At our school, staying connected with your child's journey is effortless thanks to the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app. This secure, all-in-one digital hub puts school life right at your fingertips. From your smartphone, you can instantly pre-book school meals, give consent and make secure payments for school trips and book wrap-around care.

School Uniform: This is available to purchase from Thomas Moore in Exeter. The branded quarter zip top and polo shirt are the only compulsory items. The other branded items on the site are optional and the black skort, shorts and jogging bottoms are available from Thomas Moore but can be purchased from elsewhere as they are non-branded. For the bottom half of the uniform, children can choose from the following plain black options: joggers, leggings, sports style shorts (not cycle/cargo shorts) or skorts with the option to wear plain black tights underneath if preferred. Children are free to choose whichever of these items they feel most comfortable in. As for footwear, it should be suitable for PE (indoor and outdoor) as well as other outdoor activities and as plain black as possible. There are black soled trainers available that are non-marking and some black trainers come with white soles. Please make sure all items are named so they can be easily returned to their rightful owner.

Free School Meals: Parents are requested to complete an Application for Free School Meals if they claim benefits. If granted, children will be eligible for free meals when in KS2 or until benefit ceases. Reception parents claiming these benefits are encouraged to complete a form as this attracts additional funding for the school.

Absence: If your child is away from school due to illness, please telephone or email the school (preferably before 9 o'clock) so that the teachers can be informed before they complete the registers. Late arrivals should report to the office where you will need to sign them in.

Medicines: If your child requires medication during the day, you will be asked to fill in a form giving full details for administering. Please ask for a form from the office or download from our website.

Holidays: The school will not authorise holidays during term time and these should be avoided. An Absence Request Form should be completed for any exceptional circumstances where your child will miss a whole morning or afternoon session.

Teaching Staff:

Miss Emily Clements – Class teacher, EYFS and KS1, EYFS Lead

Mrs Helen Jeffery – Class teacher, KS2

Teaching Assistants:

Miss Ellie Tarsky HLTA. Miss Jo Steer and Ms Shani Mason.

The Teaching Assistants and HLTAs also have lunchtime supervision responsibilities.

Peripatetic lessons:

Tuesdays – Guitar

Wednesdays – Singing/violin

Thursdays – Recorder/flute

Breakfast and after school clubs:

We currently offer four breakfast clubs Tuesday to Friday and two in house after school clubs on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Breakfast clubs run from 7.45am until 8.45am and cost £4 per session.

After school clubs run from 3.30pm until 5.30pm and cost £8 per session.

The after school club on a Monday is delivered by Saints South West and there is a judo club in the village hall after school on a Thursday. Both of these are booked directly with the provider.

That's about it for now! Do keep an eye on our school website, the school app and our fortnightly newsletters for up to date information.

If you need to know anything more or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children to the Broadhempston family!