

# North Curry C of E Primary School



**NORTH CURRY**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## New Parents Welcome Booklet 2024-2025



**Together Everyone Achieves More**

*Through.....*

*Loving learning, loving each other and loving life  
itself*

*AGAPE: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)*



## **Welcome to North Curry C of E Primary School.**

I would like to start by welcoming you and your family to North Curry C of E Primary School.

The purpose of this pack is to provide you with general information regarding some of the school's procedures that you need to know once your child starts here at North Curry C of E Primary School. Hopefully it will answer many of your questions too. However if you still have questions please do not hesitate to phone or email the school office@nc.huish.education.

I hope that it will be a long and enjoyable association.

Helen Morley,  
Head teacher.

## **What is the ethos and vision for the school?**

We aim to provide a safe and creative environment based on our Christian foundation, in which individuals are valued.

Our Vision is: *'Together Everyone Achieves More.'* .....through loving learning, loving each other and loving life itself. AGAPE: The Good Samaritan (Luke: 10:25-37)

Our Aims and Values:

Our school provides a broad, balanced, challenging and exciting curriculum, which allows all children to reach their full potential in a happy, stimulating, inclusive and safe environment.

Relationships between pupils and adults are caring, valued, supportive, trusting, honest and are built on mutual respect where adults lead by example in line with the ethos of the school.

The ethos is one of which is stimulating, safe, welcoming, positive, exciting; children are active and motivated learners, developing learning for life in a Christian environment.

Pupils are happy, engaged, hard-working, motivated, confident, determined, well-mannered, respectful of others, caring, well rounded citizens and willing to contribute to all aspects of school life.

We have outstanding and punctual attendance with all children wanting to be there.

We have a learning environment which is welcoming. It is stimulating, exciting, interesting, enabling, safe, creative, motivating, promotes independence, enriching and also caters for all learning styles. Most importantly, it is fun.

The outdoor environment is stimulating, multi-sensory, colourful, friendly, welcoming, safe and rich with resources which are used effectively.

Our curriculum is creative, engaging, motivating, child-led, enriching, inclusive, broad, meets everyone's needs, flexible, achievable for all, owned by the pupils and promotes links with our local and global communities.

The pupils' full potential is achieved.

All pupils receive individual, targeted and tailored support which meets their physical, social, academic, mental and emotional needs. This includes outstanding links between school and home.

Purposeful opportunities are provided for all staff to develop with up to date and relevant training. All staff are performance managed effectively and through this, opportunities for development are discussed.

Parents are supportive, work effectively in partnership with the school and assist with their child's development. The school utilises the skills of parents and the cultural diversity. The contribution of parents is valued by school.

North Curry is viewed as a positive, welcoming, friendly and outstanding school that is over-subscribed and integrated in the community.

The school encourages strong, purposeful and well established links and relationships with other schools including, pre-schools, local primary and secondary schools and schools in other countries, sharing practice and expertise.

### **Who are the staff at the school?**

We have a large number of teachers and support staff at our school.

There are a number of key staff you may come into contact with apart from your child's class teacher and teaching assistants. Our office staff comprises of myself, Mrs Bulbeck, Ms Harris (ELSA), Mrs Fitch (Nursery Admin Assistant) and our SENDCo Miss Littlechild. The school office is open from 8.30am-4.30pm and the staff are available to answer your queries, make appointments with teaching staff and be of general help and assistance. If I should not be available to discuss a matter then appointments can be made to speak to our senior teacher Miss Bown. Ms Harris is our ELSA and her role is to support children and families affected by a variety of issues such as bereavement, family separation, health and/or mental difficulties. Appointments can be arranged via the school office. Miss Littlechild as SENDCo is responsible for the education and welfare of all children who it is decided have a 'special educational need'. There are varying levels of special need and children are placed on a register at a particular level – either School Action, Action Plus or some children have a Statement of Need.

## **The School Day**

8:30 - Children may arrive to the school playground, or straight into the classrooms if it is wet weather.

8:40 – Start of School Day

8:45 – Registration

8:50 – 9:50 – Maths

9:50 – 10:05 – Snack break

10:05 – 11:05 – Phonics/Spelling/Grammar/Reading Skills

11:05 – 11:15 – Break

11:15 – 12:15 – Literacy

12:15 – 1:10 – Lunchtime

1:10 – 1:30 – Collective Worship

1:30 – 3:10/3:15 – Afternoon Lessons/Theme

3:15 – End of School Day

The whistle is blown at the end of every break including lunchtime.

Reception children have a flexible timetable with a mix of continuous provision and adult-led learning sessions.

School begins at 8.45am with the register. Children will be able to come straight into the classroom from 8.30am ready for activities to start at 8.50am.

Children will have a named peg for their coat/PE bag and a drawer. As we are trying to promote healthy eating at school, we ask children to bring a healthy snack for morning break, (for example fruit or cereal bar) so no chocolate or biscuits please, please be aware we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. Free milk is provided for all children under five and is available to purchase after this. However, if you would like your child to receive milk you will need to register with Coolmilk online ([www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)), even if they are entitled to free school milk. We are all aware of the benefits of drinking water and ask children to bring a named sports bottle of water to drink throughout the day.

Children will also be offered a free piece of fruit/vegetable through the government scheme, which encourages healthy eating. When your child starts full-time school, they will choose either universal free school hot dinners or will bring a packed lunch with an additional drink.

As we are usually indoors and outdoors throughout the day, please ensure your child has suitable clothing including a coat, jumper, hat (dependent on weather) and a pair of wellies when the weather becomes wet. It is a good idea to apply sun cream at the beginning of each day in warmer weather.

If your child is being collected by someone other than yourself or anyone on your child's data collection sheet, please let staff or the office know.

Bus children are supervised from the bus to school each morning and are escorted from school to the bus at the end of each day. All children are checked against a bus register by the member of staff carrying out bus duty at the end of school.

If you need to speak to a member of staff about your child in the morning, a member of SLT will be on the school gates to pass these messages/requests on to class teachers. However, if you need to discuss something in more depth, we would appreciate it if you would make an appointment or pop in and see us after school.

Children can find starting school exciting, scary or bewildering. We try to make the classroom a welcoming and fun place to be. For the first couple of weeks, parents/carers of Minnow Class are welcome to bring children into the classroom via either the village hall car park gate or Portmans gate from 8.30am onwards. This is to familiarise them with routines and activities going on. If your child is reluctant and weepy in the morning, the most sensible thing to do (hard though it may be) is to say goodbye and leave, giving them reassuring words or a smile. Children settle very quickly but please feel free to phone later to check everything is alright. As the year progresses we encourage the children to be more independent and for you to drop off your child at the school gate.

### **What should my child wear to school?**

**At North Curry we expect all children to wear school uniform every day.** It avoids arguments at home about what is suitable school wear. It helps children to identify not only with each other but also to enjoy a sense of 'belonging' to the school family and encourages a sense of pride and loyalty. It avoids discrimination between children.

We like children to wear a school navy blue jumper, cardigan, sweatshirt etc. along with a white shirt/blouse. Girls should wear a grey, black or navy blue tunic, skirt or trousers/shorts and boys should wear black or grey shorts or trousers. Black, grey, white or navy socks must be worn. Girls may wear grey, navy blue, black or white tights.

In the summer months a blue and white check dress is a most acceptable alternative.

School trousers for both girls and boys should be in black, grey or navy blue. Sensible and strong school shoes should be worn. High heels, platforms and trainers are not acceptable. The children may bring a change of shoes for playtimes.

For PE, children should be provided with a plain white t-shirt or house coloured t-shirt, navy or black shorts and plimsolls/trainers or a tracksuit in the winter. After PE/games children will change back into school uniform before going home.

All items of clothing - including anoraks and coats, need to be clearly marked with your child's name.

Make-up, nail varnish and jewellery must not be worn at all in school, with the exception of small stud earrings.

Long hair must also be tied back with the use of either hairbands or small scrunchies. Shorter hair can be secured with alic bands but no other large hair accessories are permitted (i.e jo jo bows etc).

Extremes of haircuts should be avoided. School uniform can be purchased online at <http://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/northcurryceprita36ng>

### **What should my child bring to school?**

It is important that your child's PE kit, contained in small drawstring bag is with them in school on their PE day. Please make sure that if you take it home for washing at the end of the week, half-term or term that it is returned on the next day back to school. We also like the children to have a school book bag. Book bags should be brought to school along with the reading record every day, even if you have not had a chance to read the book with your child. Your child will need a named water bottle.

### **What do I do if my child is unable to attend school?**

We have to keep detailed records of individual children's attendance and punctuality and the head teacher regularly monitors this. We need to have a detailed telephone message on the day of your child's absence by 9.30am and again if they are absent on the third day and every day subsequently. Please inform us of why they will not be in school and the expected date of return. If your child is away for more than four days, you might be asked to visit your doctor and proof of this may be required. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea, they must be kept away from school until they have been symptom free for **48 hours**. If your child needs to have a dental or hospital appointment in school hours, please inform the office and your child's class teacher.

### **What happens if we need to take the children out of school during term time?**

Government legislation dictates that parents should not take their children on holiday outside an official school holiday period as even in the younger years the children miss important aspects of the school curriculum. On the rare occasion where it may be necessary for children or families to be away for "exceptional circumstances" it will be necessary to request permission from the head teacher by submitting a "Leave of Absence" request form which is available from the school website or school office.

### **What happens if my child is ill at school?**

Please inform staff of any health problems, that your child may have e.g. allergies, eczema, asthma, and of any other upsets that might affect them during the day i.e. if they have complained of feeling unwell before coming to school. If your child complains of feeling unwell whilst at school, depending on the time of day and how unwell your child is you may be asked to come and collect your child.

### **What happens if my child needs to take medicine at school?**

The school has adopted the following guidelines for the administration of medicines:

**Medicine:** For children with prescription medication, an administration of medicine form must be completed and returned to the school office. Paracetamol types of medicine will not be generally administered at school unless it is an exceptional circumstance.

All children who need to have an inhaler in school should have completed an asthma care plan.

**Infectious Diseases:** The Infectious Diseases in Schools information is located in the office. Please ask the school office staff for advice.

**Nut Free at North Curry:** We have an increasing number of children who have known nut allergies.

Therefore we are a 'NUT FREE' school. Any food sent into school must NOT contain nuts of any kind, for example: cereal bars, some biscuits and chocolate.

In order to assist as much as we can, we have identified a list of foods that **would definitely cause the most serious harm**:

Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts

Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts

Nutella

Peanut butter

Cakes made with nuts

Muesli bars

Any nuts, peanuts, almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts etc.

Nougat

Biscuits that contain nuts

Lecithin and nut products such as oils

This isn't a definitive list as there are many items with hidden nut and sesame ingredients but these are some of the very worst offenders.

As staff will need to be making regular checks on the children's lunches to ensure these rules are being followed and parents will be notified where a food item containing nuts is present.

We feel we cannot guarantee freedom from nut traces. If there are any issues that you feel arise as a result of this policy, please contact the school office. If the packages say 'may contain traces of nuts' these **would** be allowed in school.

Please help us in providing a nut free school and assisting those who have a life-threatening reaction.

### **Photos of Children**

A permission form is sent out to parents/carers every year to seek permission for the taking, displaying and publication of pupil images and sound.

Parents are not allowed to take photos during school events such as play performances, music assemblies or Show and Share assemblies. Photos must not be put on social media.

### **How will I know my child is safe at school?**

The safety of your children is very important to us. Please can you help by remembering the following:-

- If you are late please go to the main gate and a member of the office staff will let your child in

- If someone else (other than the named people on your emergency contact list) is picking up your child from school please let the school office and class teacher know as soon as possible if there is a change of plan during the day.
- Please ensure we have at least two up to date contact numbers so we may contact you if your child is unwell or in an emergency. You can update your details via the MCAS parent app at any time, or contact the school office if anything changes.
- Parking near the school is limited. If you have to drive your child to school please do not park on zigzag lines, across our neighbours' drives or in the staff car park.
- If you need to come into school for any reason, please enter through the main entrance and report to the school office. All visitors (including parents who are helping in school) are asked to sign and take a visitors badge.
- If you are collecting or dropping children outside of normal pick up or drop off times it is essential that you come to the main school gate.

### **What happens at lunchtimes?**

Our lunchtime break starts at 12.00pm for KS1 pupils and 12.15pm for KS2 pupils. The younger children eat first and they are able to stay for as long needed in the hall to eat their lunch, they will then go out to play. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. An application form and explanatory leaflet is included in your welcome pack. School meals need to be ordered online through MCAS. You will receive more information about this and an email registration invite when your child joins us.

### **What happens at playtimes?**

The children go out to play in the main playground at 9.50, 11.05 and after lunch. Reception and Little Herons children have their playtimes separately until later in the year. They are allowed to bring a bottle of water to school for break time. Children under the age of 5 are provided with free school milk. We have a snack system whereby fruit is provided free to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (by the National School Fruit Scheme).

### **What happens when my child gets upset in the playground?**

We aim for our playtimes to be an enjoyable part of the day. Staff are always on duty and if a child is upset they can go straight to the Teacher/Teaching Assistant, who will assist, comfort and reassure them.

### **How are parents involved in the school?**

We always welcome parents into our school and many of you are able to support by helping in the classrooms. Teachers always value the extra help that can be provided by parents such as helping in the library, reading to children and helping with sewing or cooking activities. If you are interested in helping on a regular basis please do speak to the class teacher. We are very appreciative of this extra support in class but will need to carry out some security checks, including a DBS check before you start. A weekly Wednesday newsletter detailing school events and news is sent by text and email or is



accessible from our school website each week. In addition all classes send out a termly class letter with information about current topics and other important pieces of information. Our class letters are intended to give parents an overview of the current topic and encourage parents to engage in conversation with their children about the topic. A range of informative meetings are held throughout the year. We aim to have a balance of daytime and evening meetings so that working parents can have a chance of attending some of these meetings. We also hold other curriculum evenings or afternoons during the year on a variety of curriculum topics. On a Friday morning at 8.50am we invite parents to come to their child's Show and Share assembly where the class share their learning. We also give out Certificates of the Week to two pupils from each class. You will be informed if your child is to receive a certificate so you may come and watch. There will be a different Show and Share Assembly each week and this will be communicated to you through our weekly newsletter.

We have a very proactive parents association (FONCS – Friends of North Curry School) who run fundraising events to raise money for the school, such as school discos, Easter Egg Hunts, bedtime Book share... the list is endless. They are a lovely addition to our school community and always welcome new parents. If you would like to help out please contact the school office that will put you in touch with a committee member from FONCS.

### **When can I hear about my child's progress?**

A number of parent events are held each year. At the beginning of each term class teachers write a welcome newsletter informing you about the curriculum and important information about the term. The individual parent and teacher meeting is in the autumn term when the class teacher has the opportunity to explain to you how your child is doing in the class and to discuss any areas for development. The Parents Evening in the spring term provides an opportunity for an in-depth discussion between yourselves and teachers about your child's progress. At this meeting parents can look at their child's work beforehand as it is displayed in the outside waiting areas. In the summer term there is the optional opportunity to meet with the class teacher to discuss your child's annual report. We will inform you through the weekly newsletter as to when the parents evening are and how to book an appointment.

### **How can I keep up to date with school news and events?**

Mrs Morley always produces a weekly newsletter which is sent out electronically every Wednesday and is accessible through the school website. This contains key dates for the term as well as informing parents of things that are happening in school. Please ensure you take time to read the weekly newsletter.

### **Are there any other things my child needs to bring in to school?**

It is important that your child brings their book bag to school every day as this is an easy way to send home letters, reading books, homework and pictures your child has made. All children are encouraged to bring in a named water bottle so children can access water when they choose. This is taken home at the end of the day so it can be cleaned and replenished with water. If your child has packed lunch they should include a separate drink/water bottle.

### **What happens when it is my child's birthday?**

As we are a healthy school and are encouraging the children to have healthier lifestyles we are now encouraging parents just to allow their child to wear their home clothes to school and to celebrate at home with chocolates, cakes and sweets. Please do not bring sweet treats into school. Each child will be presented with a book from FONCS in our Friday celebration assembly when it is their birthday.

**What can I do if I am worried about my child?**

There is an open door policy of easy access to the teachers and head teacher. If you need to get a message to the class teacher before school, please either call the school office or pass a message to a member of staff on the school gate. If parents have any concerns that take up more time than a short conversation, they are asked to make an appointment with the class teacher when there is more time to talk. The head teacher is usually available to see parents at their convenience. We would much rather you came to see the teacher with any concerns or anxieties so they can be dealt with before they become more of a worry. Above all else, good communication between home and school is vitally important. We see ourselves working in partnership with parents and look forward to many happy times ahead.

We hope you found this welcome booklet both useful and informative. Any constructive feedback would be gratefully received.