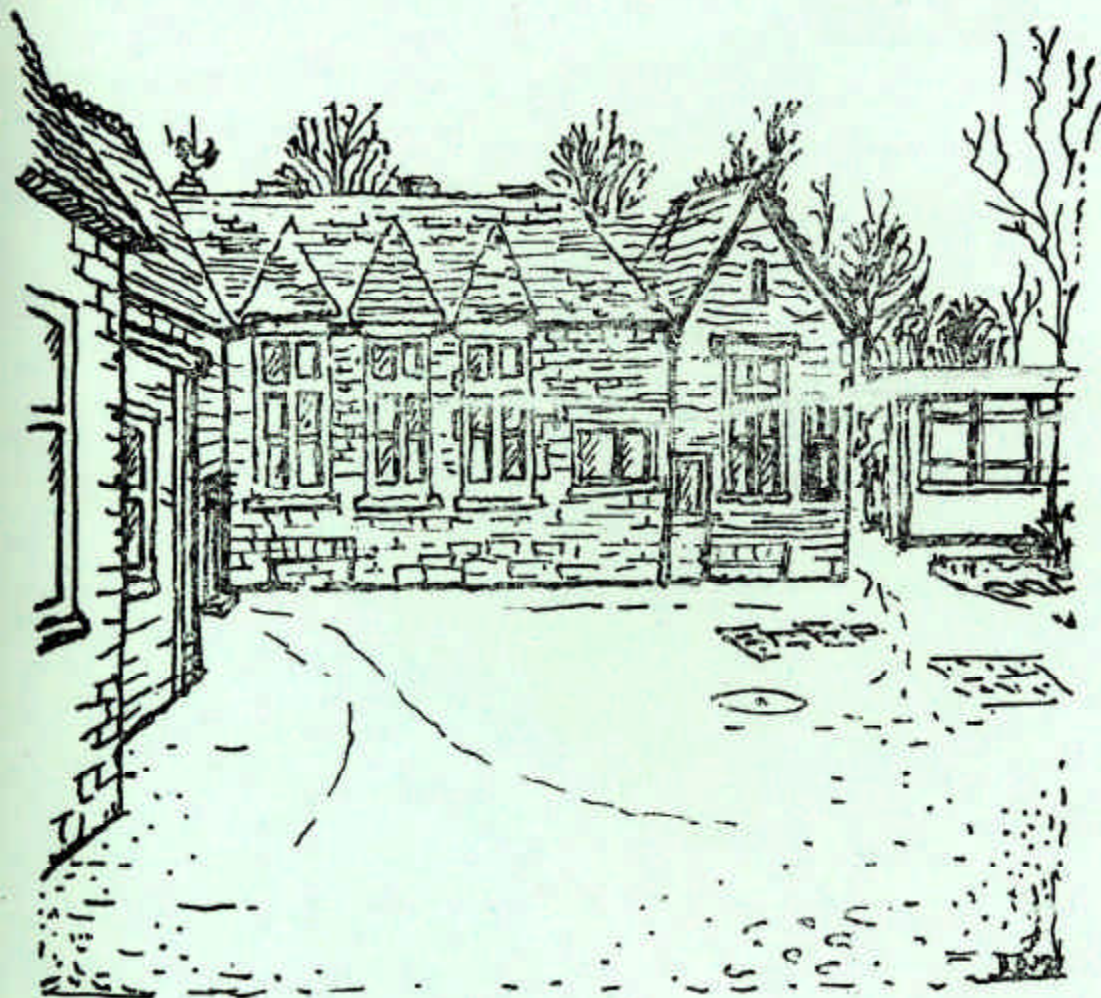


HEREFORD AND WORCESTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



**BADSEY
FIRST SCHOOL**

PROSPECTUS

BADSEY FIRST SCHOOL
SCHOOL LANE, BADSEY, EVESHAM, WORCS., WR11 5ES.
TEL: 830325

HEADMASTER - MR. T. CLARK. B.A. Dip. Ed.

Teaching Staff

MRS. E. E. DIGBY	- Deputy Headteacher (Responsibility for Maths)
MRS. Y. E. BOWRING. B.A.	- Responsibility for Language
MR. D. E. DODDRIDGE. A.C.P.	- Responsibility for Science/Music
MRS. P. M. GORIN	- Responsibility for Art & Display
MRS. E. J. T. B. JAMES	- Responsibility for Pastoral Care/ Liaison/Environmental Studies
MRS. M. E. MCGOWAN	- Responsibility for Reception age range/Music
MRS. J. A. WATKIN	-
Secretary	- MRS. R. M. PICKERING
Caretaker	- MRS. M. KNIGHT
County Education Officer County Education Office, Castle Street, Worcester WR1 3AG.	- MR. J. W. TURNBULL. M.A., B.Sc. (Ec)
District Education Officer Kingfisher House, Kingfisher Walk, Redditch, Worcs., B97 4EP.	- MR. G. D. WATSON, M.A.

School Government

The school is governed by a governing body composed of Governors appointed through the Local Authority and the minor authorities (Parish Councils).

Chairman of Governors	- Mrs. P. G. Osborne, "Bereta", Aldington, Evesham, Worcs.,
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Other Governors' names are listed and displayed on the main school door.

General Information

The Head and Staff are pleased to provide the following basic information about our school.

It is a county school for children aged five to ten years and it is co-educational.

Admission to school takes place at five years according to Local Authority regulations and at the age of ten children transfer to Blackminster Middle School.

School Times

9.15.a.m. - 12.15.p.m.

1.20.p.m. - 3.30.p.m.

Registration will take place at 9.20.a.m. and 1.25.p.m. Children arriving after this will be marked absent. We wish to discourage persistent late comers.

The school cannot accept responsibility for children on school premises, including the grounds, for more than ten minutes before each session. Parents are asked to ensure that their children arrive not earlier than 9.05.a.m. and 1.10.p.m. Those children travelling by bus will have difficulty arriving accurately to these times and we accept that fact. Children should not be on premises after 3.40.p.m. except for those with special transport arrangements or children taking part in after-school functions.

School Meals

Free school meals are available in the form of a packed lunch consisting of sandwiches, biscuits, fruit, etc. As a rule children of parents receiving Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement are automatically entitled but an application form (S.M.12) must be filled in. This is available from the school.

School Meals, cont'd

No discrimination applies to children receiving free sandwich meals and arrangements are made to ensure privacy.

Facilities are provided for sandwich diners, including water to drink.

Parents are asked, on safety grounds, not to sent hot drinks.

All children on the register for sandwiches are supervised by school meals Supervisors (known as 'Pink Ladies').

Parents are reminded that standards of good behaviour must be maintained in the interests of safety and discipline.

School Cross Patrol/Parking

As School Lane can, at times, be a very busy road there is a great element of danger to the children. A School Crossing Patrol is available at the following times for the children's safety.

8.45. - 9.15.a.m.

3.30. - 4.00.p.m.

The provision of a Crossing Patrol Officer is not obligatory upon the Education Committee and, therefore, should the officer not be available, the responsibility to cross the children over the road lies with the parents.

The school always tries to advise parents when the Crossing Patrol is unavailable. Clearly this is not always possible in the case of sudden illness.

TO MAINTAIN SAFETY AND A CLEAR VIEW FOR BOTH THE CROSSING PATROL OFFICER AND DRIVERS, PARENTS ARE ASKED NOT TO PARK THEIR CAR IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL WITH THE ZIG ZAG MARKINGS.

The police have advised that parking within these markings is an offence for which a driving licence can be endorsed.

A LIFE IS WORTH A FEW SECONDS' INCONVENIENCE.

Curriculum

The maximum number of children catered for in school is published by the Education Authority annually. Priority is given to children living in the vicinity of the school. The children are admitted and arranged in classes of roughly the same age and of varying abilities. Each class is in the charge of one teacher who is responsible for the children's work and behaviour.

All areas of the curriculum are planned by the Headmaster and Staff who carry out continual assessment of the teaching and its results.

The Reading Scheme followed is Reading 360 (Ginn). This is a well structured scheme covering all levels of reading ability from 5 - 13 plus. Each level contains school readers and home readers, which are read for enjoyment. Matched to each level are language sheets to give children practice in writing, word skills, phonics and understanding. Levels 8 - 13 contain comprehension cards and sheets. There is also a wide variety of extension schemes and supplementary readers to cater for both the more able children and for those experiencing difficulty. We would discourage parents from trying to obtain copies of this scheme.

We concentrate on teaching Mathematics for understanding and provide the children with as many practical experiences as possible. A central scheme of Scottish Primary Mathematics (Heinemann) is followed by all the children but here again resources are available as extension schemes for the more able or those who find Mathematics a problem. These schemes include Maths Adventure and Hey Maths amongst many others.

A structured Handwriting Scheme (Nelson) operates throughout the whole school and good standards of presentation are sought at all times. The correct formation of letters is vitally important from a very early age. *If you do any writing with your child at home please make sure that all the letters are formed in the correct direction.*

If you yourself are unsure of this please see your child's teacher.

Phonics are taught through the Pictogram System and form an early and vital reinforcement to reading and spelling.

Incorrect spellings are adjusted through learning, regular reading and dictionaries. At the early stage confidence to write is all important. For example, to allow a child only to use a word when it can be spelt correctly could lead to frustration; *better for the child who understands the word 'saturated' to use it spelt as 'sacherated' and correct it later, than use the word 'wet' for fear of mis-spelling.*

Sex education is taught by following the B.B.C. television series. This is a series of 3 television programmes screened some time during the summer term.

The programmes are usually followed by the eight or nine year old children. A letter will be sent to the parents of those concerned closer to the time of viewing. This will inform parents when their child is viewing the programme as many parents like to view at home. Parents, of course, will be given a chance to withdraw their children from the programme if they consider that they are too immature, for example, to benefit. Otherwise as with all other areas of the curriculum all children are expected to participate fully.

Religious education is statutory within the State system, is undenominational in character and is taught in accordance with an agreed syllabus. The school day normally begins with an act of collective worship. Questions of religious differences can be discussed with the Head.

Physical Education is a vital part of the curriculum and children should always take part. Parents should not encourage children to ask to be excused except in unusual circumstances, e.g. following a serious illness.

The Staff make every effort to keep up to date in their teaching and ensure that the children gain the benefit of modern equipment which will help their learning. This is an expensive undertaking which means that the school has to rely heavily on parental help.

P.T.A.

The school has a flourishing P.T.A. of which all parents are automatically members. Educational, social and fund raising events are organised throughout the year and it is hoped to see many parents able to participate.

An Annual General Meeting is held each September at which the committee for the coming year is elected. During this meeting you will be able to see and hear of the many ways in which the P.T.A. is able to improve the facilities and resources within the school.

Behaviour

Good standards of behaviour are essential in any community. The school adopts a policy of high expectation and good example. The staff reward and encourage polite and considerate behaviour. This is very successful and punishment is kept to a necessary minimum. Parents would be notified if their child presented serious or prolonged misbehaviour.

School Uniform

There is a school sweatshirt which is navy blue with an embroidered school design. These can be ordered through school and generally orders will go out whenever there is a demand. A pale blue T-shirt with the school design is also available for summer wear.

The school does have a uniform. This is entirely optional and no parent has to send their child in uniform if they do not wish to. The uniform is as follows:-

Boys

Grey trousers
Plain blue or white shirt
Navy blue pullover

Girls

Navy or grey skirt or pinafore dress
Blue blouse - plain or checked
Navy blue pullover or cardigan

Blue/yellow tie

Summer - Parent's choice of dress style made up in blue and white check material

All these items have been chosen as they are freely available in most stores selling children's clothes. The tie is available from school if you are unable to obtain one elsewhere.

P.E. Clothing

All children are expected to change for P.E. A spare top, shorts and pumps in a drawstring bag should be brought to school each day. In some classes a P.E. top of a certain colour is provided by the school (through P.T.A. Funds). This top becomes the child's responsibility for the year they are in that class.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL PERSONAL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY LABELED. WOVEN NAME TAPES (CASH'S) ARE THE MOST SUITABLE AS THE NAMES DO NOT WASH OUT.

School Rules

The few rules which are regarded as necessary are strongly enforced. These are:-

1. No child can be allowed to leave the premises during school without a written request and should preferably be collected by an adult.
2. No child is allowed to play in the school grounds after school, at weekends or in the holidays.
3. After absence a note signed by either parent is necessary or notification by telephone.
4. Children should not bring articles of value to school. When this is unavoidable items of value must be handed into the class teacher for safe keeping.
5. Jewellery should be avoided.

Medicine

As a rule we are not able to administer medicine on the school premises. If your child is well enough to return to school but is still undergoing a course of treatment arrangements can be made for you to administer the medicine if you wish. *If medicine is due three times a day this can usually be dealt with by giving one dose before your child leaves for school, one dose as soon as they arrive home from school and one at bed time.*

Home Circumstances

Administrative errors and, more importantly, remarks which can cause distress to children can be avoided if we are informed in confidence of any changes in home circumstances. *Such information should be sent directly to the Headmaster and will be dealt with in strict confidence.*

How can I help before my child starts school?

Even the youngest children enjoy feeling independent. Being able to dress themselves, take themselves to the toilet, etc., are very important skills to start school with.

* Should I teach him/her to read?

A short answer is - No! Very often familiarity with different reading material only serves to confuse children when they meet school reading material for the first time.

What can I do then?

Read with your child. Show him the enjoyment to be gained from the written word. Show how to turn the pages. Teach the direction in which we read. Point out individual words. If your child is ready to read we will soon begin once he is in school.

* Should I teach him/her to write?

If your child shows an interest in writing don't discourage him. Show how to hold a pencil correctly. Teach him to write his name using lower case (small letters) but starting with a capital. Please do not teach your child to print using CAPITALS!

How about teaching sums?

Mathematical concepts are best taught by a skilled teacher. You can encourage good number sense, however. Make a point of always counting with your child - going up or down stairs, putting on socks or gloves, sharing out sweets. Involve your child in the many activities in which you find counting features.

How can I help once my child has started school?

Take an interest and be ready to listen when your child returns from school. Many children see their schoolday as very personal, so don't push them if they don't want to talk. Find a place to display the occasional picture they bring home.

How soon will he/she be given a reading book?

That depends entirely on the child. Even a child who starts on the reading scheme very early might not bring a book home for a while. Even then it might not be the exact book he is reading to his teacher but one at a parallel level to be read purely for enjoyment.

* How often should I hear him/her read?

As often as your child wants you to or as often as the teacher asks you to. Remember your child works very hard at school during quite a long day. He/she needs relaxation time as much as adults returning home after a hard day.

Don't pressurize - anxiety is one of the largest causes of reading failure. If you have any problems or worries contact your child's teacher at once.

What about extra help outside school hours?

Again your child can only do so much. Very often children who are given extra tuition after school spend their school days trying to avoid the work set by their teacher. This, of course, is a waste of everyone's time.

It can't be emphasized strongly enough that we are here to help your child in whatever way is needed. If you are worried come in to see your child's teacher. Make an appointment if you need time together. (*9.15.a.m. - as the children are coming into school is not the best time to discuss problems*). 'Phone up and make an appointment to see the Headteacher. I am available most of the school day and am willing to talk over any worries or anxieties.

The school and the local Authority have very clearly organized structures to deal with children experiencing problems during their school career. This applies to all children regardless of ability. *We recognise that the more able child deserves just as much of our attention.*

- * All children have individual needs, however, and you as parents will know whether this is right for your child.

Hearing Children Read - Some 'Do's and Don'ts'

DO

- Make sure the atmosphere is happy and relaxed.
- Let him sit very close to you.
- Talk to him about the picture first (Infants).
- Read the page to him first (Infants).
- Place just a slight emphasis on new words and point to them at the same time.
- Give him plenty of time to read it to you.
- Smooth out difficulties by telling him words he doesn't know. Repeat the whole sentence that the word is in and let him do again.
- Remember, it's fun not homework.
- Give lots of praise.

DON'T

- Make reading an unpleasant task.
- Threaten to tell his teacher if he doesn't do it.
- Make the child think he is in competition with anyone else.
- Show anxiety about any disinterest.
- Be afraid to ask for help and advice from any of the teachers however trivial you feel the trouble is.
- Ask your children to read with the television on.
- Spend much more than ten minutes at a time (Infants).
- Worry!