



WELCOME BOOK FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN.

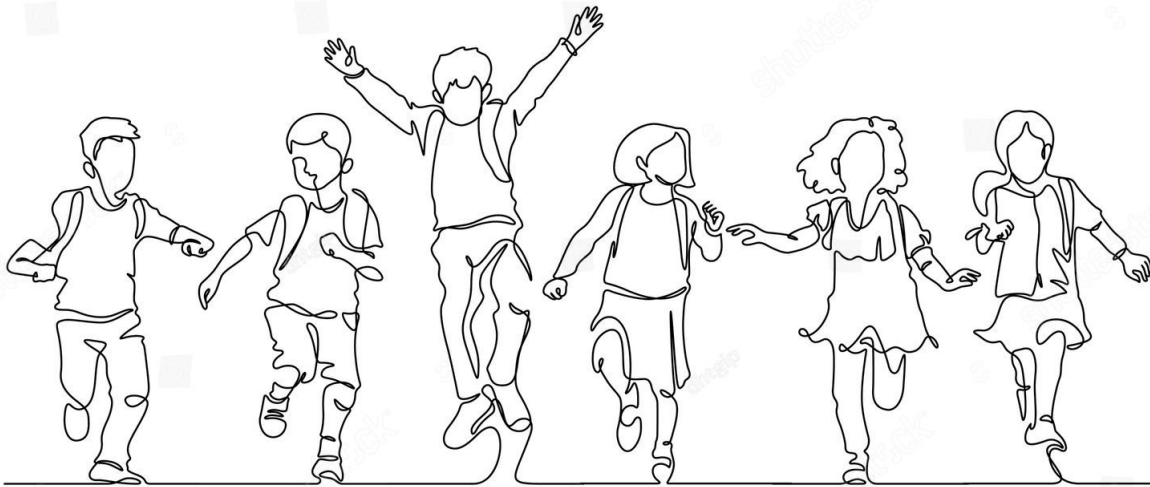


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WELCOME TO SCHOOL IN BRITAIN.



In Britain all children have the right to go to school from the year they become 5 until they are 16. There is no charge.

There are several different types of school, but all children must attend one of these schools. If you do not send your child to school, you will be fined. It is complicated to get a school place for your child and Bath Welcomes Refugees is here to help you.

There are state schools which are free, paid for by the government and everyone has the right to apply for them. There are also independent schools which you can send your child to, but you must pay for these. You can choose which school you want your child to attend.

This booklet tells you about schools for children aged 3-5 and 5-11, how you get a place and what your child will learn there.

In Bath and North East Somerset there are different sorts of state funded schools to choose from:

- **Local Authority** Schools – These are funded by local government.
- **Academies** and Free Schools - These are funded by central government and part of a Trust.
- **Single sex schools** – There are no single sex primary schools in Bath.
- **Faith schools** – These schools teach the national Curriculum but have a religion which is a full part of their school day.
- **Independent schools.** These are schools that you pay for. They will each have their own charge which you can find out from the school.

Schools aim to have happy, friendly relationships and expect children to respect each other and their teachers. They will work hard and have an interesting and exciting time.

HOW TO FIND A PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD.

Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) is the local authority who manage all aspects of schooling and must provide a school place for your child.

You will need to apply for a school place if your child is starting any type of school for the first time, (the year after they turn 5) or transferring to a new school. BANES is responsible for doing this. Their website is: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/school-admissions> and their email is: admissions_transport@bathnes.gov.uk

This will give you all the information you need to understand the different types of school which are available, find a suitable place for your child, and to guide you through the admissions process.

If your child is 4 they will need to apply in the year they become 5.

If you are applying at any other time – transferring from another school or area - you must talk to B&NES or someone at BWR.

It is very important that you read about school admissions (look above) and apply by the correct date. If you are late, you may not get the school you want. When they have decided on the school for your child the local authority will get in touch with you by a letter or online.

Everyone finds out on the same day.

B&NES has 64 infant and primary schools.

You can see them listed at

<https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/Establishments/Search?tok=8UfUck3I>

where you can also see them on a map.

You can find out more about these schools by ,

- Talking to other parents.
- Thinking about what is important for your family e.g. is the school easy to walk to?
- Visiting the school. Every school has will have open days before your child starts school so that you can see what it is like and talk to the Headteacher.
- Looking at School websites – all schools must have a website with lots of information
- Reading OFSTED reports – all state-funded schools are checked by OFSTED inspectors who write reports. This will be on the school website. You can also look at <https://www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk>
- Performance tables – show how school exam results compare. You can look <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

The School Year



WHEN DO CHILDREN START SCHOOL?

In England the school year is from September until July and children start primary school in the year in which they become 5. If your child is not starting school at the start of the school year you will need to take advice from B&NES, a school or Bath Welcomes Refugees.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL YEAR?

Each school year has six terms that last 6 to 8 weeks. There are holidays of two weeks at Christmas and at Easter and between these there are one week holidays called half term. There will also be some additional days holiday for Bank Holidays and special events.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL DAY.

The length of the school day varies between the schools, but all children must attend for the same number of hours. The day starts about 9.00 am and finishes after 3pm. Every school has lunchtime and a break in the morning.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

Some schools have Nurseries attached to them and there are also Nurseries that operate independently.

If you have a 3, 4- or 5-year-old who is not at school they can apply for 15 hours of Nursery Education.

Some families can apply to be considered for 30 hour places.

This link explains all of this.

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/childcare-two-three-and-four-year-olds>



STARTING SCHOOL.

Once you have been given a school place your school will get in touch with you to invite you to visit the school and tell you all about it. Your child will also visit and meet the teachers and other staff. These visits are important so that your child can get used to the idea of going to school and not be worried.

At the school you will usually meet the Headteacher who manages all aspects of the school and makes sure that your child is well educated and content. Each class in the school has a Teacher and usually a Teaching Assistant who may be part time. They will give children additional help with their work.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Most schools have a school uniform, and the school will give you a list of what you need. The basic uniform can be bought from one of the usual clothes shops and the school will sell you a special school sweater. These will not be very expensive. Your child will also need some shoes, shorts and a T shirt for doing inside games. They will also need a bag to take books home in and you can get this from the school. Many schools have second hand clothes sales which are helpful as children grow so quickly.

PRE-SCHOOL MEETINGS.

All schools will ask for information about your family and your child. The information is private and only used to help your child e.g. contact information in case your child is ill, or if you have asked the school for help with something like school uniform. They must keep this information private.

Schools ask for:



- The full name of your child, and when they were born
- Contact details for you as a parent
- Medical details – if your child has a condition such as asthma, or is deaf, or has an allergy etc. Do ask if you are not sure what is helpful. It won't affect their lessons but will make it easier for the school to help them.
- Consent for trips or school photographs – you must give permission for your child to go on a school trip or to have a photograph taken.
- Special details (as needed) For example, if you want to withdraw your child from assembly in school or religious education. Talk to the school about your beliefs.
- Details of who is permitted to collect your child.

If any of your details change you must tell the school immediately.

SCHOOL MEALS

Lots of schools provide school meals and some have kitchens and provide a hot meal while others serve sandwiches. All children in reception, Y1 and Y2 are given free school meals. For Y3-Y6 these must be paid to the school.

Some children will be eligible for free school meals which are available to families on low incomes. The school can explain more about this. Children who have free lunches at school will also have extra attention and support in lessons through the Pupil Premium programme. This is a very good thing to have.

The easiest way to apply for free school meals is via this link <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> . To apply you will need to live in the UK with the child. For the form you need:

- The date of birth of the mother or father of the child.
- The National Insurance (NI) number of the mum or dad living with the child in the UK. You will get an NI number when you apply for Universal Credit (UC). This can take 5 or 6 weeks.

If you need extra help or things are complicated, phone the Free School Meals team on 01225 394317. Once your child starts school there may be holiday food vouchers. The school can share the link with you to apply. There is also short-term crisis support and advice from the welfare team on 01225 47727

TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL

Most people walk to school or go by car.

If you live further away from school you may get help with bus fare.

If your child is under 8 and the school is 2 miles away you might get help.

Children over 8 need to be 3 miles away or more to get help.

If your child has certified special need you also may get help.

OTHER CHILDCARE AT SCHOOL.

Some schools provide Breakfast Club which is usually from 8.00 until school starts and provides children with breakfast and interesting activities and games. They also may provide After School Clubs from the end of the school day until 6.00pm. This will provide tea and lots of good things to do.

Both of these have to be paid for at a price decided by the school.

The school will tell you all about this.





WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL DO AT SCHOOL.

All state schools across the country study the same subjects according to their age, known as the National Curriculum. This will teach your child the things that they need to be successful in their future life.

HOW PRIMARY SCHOOL IS ORGANISED.

The first school year is known as Reception Class which is part of the Early Years, but it is a fulltime stage of school and very important. Children will learn through carefully structured activities that teach them how to work together and a lot about the world around them, as well as early reading and writing. This may seem like playing but includes important learning.

They then move into Year 1(Y1) where the day gradually becomes more structured.

Years 1 and 2 are known as Key Stage 1

Years 3, 4 ,5 and 6 are known as Key Stage 2.

The subjects that all schools must teach from Year 1 to Year 6 are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Design and Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education (PE), including Swimming
- Computing

All Primary Schools must also teach

- [Relationships and Health Education](#)
- [Religious Education \(RE\)](#) - but parents can ask for their children to be taken out of the whole lesson or part of it.

Schools often also teach:

- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Citizenship
- Modern Foreign Languages (at Key Stage 1) and Ancient and Modern Foreign Languages (at Key Stage 2)
- [Sex Education](#) - parents can ask for their children to be taken out of the lesson

CHILDREN WHO NEED MORE SUPPORT.

Additional support, including with English, will be provided for your child where necessary, by the teacher and teaching assistant or possibly by a specialist teacher. A teacher called a SENCO will make sure that they get the help they need. If you are worried about your child, you should talk to the school, and they will work with you to help your child.

HOW DO I KNOW HOW WELL MY CHILD IS DOING AT SCHOOL?

There are many ways.

All schools also have Parent Evenings. It is important that you go to these. Ask for an interpreter if that would be helpful. If you want to you, can also book a time and talk to the teachers. All schools send a written report home each year.

Communicating with the School

Schools may use different methods to communicate with parents (letters, texts, emails). Ask the school what methods they use and if you have difficulty communicating like this, please let them know what would work best for you. BWR may be able to help with school communications.

YEAR 6

The last year in Primary School is Year 6. Children will continue to learn the same range of subjects but also prepare for secondary school. Towards the end of this year all children in the country take the same exams known as SATS, these tests are in Maths, English and Science. The results of these tests will be sent to the child's secondary school to inform the teachers there about what support they might need.

During this year you will also be asked to select and apply for your child's secondary school. You will do this online. You must ask for help from the admissions team at B&NES or from BWR. **BWR are here to help if you are not sure which school to apply for.**



There is also a slideshow on the BWR website to help you prepare for secondary school once you have a school.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Rs5r5DxP8o6gkgCk4lq0zi0tQm7WBQDT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105135713273336922956&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Before this you will have been invited to open days at the secondary schools so that you can visit, ask questions and make your choice. There is a very important deadline date for this application to be completed. It is usually the end of October.

Every child will find out on the same day which school their child has been allocated. If your child has not been given the school of your choice you can appeal against the decision. If you are told that there is no place or that your child is on a waiting list do not wait. Appeals can take weeks or longer. Waiting could take even longer.

You will probably need help to write your appeal to ensure it includes all the right points to be successful. BWR will help with this.

If your child is a refugee, they have specific rights to be considered. The Local Authority also have a legal duty to all children to make sure they have a school.

YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO YOUR CHILD



Some things we all can do to help our children.

Never feel that you cannot help your child at home with any school subject because English is not your first language. You can be a huge help to your child.

Talk to your children in either your home language or in English.

- Look into their school bag every night – schools send messages all the time and you don't want you or your child to miss anything.
- ask questions about their friends
- ask about school and the subjects and how they are feeling.
- encourage them to take school seriously.
- Always go to Parents Evening. The school or BWR will help with an interpreter if you would like that.

Read with them or to them every night.

Sitting with your child with a book can work wonders. It can be a book with just pictures to talk about, a book in your language or an English book. All are very important and will help them to love reading.

- If the school sends words to learn make sure you hear your child say them. Play games with them. Make everything good fun and a happy time together.
- Always use the sound of the letter not the name ie a not A.
Let them draw/crayon/paint. Scrap paper etc and stick glue.

Teach your child numbers/maths when they are young.

Money/Shapes/Time can all be taught in your home language. They will soon change this to their school language.

Sing with your child in any language – at home or outside. Many things can be taught by song.





Schools in the UK are usually friendly, happy places. If you need help or are worried do tell the school or ask

Bath Welcomes Refugees.

We are here to help.

Have a good time!



Glossary of School Terms

Headteacher = a headteacher is in charge of the whole school and responsible for the safety and inclusivity of all the children.

Ofsted = Is the government office making sure of standards in education. They make sure that all schools are doing a good job of educating the children and keeping them safe.

SATS = are the standard assessment tests that children sit in years 2 and 6 to monitor how they are doing.

State Schools = are free and every child has the right to access them.

Independent Schools = these are schools where the children have to sit an entrance exam to be accepted, and they can be very expensive. Sometimes they offer scholarships for children who are exceptionally clever, but these are very hard to get.

B&NES = this is our local council here in Bath and the surrounding area.

Nursery Schools = these are places for children of 5 and under and only 15 hours a week is usually free. More hours must be paid for.