

At Great Bardfield Primary School, kindness and compassion are central to everything we do. We nurture the minds and hearts of our children, encouraging them to become resilient and successful individuals. Through our teaching and guidance, we help them to be the best they can be, enabling them to make a positive contribution to their local community and the wider world.

At Great Bardfield Primary School we are a family. We will get to know your children extremely well and we will work in partnership with you to ensure they have the very best experience during their time with us. Our children are at the very centre of everything we do and we encourage and support every child to achieve their

academic, sporting, social, moral and creative best. During their time at school, we want our children to develop a positive mental attitude, a growth mind-set and a high level of self-esteem so that they are prepared for their next steps in life.



We provide our children with a rich and diverse curriculum which is bespoke to our school. Our curriculum is carefully planned in order to maximise opportunities to make links with the beautiful village of Great Bardfield and the local area. Our children enjoy being out and about and have lots of opportunities to have fun and to be active and creative.

Our ethos is rooted within our core values of:

Courage

Compassion

Community

In all that we do, we strive to share, encourage and demonstrate these positive values so that our children understand them and live by them both inside and outside school.

Our Team

Mrs Liz Crow

Headteacher & SENDCo

Mrs Jo Francis

Class Teacher Reception/Year 1

Mrs Smith

Class Teacher Year 3/4

Senior Teacher

Mrs Kerri Harrison

Class Teacher Year 3/4

Mrs Carolyn Dodkins

Class Teacher Year 5/6

Learning Support Assistants

Office Staff

Carol Andrews

Sara Harrison - Bursar

Justine Brandl

Premises

Carly Dolby

Paul Major - Caretaker

Holly Grattan

Amy Spence - Cleaner

Rebecca Humphreys

Courtney Smith

Nicola Moore

Catering Team

The Hive (Wraparound Care)

Natalie Ford

Hollie Scott

Stephenie Bourdan

Kerrie Robinson

Kerrie Robinson

Carly Dolby

Dawn Gibson

Class Organisation

Our classes are currently arranged as:

Garwood class- Year R/1

Bawden class Year 1/2

Aldridge class Year 3/4

Ravilious class Year 5/6

Our class organisation can vary from year to year depending on the number of children we admit.

Our staff are experienced in teaching classes containing two or more year groups. The way in which we organise our classes will benefit your child and allows for individuals to develop at their own pace. When making decisions about which class your child will learn in, we take into account many factors including, but not limited to, personal and social development, learning behaviour and confidence. You can be assured that we will always make decisions which are in the best interests of your child and that many professional discussions between the relevant staff will take place before deciding on the organisation of classes each year.

Each class is taught by their own teacher but children will also have opportunities to be taught by specialist teachers in Music and Physical Education (PE) along with HLTAs (Higher Level Teaching Assistants).

The School Day

8.40am - Children come into their classrooms

8.45am - Morning session begins

12.00pm - Lunchtime

1.00pm - Afternoon session begins

3.15pm - School ends

We are very lucky to have an excellent Before School and After School wraparound care 'The Hive' onsite. These sessions run from 7.30am until school begins from Monday to Friday. After school care runs from the end of the school day until 6.00pm Monday to Thursday.

Our Curriculum

At our school we have worked hard to develop a bespoke curriculum suited to mixed aged classes. Our foundation subjects follow a rolling programme to ensure breadth and depth across the curriculum and our programmes of study make the most of the resources available both in and around the school and beyond our local area.

In Reception (EYFS) learning is grouped into

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

From Year One to Year Six learning is in the subjects of:

- English (Spoken Word, Reading, Writing)
- Maths
- Science
- PSHCE
- History
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Music
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Modern Foreign Languages (KS2)

Each term we publish a Curriculum Leaflet on our website which lets you know some of the topics your child will be learning over the term.

Our Learning Environment

Our younger children are housed in our recently constructed 'Oxlip Building'. The building consists of three classrooms and contains light and airy indoor spaces in which our children play, explore and learn. The Oxlip Building also includes an outdoor area where children can take their learning outside throughout the day and in all weathers.



Our older children learn in the main building of the school, some of which dates back to Victorian times.



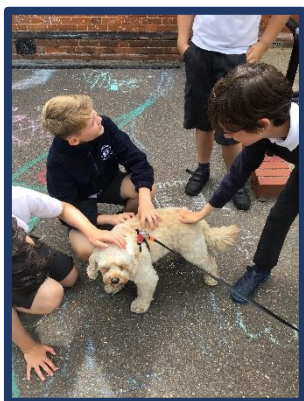
Curriculum Enrichment

Our learning in school is supported and enriched by visitors who come into school, educational visits and special events. In previous years we have been visited by the fire brigade (with their fire engine), nurses, community police and dog handlers, artists from the village, soldiers, sportspeople and internet safety educators.



Educational visits have included trips to The Tower of London, The British Museum, Colchester Zoo, Duxford, Boydells Farm and Colchester Castle. We also regularly go out into the village as part of our learning in History, Geography and Art and Design.

We also invite members of the local community to come into school and share their expertise, running art projects, demonstrating skills and giving talks to the children.



Special days and weeks are organised regularly to enrich the experiences of our children. Science week is always full of awe and wonder and 'Bring Your Pet to School Day' is a firm favourite with everybody.

Every year we hold our Sports Days which are a great opportunity for our children to excel in Sport but also in leadership and team work. We invite parents to join us for a whole school picnic and to watch the races.





We hold regular charity events such as our annual 'Bardfield Bake Off' in aid of Macmillan along with regular dress-up days and cake sales for charities such as Children in Need, NSPCC and many other important charities.

We hold a Celebration Assembly to which we welcome parents, carers, friends and family. These are usually held at 9am on Friday mornings. There are certificates presented to children across the school who have demonstrated our core values of Courage, Compassion and Community.

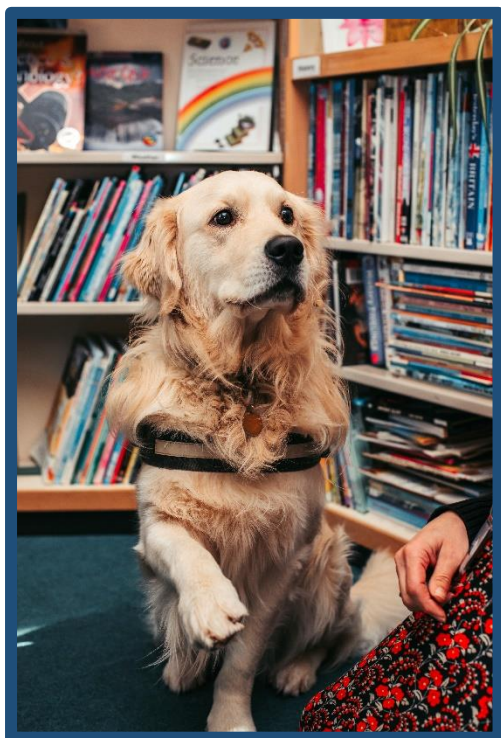


We also hold various special assemblies and events throughout the school year which you are welcome to attend. These include Harvest Assembly, our Nativity, Christmas Carol Concert and many more. We also hold regular 'Stay and Share' events where you can come into the classroom and your child can share their learning with you.

As you can see, we are a very busy and lively school and there are countless opportunities for our children to shine, not only academically, but also personally, socially, physically and creatively.



Our School Dog



Great Bardfield Primary School is proud to have its very own school dog, Bertie. Bertie is a friendly and gentle Golden Retriever who lives with Mrs Dodkins, our Ravilious Class teacher, and is a much-loved member of our school community.

Bertie plays an important role in supporting the wellbeing of our children. Many pupils enjoy spending time reading to him, which helps to build confidence, develop fluency and foster a love of books in a relaxed and supportive environment. Children also find comfort in talking to Bertie when they are feeling worried or anxious, as his calm nature helps them to feel settled and reassured.

Throughout the school day, Bertie can often be found joining in with a variety of activities, greeting children with a wagging tail and bringing smiles to faces wherever he goes. He helps pupils learn about responsibility, kindness and respect for animals, while also promoting positive relationships and emotional wellbeing.

When he is not busy supporting learning, Bertie enjoys relaxing on his bed, often snoozing peacefully during the afternoon while lessons continue around him. His presence has become a valued part of school life, and both children and staff look forward to seeing him when he visits.

Some of the benefits of having a school dog are:

- reading to a dog can be beneficial for reluctant readers (there is less pressure and less perceived judgement when reading to a dog)
- they can help children develop emotional literacy
- they can encourage children who are typically more withdrawn, to engage with and participate in school life
- they can help children to regulate their own behaviour
- dogs can teach children about responsibility and caring for animals.
- they can improve self-esteem for children

Extra-curricular clubs

We provide a wealth of clubs at lunchtime, before and after school to enrich the experiences of our children. These extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for fun and enjoyment whilst encouraging children to work together cooperatively and across different age groups. Our reception children can access our clubs from the Summer Term.

Some of our clubs are provided free of charge and some are parent paid. Teachers also offer academic tutoring at various points during the year to help children reach their full potential and make good progress.

Nature Club



Craft Club



Reading Cafe



Board Games Club



Uniform

Our school uniform consists of:

Navy Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo

White polo shirts with school logo or plain white polo shirts, white shirts or white blouses

Grey straight-legged trousers or grey tailored shorts*

Grey skirt or pinafore

Black 'school' shoes or trainers. (These must be completely black). Boots should only be worn outdoors in inclement weather.

Plain grey, navy or white socks or black, grey or navy tights.

*In the Summer term, blue and white checked dresses or culotte-style dresses are optional. Some children choose to wear shorts or leggings under their skirt or dress for modesty. These should be plain navy or white, if worn under a summer dress.

PE Uniform

Children will also require a change of clothing for PE lessons.

Plain navy blue or black shorts

Navy blue school PE shirt with school logo

Plain Trainers

Plain sweatshirt/hoodie and long tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE in winter.

Items marked with the school logo can be purchased through Brigade

<https://www.brigade.uk.com/parents/school/GR8379PD/>

Our PTA run a 'pre-loved' uniform shop, which has many good quality items. Email gbfobs@outlook.com for more details.

Further Information

Hair styles should be neat and tidy and promote our high standards of presentation. Long hair should be off the face in all lessons and fully tied back for PE. Parents may be asked to come to school to rectify unsuitable hair styles. There should be no extremes of style or colour and no shaved lines or patterns. Hair accessories should be discreet, plain and navy blue, white or black in colour.

Headscarves worn for religious reasons should be plain and navy blue, white or black in colour.

Children may choose a book bag or rucksack with the school logo or they may choose a pattern of their choice. We discourage large school bags as we do not

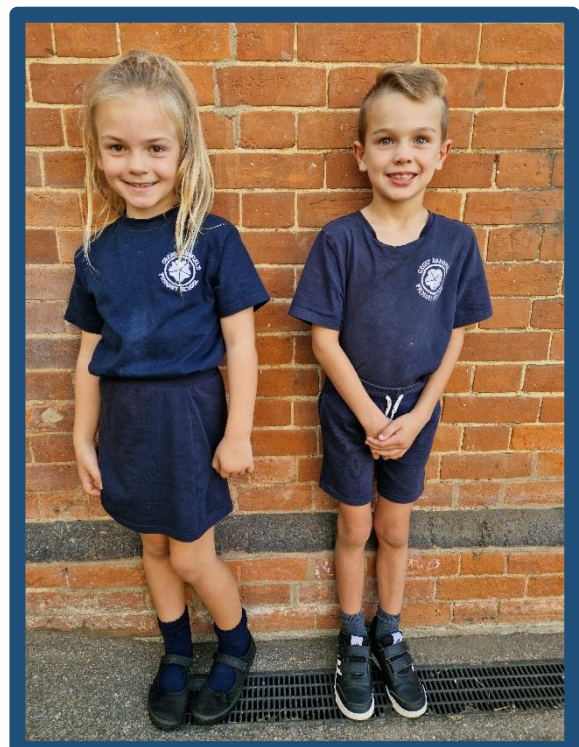
have space to store them in our cloakrooms. All basic equipment e.g. pencils, rulers, handwriting pens, colouring pencils are provided by school

Lunchboxes should be named clearly and taken home every day.

Water bottles should be named and they will be kept in the classroom other than when taken outside/to the hall for sports activities. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and should not bring other drinks into school.

Nail varnish, make up and jewellery are not to be worn, other than one pair of small, plain stud earrings which must be removed for PE and swimming. Children may wear small, discreet watches which must be removed for PE.

Reception, Year One and Year Two pupils will require indoor shoes (enclosed slippers or crocs), an all in one waterproof and wellingtons.



School Lunches

We have a wonderful catering team here at school who prepare and serve delicious school lunches to our children and staff.

Every day we serve a hot choice, jacket potatoes, freshly baked baguettes and wraps with a selection of fillings. Each day there is a pasta and salad bar and fresh fruit (**example** menu shown below).



Examples of our menus



Most children choose a school lunch but you are, of course, welcome to provide your child with a packed lunch from home. We ask that you follow the guidelines below in order to help us continue to be a 'Healthy School' and keep all of our children safe and well.

Lunchboxes should contain;

- A sandwich/wrap/ suitable starchy food such as pasta, rice, etc.
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- No fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars
- No products containing nuts

For more hints and tips on lunchboxes, follow this link: [Lunchbox ideas and recipes - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/lunchbox-ideas-and-recipes)



In Reception, your child will receive funded school meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) grant from the Government. These are currently provided to all children up until the end of Year 2.

If you are currently in receipt of Universal Credit your child will also qualify for free school meals when they move into Year 3 and beyond. If you claim this benefit, the school may be able to access extra funding so it is important to make this claim even if

your child is in Reception.

Find out more by contacting Sara in our office who can run a confidential check for you.

Great Bardfield School P.T.A.

We are very lucky to have a committed group of parents and friends who organise fund raising events throughout the school year. With school budgets being pulled ever more tightly, the work of our PTA has never been more important in securing the best resources and experiences for our children.

On joining our school, you automatically become a member of the PTA. You are invited to attend their AGM, held in the Autumn Term, along with regular meetings and events held throughout the year. These meetings are great fun and a lovely way to get to know other members of our school community.



Some of the events our PTA have organised in the past are discos for our children, our Colour Run, Shop 'til You Drop (a Christmas market where children buy and wrap their own presents for their family) and of course, our Scarecrow Festival in the Autumn Term.



In recent years, the PTA have funded; new swimming pool changing rooms, whole school trips to the pantomime, sets of iPads and countless classroom resources. They have provided our wonderful Oxlip Building with almost all of the furniture and resources needed to set up three classrooms. The experiences of our children are enhanced greatly by the hard work of our PTA team.

We all lead busy lives yet just a little bit of your time goes a long way to helping the PTA raise vital funds.

After all, 'many hands make light work' and what better way to show our children the meaning and value of teamwork than by giving your time and joining the team.

Joining our school in Reception September 2026

Once you have been allocated a place at our school we will then send you a Welcome Pack giving you lots of information and telling you about our induction process.

Your child will be invited to attend three induction sessions before the end of the summer term. Please ensure you do not book holidays which clash with these dates. It is important that your child is able to benefit from these transition opportunities

We invite new parents to come along to our induction meeting on **Wednesday 8th July at 9.45am-10.15am** (during your child's third induction session).

Mrs Francis, our Reception teacher, and Mrs Dolby, our Learning Support Assistant, will make an appointment to come and visit you and your child at home during the Summer Term (15th/16th June).

Date	What will happen
School Visits (Summer Term)	Your child will have three opportunities to come and visit their new classroom and meet their teachers. Wednesday 24th June 9.45am-10.15am Wednesday 1st July 9.45am-10.15am Wednesday 8th July 9.45am-10.15am
Home visits Monday 15th June Tuesday 16th June (Summer Term)	We will email you a time to come and visit you at home with your child. The visits will last no more than 20 minutes and please be reassured that we are not checking up on you. It is simply an opportunity to get to know you better and for your child to feel more comfortable knowing that trusted adults have come to visit them from school.
Thursday 3rd September	Your child will arrive by 8.45am and stay until 12.15pm. They will have lunch on this day.
Friday 4th September	Your child will arrive by 8.45am and stay all day and be collected at 3.15pm.

Admissions Information

The Schools Planning and Admissions Department at Essex County Council allocate our intake of children wishing to join Great Bardfield Primary School. In the first instance you will need to contact 0845 603 2200 to request a common application form or apply online at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

At Great Bardfield Primary School all children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 will be admitted in full time education in the Autumn term of 2026. Please note that the published number for the September 2026 intake is 20 children.

For mid-year applications to Great Bardfield Primary School please contact us so that we can let you know if we have space in your child's year group and if not, we will add your child to the continued interest list which we hold. Please note that Mid-year applications also need to be sent to the Local Authority, Planning and Admissions in the normal way either by contacting 0845 6032200 or applying online at www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Pages/Applying-mid-year-for-a-school-place.aspx

Children resident outside Essex should refer to the process for handling late applications published by their home local authority. All mid-year applications will be processed by Essex County Council.

There is no guarantee for a place for children living in the priority admission area. If applications for admissions exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit.

1. Children Looked After *
2. Children with a sibling** attending the school
3. Children living in the catchment area***
4. Remaining Applications****

*Children Looked After or children who have previously been looked after by the Local Authority.

**Sibling is defined as a child living in the same family unit, in the same family household and address as a child who attends the preferred school or partner school in any year group excluding the final year. This, therefore, includes brothers and sisters, adopted brothers and sisters or stepbrothers and stepsisters living in the same family unit in the same family household. In addition, biological siblings, in any year group excluding the final year, will be treated as siblings irrespective of place of residence. Children residing in the same household as part of an extended family, such as cousins, will not be treated as siblings.

***A map showing the defined catchment area is available from the Local Authority upon request.

****In the event of over-subscription within any of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given the highest priority. Essex County Council will supply straight line distances as defined in the Primary Education in Essex booklet

We hope this prospectus has given you some useful information to help in making the big decision of choosing a primary school for your child.

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like some more information.

Contact us:

Telephone: 01371 810252

Email: admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.greatbardfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

