



# Welcome to Foundation Stage





Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to welcome you and your child to the Foundation Stage at Bel Royal School. We hope your time with us is a happy one. Relationships are at the heart of all that we do and we very much look forward to joining you in making a successful partnership that will enable your child to flourish.

We recognise that starting Nursery/Reception can be a big step for all involved and we aim to work with you to make this transition as smooth as possible.

This booklet provides information that you will need to make a positive start to life at Bel Royal School. If you have any questions which are not answered by this booklet, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of Staff, who will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

The Foundation Stage Team

### **Our Foundation Stage Vision**

Bel Royal Foundation Stage is committed to doing the best for every child. We do this through working together with parents to:

- Provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment;
- Foster a love of learning and promote natural curiosity;
- Maximize well-being and acquisition of skills for life-long learning.

‘Childhood lasts a lifetime’ Floella Benjamin





## The Foundation Stage

Bel Royal School's Core Values: Include, Believe, Achieve guide our development and underpin our ethos in the Foundation Stage. We are very proud of the work that is done in our Early Years. We are constantly reflecting and developing our practice and environment to ensure that it is the best that we can provide for our pupils.

### Within Bel Royal Foundation Stage we want the children to be:

Caring, kind and friendly: **INCLUDE**

Curious, resilient and excited to learn: **BELIEVE**

Happy, confident, independent and proud: **ACHIEVE**

### We want the children to know

They are safe, listened to, valued and cared for: **INCLUDE**

They can take risks, be courageous and think creatively: **BELIEVE**

How to communicate and be successful in their learning: **ACHIEVE**



## Nursery

The Nursery is an integral part of Bel Royal school and aims to offer high quality educational experiences that will enhance your child's early learning skills and dispositions. The Nursery is made up of three members of staff (1 Teacher and 2 Nursery Officers).

## Reception

The Reception year is the final year of the Foundation Stage; and is a smooth continuation of the learning that was started in Nursery. In Reception there are well-planned, structured play activities, with clearly identified learning objectives that cover all areas of the curriculum. There is a balance of adult-led and child-initiated experiences as both are equally important and provide opportunities for children to learn and consolidate skills and knowledge.

The Reception class is made up of two members of staff (1 teacher and 1 Teacher Assistant). At different points of the day your child will work with both adults in the class, taking part in both child-initiated and teacher-led learning experiences that are based on their needs and interests.



# Starting School



## Nursery



### Nursery Times

The Nursery provides education for up to 30 children. All children are provided with five free all day places (this equates to 30 free hours over the week) .

The times of Nursery sessions are:

Morning: 8:30am - 12:30 pm

Afternoon: 12.30am-2.30pm

Although our doors will open at 8:30am, we ask that you stay with your child until they have settled into a chosen activity.

## Reception

### Reception Times

We open the Reception doors at 8.30am, to give your child time to settle before school starts at 8.45am. During this time, there will be additional staff to help your child put their lunch box on the trolley, book bag in their drawer and their coat on their peg, to encourage independence. The class teacher will be at the entrance to greet you. This is a good opportunity for you to raise any questions you have, or to inform us of any information which may impact on the day ahead.

### The End of the Day

In Reception the school day ends at 2.45pm. We ask that you wait by the Foundation Stage entrance. We will individually 'handover' each child, so we ask you to be patient during the first few weeks of term, whilst we get to know your friendly faces. In order to safeguard the children in our care, please inform us in advance if the person collecting your child is to change. We will not let a child go with someone who is not known to use without prior consent. If you are driving a car, please park in the Key Stage 2 playground and walk down to drop off and collect your child.

### Attendance / Punctuality

It is vital to your child's education that they attend school regularly and on time. Consistent lateness or absence can affect your child's academic and social progress and is unsettling for the child. Holidays in term time will not be authorised. Registers are completed promptly at 8.45am. If you arrive late at school for any reason you must take your child via the school office and ensure that you sign them into the Late Book so that we know they are here.





## Snack and Lunch



### Snack

#### **Nursery:**

Each morning the children are provided with a healthy snack. We encourage the children to try unfamiliar foods, serve others and talk politely around the table, encouraging them to develop valuable social skills. In order to provide snack, cooking ingredients and other perishable goods we request the following:

**Nursery:** £60.00 approx per term (£5.00 per week) in line with **all** States of Jersey Nurseries. Please make any cheques payable to 'Bel Royal Nursery'

Where possible money should be paid termly in the first week of each term. The teachers are available to discuss any difficulties and no family will be financially disadvantaged. We aim to be cost efficient and non-profit making. However, where any surplus arises it will be used to provide extra resources for the children.

**Reception:** In line with our school's healthy eating ethos, morning snack must be fruit and vegetables only. Please can you cut this up for your child and put it in a small, Tupperware, which they can open themselves. Please remove the skin from your child's snack if your child does not like it. All snack containers must be labelled.

### Water

Please provide your child with a named water bottle that is bought to school each day.

### Lunch Time

The children are closely supervised at lunchtimes by lunchtime supervisors and Nursery staff. At Bel Royal we encourage the children to eat healthy food therefore we would appreciate your co-operation in providing a healthy lunch. Lunch should be in a named lunchbox and should include fruit or vegetables (that the children can eat in about 30 minutes). Please talk to your child about the food that they would like in their lunchbox and take note of what is left, as this often means that they do not like it. Please note that due to allergies we are a **nut free** school. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that no nuts of any kind be brought into school for any reason. Foods sent in for lunch, or any class event, should be carefully checked to make sure they are nut-free.





## Uniform

There is a Swedish saying that we apply at Bel Royal:

**“There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!”**

We make use of all the learning areas available to us including; our fantastic school grounds and our well resourced outdoor areas; and we encourage outdoor play whatever the weather! During the winter months your child will need a named hat, scarf and a pair of gloves. All children will also require a pair of named Wellington boots as we do a lot of messy garden activities.

Please do not allow your child to wear jewellery, as this can be dangerous. During the Summer term we advise that children have a sun hat and wear all day sunscreen on sunny days for outdoor activities, they may also need a light waterproof coat. Velcro shoes are ideal as we encourage the children to be as independent as possible with socks and shoes. We realise that it can be very frustrating when items of clothing go astray so please support us in returning items to their rightful owners by ensuring all clothing is fully labelled with your child's name.

**All children in the Foundation Stage require a bag on their peg with a full change of clothing (including socks and underwear). Any wet clothing will be sent home in a plastic bag. Please remember to return any item of clothing that belongs to school that your child may have been sent home in.**

### Nursery Clothing

Children should wear practical clothing, suitable for all types of activities (e.g. painting, digging, climbing and water play). We do provide aprons for messy activities, but accidents do happen, so please do not deter your child from joining in some activities by sending them in their best clothes.

### Reception Uniform

Reception children are required to wear Bel Royal school uniform, details of which can be found in the School handbook. P.E. kits will also be required from the Autumn term. We kindly request that you send your child to school in their P.E. kit on PE days. We will inform you of these in September once our timetable has been finalised.

School Uniform can be purchased from JSSK (No. 3 Les Quennevais Parade, La Route de Quennevais, St Brelade, JE3 8FX); or alternatively can be ordered online at [www.jssk.co.uk](http://www.jssk.co.uk). Generic items can be bought from high street stores.

We provide waterproof suits for our 'messy' learning or for when the weather is extremely wet.



## Communication

We pride ourselves on the strength of our communication with Parents/Carers. We ensure that you know what is happening in school by the following methods:-

- ◆ Curriculum Conversation (September)
- ◆ Parent Notice Boards (Nursery & Reception entrance)
- ◆ Half termly Class Updates
- ◆ Access to your child's Online Learning Journal from home
- ◆ Monthly Whole School Newsletter
- ◆ Parent Consultations / Reports
- ◆ Verbal Feedback (End of day)
- ◆ Facebook/Website updates
- ◆ Seesaw

### Reporting Arrangements

**Autumn Term:** Parent Consultation with a focus on settling in.

**Spring Term:** Parent Consultation with a focus on progress.

**Summer Term:** End of Year Summary Report + Pupil Conference

We have an open door policy, so if you have any concerns at all, please talk to us. We realise that this may not always be possible for working parents so if this is the case, you are more than welcome to e-mail us. It is important to let us know if you or your child is worried or upset about anything as the sooner we know, the sooner we can help!

### Online Learning Journal



Upon entering the Foundation Stage we will create an Online Learning Journal for your child, which will document your child's learning and celebrate their achievements and successes. You will receive a letter in September with the details outlining how you can login to view and share your child's Learning Journal with them at home. We encourage Parents/Carers to make regular contributions by either commenting on the observations we have added; or by uploading your own photos or comments.



## The Early Years Curriculum

Children in Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum which is based on four principles.

1. A Unique Child
2. Positive Relationships
3. Enabling Environments
4. Learning and Development

There are seven distinct areas of learning in the EYFS (3 Prime areas and 4 Specific areas) as well as a focus on developing key characteristics which are essential for effective learning.

Prime Areas	Specific Areas
Personal Social and Emotional Development	Literacy
Physical Development	Mathematics
Communication and Language	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

Each area of learning has Early Learning Goals (ELGs) and there are 17 in total. These set out the skills, understanding, knowledge and attitudes which it is hoped children will reach or exceed by the end of the Reception Year.

Playing and exploring – engagement	Active learning – motivation	Creating and thinking critically – thinking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finding out and exploring</li><li>• Playing with what they know</li><li>• Being willing to 'have a go'</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Being involved and concentrating</li><li>• Keeping trying</li><li>• Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Having their own ideas</li><li>• Making links</li><li>• Choosing ways to do things</li></ul>

### Characteristics of Effective Learning





## The Importance of the Early Years

This period of life is very important both in its own right but also in preparing children for later learning. From the age of three to five, children grow, develop and learn rapidly. They are constantly encountering new experiences which they try to understand. As they do so they explore the world around them, ask questions, extend their skills, develop their confidence and build on what they already know. Well planned play is central to children's learning in the Early Years. That way learning is both challenging and fun!



### Classrooms

The indoor and outdoor 'classrooms' are organised to give children plenty of space to move around, to work on the floor and on table tops, individually and in smaller and larger groups. Resources are well-organised and labelled so that children know where to find what they need and can be independent, leading their own learning. This means adults can spend more time joining in with children's learning, extending their language and thinking and helping them to make progress.



### Role of the Adult

The role of the adult is crucial in supporting children's learning through both planned and spontaneous play. Through this supported play children can explore, develop and use their curiosity and imagination to help them make sense of the world in a secure environment. The adult also observes children's interests, strengths and needs to ensure our planning meets the individual needs of our children.

### Planning

In the Early Years we plan a wide range of opportunities for children to learn both indoors and outdoors and within different contexts (e.g. adult-led / child initiated). Planning is always based on children's existing knowledge, skills and interests and is differentiated to ensure all children can make progress with their learning from their starting point.

### Parents as Partners

Parents are their children's first and enduring educators and understand their children better than anyone else. By sharing information about their children's interests, strengths and needs, parents help the staff who work with them to plan experiences and activities that will capture their imagination and enthusiasm. This helps children to make good progress in their learning



## Getting Your Child Ready For Nursery / Reception

We strongly recommend that you spend time talking about starting school in a positive way and making it an exciting experience for your child to look forward to. If you can, try to involve them in shopping for their uniform (Reception) and lunchbox. Listen carefully to what they say as they may have questions that need answering.

If your child has previously been in a different setting (such as pre-school or day care) they may have a 'Special Book' or 'Learning Journey' that they can bring with them on their first day. This will be an opportunity for your child to share their interests and achievements with their new teachers and peers.

Over the Summer period please support your child in preparing for School by encouraging them to

- ◆ Use the toilet independently (this includes wiping themselves) and washing their hands
- ◆ Dress and undress independently (e.g. coats/jumpers/shoes)
- ◆ Playing and sharing with other pupils and tidying away afterwards
- ◆ Recognise their name (Nursery) and be able to write it (Reception)
- ◆ Joining in and singing and saying of well known songs and Nursery rhymes
- ◆ Drawing and mark-making, cutting out, dressing up and playing with construction toys. Practising counting and matching when helping to lay the table for instance, or sorting buttons into colours and types.
- ◆ Talking about outings, television programmes and everyday happenings.
- ◆ Looking at books together and talking about the pictures.
- ◆ Being encouraged to ask questions and be observant.
- ◆ Carrying out simple instructions.
- ◆ Learning to be as independent as possible, yet respecting the instructions given by an adult.



## How Can I Find Out More?

We look forward to sharing more information with you during our Curriculum Conversation which will take place in September. If you have any further questions please talk to the staff in your child's class. They will be happy to talk to you about your child's particular strengths, interests and needs.

Please also find below a few websites that you may find helpful:

[www.belroyal.sch.je](http://www.belroyal.sch.je)  
Facebook: Bel Royal School

[www.education.gov.je/education/preschool](http://www.education.gov.je/education/preschool)

[www.gov.je/education](http://www.gov.je/education)



Bel Royal School  
La Rue De Haut, St Lawrence, Jersey JE3 1JQ  
[email: admin@belroyal.sch.je](mailto:admin@belroyal.sch.je)  
Call Us: 01534 737193