

St Mary's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School



Prospectus 2010 – 2011

Telephone 01547 530 264
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Bucknell
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www.bucknellprimaryschool.org.uk



History of our School

The Old School House was built in the 17th century to provide education for those who could pay for it. The school remained until the present one was built in 1865.

The Old School House then became a shop and bakery before becoming a private dwelling. The land upon which the present school was built was given in 1865. The first schoolmaster appointed in 1867 to the new St Mary's National School was Mr Henry Evans, 24 years old. The school was extensively re-modelled in 1966 when additional teaching space and a kitchen was added enabling meals to be cooked on the premises.



Mission Statement for St Mary's, Bucknell

St Mary's School is at the heart of the community whose values and traditions it reflects.

St Mary's School is a safe, happy environment which aims to foster a joy of learning through a broad curriculum with an emphasis on creativity and the children becoming independent learners.

We aim to provide a stimulating educational environment within the framework of a caring Christian ethos that will develop the children's' academic, physical and social education as well as their emotional and spiritual well being.

Children will be expected to be polite tolerant (through knowledge of the culturally diverse nature of our society), caring and considerate.

The Values of Our School

1. Creativity
2. Teamwork
3. Respect for Ourselves
4. Respect for Others
5. Respect for the environment

Enjoyment of Learning and Achievement





Headteacher: Miss Anna Cook

Dear Parents

Welcome to our school!

St Mary's is a Church of England (Aided), co-educational school which caters for children between the ages of 4 and 11 years.

This booklet contains information about our school which will help you and your child to settle quickly and happily into school life. Being a member of a school community can be exciting and rewarding for both child and parent and we look forward to working with you as part of that community.



If you need further information please do not hesitate to contact me.
With best wishes,

Miss Anna Cook
Headteacher



Staff List Showing Curriculum Co-ordinator

Headteacher

Miss A Cook

The Headteacher is responsible for the effective teaching in all curriculum subjects

Teacher

Miss K Watkins

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



Teacher

Mrs K Hazan



SEN Staff

Mrs T Beddoes



Miss J Corley



Mrs M Ramsay



Ms S Soughton



Administrator

Mrs J Morgan



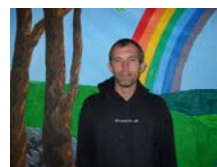
Lunchtime Supervisor

Miss L Evans



Cleaner

Mr S Coleman



Cook

Mrs S Howells



Kitchen Assistant

Mrs E Traylor



Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

It is a pleasure to be a member of the governing board of our wonderful school.

The work of the board of governors can be routine, but it is vital for the smooth running and excellent education of our future, our children. Some of our work is exciting, challenging and exceptionally rewarding. All of our work is although underpinning the health of our school is supportive to the education and enthusiasm of Anna Cook and her proven and capable team of educationalists.



On our many visits to the school it is clear that the capable, motivating leadership shown by Anna ensures that our pupils needs are well met at all levels.

One of my joys in life is to see our future nurtured in the way that only a small school, such as ours, can. On the many trips I have been fortunate enough to be involved in, the way our pupils conduct themselves and care for each other makes me very proud.

You can be guaranteed that at whatever level you are involved with St Marys that it will be a rewarding and exciting experience that you will treasure.

Yours sincerely

Sebastian Morgan-Clare



The School Buildings and Grounds

Our rural village school is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty in South Shropshire. It occupies a beautiful Victorian Grade 2 listed building, which was built in 1865 and enlarged and extended in 1966. The extensive playing fields, with their views of the surrounding countryside and abundance of trees, provide a wonderful place for our children to play and learn. There is also a hard playground area and a low level adventure playground with an all weather surface. We also have a purpose built play area for our younger children to use.



There are three classrooms and a large recently refurbished hall, which is used for dining, P.E. music, drama and collective worship. One classroom is used for teaching small groups of children.

The village playgroup meets in our hall on three mornings per week.

The local Brownie pack also uses the hall for their weekly meeting.



Admissions

First days at school for young children are a mixture of all kinds of emotions. The school day and its demands can be quite daunting and at first very tiring.



In order to introduce the school to you and your child, we invite you to spend some time with us in an informal way. Your child will be invited to attend school for a programme of visits during the term before he or she is due to start school. This gentle introduction should make your child's first day a little less daunting – and your own at home less anxious.

Class 1

You will also be invited to a meeting with the Head Teacher and Foundation Stage Teacher to discuss your child and support successful induction during the half term before they start school.

At the end of the summer term of the year in which they have their eleventh birthday they transfer to Secondary school, usually to Ludlow School, Wigmore High School or to Bishops Castle Community College. The school has excellent links with these schools, and every effort is made to make the transfer as easy as possible. Parents will be informed in advance of details and options relating to the transfer of secondary education.



Our Year 6 pupils who transferred to secondary education July 2010

Visiting the School

Prospective parents are very welcome to visit the school and may do so by phoning Mrs Morgan, the school administrator, to arrange a visit. The Headteacher will be very pleased to discuss any issues relating to your child's transfer at this time.

ST MARY'S C.E. (V.A.) PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUCKNELL

Admissions Policy 2010/11

St Mary's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School, Bucknell, and as such its Governing Body has responsibility for its own admissions. The admissions processes are, however, co-ordinated by Shropshire Council, which is the Local Authority (LA). If you would like your child to be admitted to St Mary's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School, please contact the head teacher in the first instance, giving the name and date of birth of your child(ren). The Shropshire Council's application form will be sent to you which you will need to complete and return to the school by 15 January preceding the beginning of the academic year in which you wish your child to start school. All applications received by the closing date will be considered. Parents will be informed by early April if they have been allocated a place for their child. See the table below which sets out the timetable.

5th birthday falls	Due to start school	Time to apply by	Allocations made
1.9.06 – 31.12.06	September 2011	15 January 2011	April 2011
1.1.07 – 31.8.07	January 2012	15 January 2011	April 2012

Admissions 2010 / 2011

Date of Allocation	Admission Limit	No. of 1 st preferences received	Total places allocated	No of 2 nd preferences allocated	No of 3 rd preferences allocated
April 2010	8	5	5	0	0

All schools have an admission limit for each year group. The admission number for Reception year will be 8 at this school. Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names Bucknell St Mary's CE (Aided) Primary School as the appropriate school will be allocated places first after which, if applications exceed the admission number, places will be allocated up to the admission number according to the following criteria in order of priority:

1. Looked After Children in public care.
2. Children living in the designated catchment area and who have an older sibling at the school on the date they are due to start;
3. Other children living inside the designated catchment area and whose homes are nearest to the school;

4. Children living outside the catchment area and who have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start and whose homes are nearest to the school;
5. Other children living outside the catchment area and whose homes are nearest to the school.
6. Children with medical or special circumstances. This will only be considered if parents can provide written medical evidence that St Mary's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School is essential to the medical well-being of their child. In such cases priority may be given above those children who qualify under priorities 2 – 5.

Notes

A sibling connection is defined as a brother or sister, step-brother or step-sister, half-brother or half-sister, living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 – 16 years). Adopted siblings are also included. Older siblings must be attending the school on the date the younger sibling is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in a home in order to establish an “in catchment area” address will not be given priority under the sibling criterion.

For admissions purposes all distances are measured as a straight line distance on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest entrance gate of the relevant school by pinpointing their Eastings and Northings. The shortest distance being given highest priority. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat nearest to the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance.

In the case of twins or triplets from the same address the school will endeavour to admit both or all siblings. However if this were to breach the Key Stage One class size regulation of no more than 30 in a class then the parent will be asked to choose which child should be offered the place.

Tie Breaker:

In the event that two individual applications are exactly the same after all other criteria have been taken into account a tie breaker will be used. This will be by random allocation and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process.

All applications will be considered by the Admissions Committee according to the admissions criteria above. Parents will be notified during the first week in April of the decision on the allocation of places by letter from Shropshire Council on behalf of the Governing Body. Should the admission be refused, parents may ask for a review, by writing to the Chairman of Governors at the school, who will refer the request to the Governors' Review/Appeals Committee. This Committee will not include the Headteacher and Chairman. At the same time the applicant's name will be placed on a Waiting List which will be kept for a full school year.

Any applications which do not arrive until after the closing date will not normally be considered until after the allocation date, unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as a house move from another area. Parents are therefore advised that if they do not apply at the correct time, they may not get a place at their preferred school as it may be filled by other applicants.

Such late applications can be included on the Waiting List along with those have been unsuccessful at the allocation stage and their application will be reviewed if a place comes available. If there are several applicants the allocation will be made according to the admissions criteria.

If the application is still unsuccessful, parents will have the right to pursue their case through an Independent Appeals Panel which will be arranged by Shropshire Council. This procedure has been agreed with the Shropshire Council and the Hereford Diocesan Board of Education and is in accordance with the DCSF Code of Practice on School Admissions Appeals. The form required for an Appeal can be obtained via the school or the Admissions Team, Shropshire Council. If still unsuccessful at appeal the applicant's name will be kept on the Waiting List until the end of the first school year.

Where parents move into the school's catchment area at a time other than prior to the child starting in Reception, please arrange to visit the school. You will be informed if there are any places available in the child's year group. If there are then arrangements will be made for your child to start. If not then parents should follow the procedure set out in the above paragraph.

Parents are advised that if your child is attending the nursery attached to the school this gives no guarantee or right of admission in to the mainstream school. Equally children do not have to attend the nursery in order to qualify for a place at the school. Parents must complete an application form for the mainstream school.

Children do not have to start full-time school until the start of the term after their 5th birthday. If this happens with Autumn or Spring born children this simply means the child starts a term later but in the same academic year. If a Summer born child defers entry to Autumn, then they will then enter into Year 1, and not into Reception Year. However, a place may not be reserved into the next academic year and parents/carers will have to make a new application.

We will give you a copy of Shropshire Council's publication "Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire". Please read this carefully as it contains important information about making a preference for primary schools and the need to consider making more than one preference, in case we cannot meet your preference for this school.

There is no cost associated with the admissions process to any Shropshire LA maintained school.

Our Christian Foundation

At our school we try to ensure that children learn and grow in a predominantly Christian environment.



Our school is closely linked with the village church of St Mary's and both are important focal points of the village of Bucknell. Children who attend the school will visit the church and are given opportunities to take part in practical aspects of church life. We aim to further develop links with other groups, with individuals and with the local and wider community.

Children will take part in a daily act of worship and there will be opportunities to develop spiritual awareness through prayer and reflection. We will encourage the children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them. We will also help them to develop an understanding and empathy towards the needs and beliefs of others and a consideration of other faiths through our religious education and personal, social and health education and citizenship programmes.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child/ren from religious education and collective worship. Parents who wish to do this should make an appointment to speak to the headteacher so that arrangements can be made. Alternative provision will be made for any pupils who are withdrawn in the form of consolidation or extension of other curricular work.



From the Vicar...

The Village School is usually known as "The School" or "Bucknell School", yet its full title is St Mary's Church of England (Aided) Primary School. Although we rarely use the full title, it does show that the school is involved in partnerships. For example, the Local Education Authority and the Diocese of Hereford work together to care for the building, the church nominates a number of foundation governors, the staff work with the pupils and families to provide good quality education for the children and the school and the church work together to help the children develop an awareness of spiritual values.

The RE work is imaginative and highly creative, using a variety of ways to help the children reflect and think about the topics found in the curriculum. Children will sometimes go to the church to do work on, for example, patterns, colours, the use of water in baptism, the role of the church in the village. Each week there is a whole school assembly led by the Vicar and four times a year the school worship in church - at Harvest, at Christmas, at Easter and at the end of the school year. These services are prepared by children, teachers and the Vicar, and again the worship is creative and it takes seriously the spiritual development of young people.

School Session Times and School Organisation

School begins at 9.00 am. Children should arrive at school between 8.50 a.m. and 8.55 a.m. We aim to develop the children's independence and would be grateful therefore if you would leave them at the door to make their own way into school once they feel happy to do so. Of course, we appreciate that when they are new to school, some children may like their parents to accompany them to the classroom for the first few days and this is quite acceptable.

The best time to speak to the teachers is at the end of the day, so that the start of the first session is not delayed and so that the children can be quickly settled into their school day, indeed if you need to see a member of staff please call before 8.50, or alternatively make an appointment with Mrs Morgan.

Morning break is from 10.35 a.m. to 10.50 am and the morning session ends at 12.00 o'clock.

Afternoon school begins at 1.00 p.m. with a break between 2.30 p.m. and 2.40 p.m. for the infants. The session finishes at 3.15 p.m.

Please note that teachers can only be held responsible for children during the school day and for 10 minutes before and after it.

If you normally meet your child from school and an emergency arises which prevents you from getting to school, please telephone and let us know. We will always make arrangements to care for your child in such circumstances until you arrive.

Class Arrangements

The school is divided into two classes. Children start in the Key Stage1 class and, after their seventh birthday, move into the Key Stage 2 class where they will stay for the rest of their time with us.



Emergency Closures

If we are forced to close school due to extreme weather conditions, an announcement will be made on Radio Shropshire and Beacon Radio. The closure will be recorded on the Shropshire Council Website. www.shropshirecouncil.gov.uk. The media (BBC Radio Shropshire 95 FM), Beacon Radio 103.1FM and Sunshine 855 (855AM 01584 878475/877855) will then broadcast details.

We have a texting service which is used to notify parents of forthcoming events and changes to the school day.

In extreme circumstances, we may have to close the school during the day. Please make sure that we have a note of people you nominate to take care of your child, should we be unable to contact you.

Positive Behaviour Management and Pastoral Care

Effective pastoral care depends on mutual respect, confidence and understanding between the home and the school. We aim to motivate children through praise and reward for good behaviour.

We believe that it is important to encourage each individual:

- to understand that the school community depends on the co-operation and goodwill of all;
- to understand the need for self control and acceptable behaviour;
- to think of the needs of others and
- to show good manners.

Rules are intended to ensure that the children are safe:

- No child is allowed to leave the school premises without the permission of a member of staff.
- Children may not run in the corridors, classrooms or hall, except during P.E. lessons.
- In the event of a fire or other emergency, children should leave the school building immediately, in an orderly manner, under the guidance of their teacher.

All children thrive when they are happy and have high levels of self-esteem.. We have adopted a comprehensive, 'whole school' approach to children's social and emotional well-being., creating an ethos that supports positive behaviours for learning and for successful relationships. The school aims to provide an emotionally secure and safe environment that prevents any form of bullying or violence.

Older children mentor our younger children promoting and encouraging them to be caring and responsible

Our Code of Conduct is prominently displayed in school. All the children soon come to know and understand it. It is:

- Never hurt anyone on purpose. (This means feelings too.)
- Keep yourself safe.
- Always be polite.
- Always treat your own and other people's property with care.
- (We have a positive behaviour policy in place which includes our anti-bullying statement. Please ask to see it if you wish.

Illness, Absence and Medicines

If your child is absent from school, please telephone the office as soon as possible during the morning so that we know that all the children are safely accounted for. Please also send an explanatory note on their return to school. If you need to collect your child for a doctor or dental appointment, please let the class teacher know and they will be happy for you to collect him or her at the appropriate time.

It is important for the school to have an up to date emergency number contact telephone number in case your child is taken ill at school.

The headteacher or school administrator will give medicine if it has been prescribed by a doctor and if you have completed a form in the office giving full instructions and consent. Medicines must be handed in at the office. On no account must they be taken into the classrooms or play areas

Please let us know if your child has any medical condition, such as asthma, an allergy, diabetes, etc and what arrangements you wish to be made for regular and emergency treatment.

We currently have three First Aiders at Work; Mrs Morgan, Miss Evans and Miss Corley.

Paediatric First Aiders; Mrs Beddoes and Miss Watkins

Forest School First Aid; Mrs Beddoes



Absences

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time to go on a family holiday please ask at the office for a holiday form. We are aware that sometimes it is difficult to arrange a holiday during school breaks. Please note though that it needs to be discussed with the headteacher first. Any more becomes unauthorised absence unless special permission is given by application to the Board of Governors.

We do ask you not to take your children out of school during term time unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

School Health Service

The following information sets out the arrangements for routine services provided by the School Health Service in conjunction with the school.

The school has a School Nurse who is based at Church Stretton Health Centre and whose telephone number is 01694 723893. The school also has a School Doctor, who is a Community Paediatrician.

During your child's first term at school, he or she will be offered a general health check, including a measurement of height and weight, and a hearing test to be carried out by the school nurse. At some time during the first year at school, your child will also have a vision test carried out by the Orthoptist.

The School Health Service now operates a system of selective medicals. During their first year, and preferably their second term at school children are considered for such medicals if concerns are expressed by the School Nurse, School Doctor or parents. In all cases full discussion will take place with parents and parental consent obtained before any examination takes place.

If you have any concerns about your child's health in school, including bedwetting, soiling and behaviour at home, you can contact the School Nurse who will be pleased to discuss those concerns with the Doctor. The Doctor will then contact you and may arrange an appointment to see you and your child if necessary.

When your child starts school you are asked to sign the following forms:-

Medical Examination Form. This is a requirement of the Health Authority on which you are asked to give your consent for routine medical examinations.

Medical Consent Form. This is a safety requirement of the school. Should your child need emergency treatment, and a parent cannot be contacted, it may be that a doctor will require this form before giving treatment. On this form you should state any relevant medical details you think we should know and which might affect your child in a case of emergency e.g. your child being allergic to penicillin.

School Uniform

We have the following uniform:

- Black, navy or grey trousers shorts, skirt or pinafore,
- White polo shirt,
- Blue school sweatshirt,
- Comfortable shoes with low heels.

School sweatshirts are available from the office, currently priced from £5.90



Games and Outdoor Clothing

All children will need a white T shirt, a pair of navy/black shorts and a pair of plimsolls or trainers for P.E. lessons. Football boots are allowed for field work. In cold weather children may bring a pair of jogging trousers for outside games lessons and will be allowed to wear their sweatshirts.



It will be necessary to provide your children with suitable clothes and footwear for Forest School sessions and gardening. In the winter months, if children wish to play on the field at lunchtimes, we ask that they keep a spare pair of outdoor shoes and trousers at school to change into.

Please ensure that all items of clothing, including boots and shoes, are clearly marked with your child's name.

The wearing of jewellery is considered inappropriate for school. If children wear earrings they should wear small studs for safety reasons and these should be removed or covered with tape during P.E. lessons.

Lunch time Arrangements

There is a cafeteria system in operation at lunch time with a choice of meals. Fresh food is prepared on the premises, with seasonal produce grown in the school allotment. Children may have school dinners for the whole week or on individual days as they wish. If your child is eating dinners throughout the week please ensure that dinner money is paid on a Monday morning so that it can be banked. If your child is absent and has paid for a meal, the appropriate amount will be credited to you the following week. Dinner money may be paid by cheque. Please make cheques payable to Shropshire Council. The cost of meals at present is £1.85 per meal, £9.25 per week.

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income based Job Seekers Allowance or Child tax credit (with an annual income as assessed by the Inland Revenue) your child will be entitled to free meals, in this case please ask for a form on which to apply. Your request will be treated in confidence.

Children may bring a packed lunch if they prefer to eat in the hall at the same time as the school meals are served. Please send drinks in a plastic container. Children are not allowed to bring glass containers into school.

Redlake Club for Older People and the local WI are invited to join the children for lunch on a regular basis.

After School Clubs

At St Mary's we are proud to be able to offer an extensive range of extra-curricular and after school clubs.



Currently we have on offer, School Council, Recorders, Gardening, Street Beatz, Circus Skills, French Club, Eco Club, Art Club and Construction Club. We are fortunate that our dedicated staff team are supported by enthusiastic and skilled parents who volunteer to organise and supervise our clubs.

School Council

This year our School Council is made up of our Year 6 pupils, who meet - usually with a teacher present - to discuss and sort out problems. Recently the School Council were responsible for writing part of the Home School Agreement.

Recorders

Miss Cook leads the recorder group usually at lunch time for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils.

Gardening

Mrs Hazan our Key Stage 2 teacher is a very enthusiastic gardener and has encouraged the school to develop the allotment and so far the school has achieved the RHS Bronze Award for the School Benchmarking Scheme



Circus Skills

This is a very popular after schools club, and is open to both classes, currently the children are

One of our parents runs the French Club. Recently the

French Club held a French Café afternoon for the whole school.

Mrs Ramsay runs the Eco Club, and last term the club held a very successful bring and buy sale which provided plants and reusable water bottles for the whole school as well as achieving the Bronze Eco Schools Award.



Miss Corley runs the very popular art club and the group had painted pictures on the playground as well as scenery and backdrops for displays.

Two of our parents run the very popular construction club and make some fantastic models. Last term the sessions culminated in the group sailing their homemade boats along the River Redlake.

Forest School – What is Forest School?



Forest School is an innovative and inspiring approach to learning and development which offers children opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences during regular sessions in the school's Forest School area, where they are supported in their development by our qualified Forest School

teachers; Miss Watkins and Mrs Beddoes

Sessions are flexible and child-led.

Children build up relationships with staff and with peers, exploration and play are encouraged, and teamwork and co-operation are nurtured.

Children develop respect and responsibility for themselves, other people and the environment in a truly empowering experience, which is also exciting, healthy and fun!



Session are run for Key Stage One and this term Years 3 and 4 have been enjoying sessions too.



Playgroup

Playgroup is held in the school hall on two mornings and one full day each week and share's the schools facilities. Playgroup helps enormously with a child's introduction to school life as there are strong links between the Key Stage 1 class and the Early Years staff. Children who have been regular playgroup members normally have a smooth, easy transition into the main school.

Children follow the areas of learning set out in the Early Learning Goals of the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

- language and literacy
- personal and social development
- physical development
- mathematics
- knowledge and understanding of the world
- creative development

Curriculum Arrangements

St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School aims to provide a broad, balanced curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils in the school.



Through the delivery of this curriculum we aim to:

- enable each child to acquire and develop the basic skills of language, literacy and numeracy;
- develop lively ,enquiring minds which are able to question and argue rationally;
- develop imaginative and creative skills
- develop the ability to apply knowledge and skills;
- Develop as independent learners who are proud of their achievements.



Under the requirements of the 1988 Education Act it is necessary for all schools to teach the National Curriculum to Key Stages 1 and 2. We teach the Foundation Stage Curriculum to children who are in their first school year. This gives the framework for all our teaching within school.

Mathematics, English, Science, ICT and RE form the “Core Subjects” of the National Curriculum, with Design Technology, History, Geography, Art and Design, Music, Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship and Physical Education making up the Foundation subjects.



St Mary's School also teaches French to the juniors as its Modern Foreign Language.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is sectioned into communication, language and literacy, problem solving, reasoning and numbers, knowledge and understanding of the world, creative development, physical development and personal, social and emotional development.



Extra time is given to English, Mathematics and Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship. Staff plan to cover most aspects of the Curriculum through thematic work which provides a context and purpose to the work, some subject areas are covered in planning not related to the theme.



Groupings for Teaching

Children are taught as a class, as a member of a group and individually for different areas and contexts. Children are taught some aspects of mathematics, for example, in ability groups. Work is planned in great detail to ensure equal access to the curriculum for every child, and to encourage each child to reach his or her potential.

English

Aural and Oral skills

We aim to help children to listen carefully and to express themselves clearly and appropriately according to the situation.

Phonics is taught using the synthetic approach. All Key Stage 1 children are taught Phonics on a daily basis using “letters and sounds” materials. Children in Key Stage 2 still needing to secure phonetic knowledge receive targeted support on a daily basis.

Spelling is taught in a variety of ways. For example time is taken during Literacy for the direct teaching of spelling rules and patterns.



We encourage a ‘hands on’ approach to developing spelling through investigational activities and games. The children also have their own individual spellings which they are encouraged to learn at home. The children are tested on these spellings on a regular basis.

Reading

We aim to teach our children to read accurately, fluently and with understanding. Reading skills need to be mastered in order to achieve the best level of understanding and appreciation of other subjects, and in order that children can become independent learners. Fluent reading is necessary for obtaining information and will extend and enrich children’s experiences, enabling them to relive and appreciate the experiences of others. We believe that learning to read should be pleasurable and should lead to a life-time’s pleasure.

As well as reading in various contexts at school we also encourage children to take their books home to read. We hope that you will positively encourage this and take a strong interest in your child’s progress. If you would like to know how best to help your child please do not hesitate to ask

We have our own school library and children are also encouraged to join the local public library to further enrich their reading experiences.

Writing

We encourage independent writing from the earliest possible stages within a firm structure of basic skills. A wide range of writing opportunities is provided and teachers demonstrate and share writing regularly during literacy sessions. The children are encouraged to check and evaluate their work.

Mathematics

At St Mary's we follow the Primary Strategy. All children are taught mathematics for around an hour each day with much importance placed on the development of mental calculation and problem solving skills. Written methods are taught systematically as understanding grows. If you would like a copy of the school calculation policy, please ask.

It is important that young children achieve a solid grasp of mathematics through practical experience. We use published mathematical programmes throughout the school where appropriate which are supported by ample mathematics apparatus designed to develop an understanding of number, measurement, sets, pictorial representation and geometry.



Physical Education

This is an important aspect of every child's education as it helps to develop the strength and co-ordination of bodily movement. It also develops dexterity and confidence. Children undertake gymnastics, educational and traditional dance, games and (football, netball, hockey and rounders) athletics, swimming and in Year 6 outdoor and adventurous activities.

The school makes much use of the Shropshire School's Sport Partnership. The children have the opportunity to work with a variety of coaches throughout the school year.



Matches in football, netball, cricket and rounders are frequently arranged with other schools in the area and we take part in local tournaments.

Swimming takes place in the Summer Term. This takes place at Knighton Leisure Centre so we need to travel to the pool by coach. We ask for a small contribution towards the cost of this.

It is important that children have a clearly named P.E. kit in school at all times.

Health / Sex Education

The school aims to provide children with an understanding of their own bodies and how to keep themselves healthy. They are also encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility and to appreciate what constitutes a safe environment with regard to water, the roads, the school, the home and relationships.

Questions are dealt with sensitively as, and when, they arise. In Year 6 the children follow the Channel 4 series “Living and Growing” for sex education and drugs awareness. Parents are informed about these sessions and have the opportunity to view the materials and to discuss them with the school before the sessions begin. Parents wishing to withdraw their children from the sex education programme are entitled to do so.

Religious Education

We are a Church of England (Aided) school and have a strong commitment to teaching the principles of Christianity. Religious Education is taught according to the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus, a copy of which is available in school for you to look at.

If you wish, you have a right to withdraw your child from R.E. or collective worship. If this is the case, please make an appointment to speak to the headteacher so that arrangements can be made. You will need to confirm your wishes in writing.

The school has a strong link with St. Mary’s Church, Bucknell. The children learn about the lovely church building and about the people who work and worship there. They learn what happens in Church and are given opportunities to reflect upon what this means to them. Collective worship is held at the church at the beginning and end of each term.

The vicar is a regular visitor to the school to lead worship and to talk to staff and children.

Pupils will be taught about Christianity and other religions during their R.E. lessons so as to develop their knowledge, understanding and empathy towards the needs of beliefs of others and their consideration of other faiths.

History and Geography

The local area is rich in opportunities to develop first hand historical and geographical skills. We undertake regular topic-linked trips as well as residential field trips further afield to further enhance the children’s learning.



Science

Much work is designed to develop the children's understanding and awareness of the scientific process, which provides a vehicle for the development of knowledge identified in the science curriculum.

Again the locality offers excellent opportunities for firsthand experience and observational work.



Music

The children are encouraged to use instruments, write their own compositions and listen carefully and thoughtfully to a range of music. A music specialist is employed to work with the pupils. Peripatetic instrumental tuition is available through Shropshire Music Services. The children enjoy taking part in both school and community productions. (Bucknell School at Shropshire Sings!)



Information Communication Technology

As well as learning specific skills on the computer, digital camera, recording equipment and computer controlled devices; the children use ICT as a matter of course across the curriculum to enhance their learning and to prepare them for the demands of future society and the world of work.

Homework

Key Stage 1 children are asked to practice their reading and to share books with their families each evening. They also have spellings to learn each week. Sometimes they are asked to carry out mathematical tasks or to find out information on a particular topic.

Key Stage 2 children are also asked to read each evening and to practice spellings. In addition, they may be set homework for any area of the curriculum.

Extra curricular Activities

KS2 children have a chance to go to Arthog residential trip during the summer; here the children take part in outdoor pursuits such as; canoeing, gorge walking and rock climbing



Links with other schools

Bucknell has forged links with other schools and participates in local football and netball matches with Bedstone college as well as taking part in their cross country event. Bucknell also linked up with Lydbury North school to travel to Arthog together on the train and join in activities.

St Mary's Bucknell Primary is the social hub of the community. Children run the Advent fair as well as being involved in community events such as Light into Night and the Summer BBQ.



Key Stage 1 & 2 Results 2010

All children (3 pupils) achieved or exceeded their targets.

Key Stage 1

Maths

	Actual	Target
3	0%	0%
2a	33.3%	0%
2b	33.3%	33.3%
2c	33.3%	0%
Level 1	33.3%	66.6%

Reading

	Actual	Target
3	33.3%	0%
2a	33.3%	33.3%
2b	0%	33.3%
2c	0%	0%
Level 1	33.3%	33.3%

Writing

	Actual	Target
3	0%	0%
2a	66.6%	0%
2b	0%	33.3%
2c	0%	33.3%
Level 1	33.3%	33.3%

Key Stage 2

% L4+ in English and Mathematics		% making L5 in English and Mathematics	
Actual	Target	Actual	Target
100%	100%	50%	0%

Charges and Remissions

The school has a Charges and Remissions Policy and this is available for reference in the school office.

The Governors allow charges to be made for the following areas:-

- Optional extras – activities not related to the National Curriculum
- Individual Instrumental tuition
- Materials used in clubs
- Board and lodgings on a residential visit.

Voluntary contributions towards educational visits are encouraged. It may not be possible for these activities to go ahead if we do not receive sufficient contributions.

Health and Safety

There are often a large number of cars, bicycles and pedestrians about the school entrance at the beginning and end of the day. Please could you ensure that you park carefully and safely when delivering or collecting children. We try to leave the top end of the car park (next to the village hall) clear for taxis.

We respectfully request that dogs are not brought into the school, and there is a no smoking policy in operation that applies to the whole school site.

Food Safety

In view of recent concerns regarding food safety, the LEA have sought advice from the Shropshire Health Authority regarding packed lunches brought into school by pupils from home. That advice is that if sandwiches are made up the previous evening, then they should be refrigerated overnight.

In school sandwiches may safely be stored for up to 4 hours. The LEA cannot accept responsibility for storage of food brought into school by pupils and parents should ensure that they make appropriate provision.

If parents require any further information regarding preparation and storage of packed lunches, then they should contact Shropshire Council's Environmental Health Department.

Special Educational Needs

At St Mary's we work hard to ensure that all children with special needs have their needs met. We know that all parents and carers have a vital role to play in supporting their child's education. Children at our school who have special educational needs are offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

Children with special educational needs will receive specific help from their class teachers, their special needs coordinator and a classroom assistant. When necessary we will also seek specialist advice from Shropshire's Learning Support Team and other agencies.

If we consider that it would be valuable for our attached Learning Support Advisory Teacher, or any other member of the team, to meet with a child so as to assess his or her specific needs we will first discuss the arrangements with the child's parents and obtain their written consent.

Pupils with special education needs will spend most of their time fully integrated within their class group. Sometimes they will be supported by their teacher; the special needs co-ordinator or the classroom assistant either individually or in small groups. On occasions, however, it may be necessary to support pupils for some of the time outside the classroom. This will depend on the nature of their needs.

The school is a single storey building on a flat site. Therefore it provides reasonable access for wheelchair users. Every effort will always be made to accommodate pupils with any disability.

We will always consult with parents if we feel that a child needs additional support with their learning. In this way we can further develop links between home and school, knowing that by working together we can ensure the children's needs are met.

Children with special educational needs all have an Individual Education Plan, which lists targets and strategies for reaching them. These IEP's are discussed with parents and are reviewed each half term.



Our Special Needs Policy was reviewed during the Summer Term 2010 and is now in line with the requirements of the new Special Educational Needs Code of Practice issued by the Department for Education and Skills in November 2001.

Safeguarding

Bucknell School is compliant with the Safeguarding procedures recommended by the Local Authority. If you would like to view our Safeguarding and Child Protections Policies, you can collect a copy from the School Office. Children have been involved in updating our safeguarding measures

The school aims to help parents understand that the school, like all others, has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. The school may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a pupil's welfare.

The school has recently been awarded "Safer Schools" status. All visitors are asked to sign our visitors' book upon entering and leaving the building.

The security locks on the front doors are kept on all day and are released by Mrs Morgan in the office to allow access. Children are taught not to open the doors under any circumstances.

The fire bell is tested weekly and maintained regularly, as are all the fire extinguishers. Fire drills are held each term, soon after new children have arrived in the school so that they know straight away what to do, should we need to evacuate the building. Fire exits are clearly marked.

Clear signs are displayed the entrances to the site. These will warn that trespassing on the site is not allowed at any time. We are obliged to do this for insurance purposes and so as to ensure that safety of our children not because we do not wish to share our grounds with the local community.

The security alarm is tested regularly and works well.



Feedback and Communication

We hope that parents will feel able to approach the school about any concerns they have over their children. Please feel free to come and make an appointment to see the headteacher at any time. However, if a complaint cannot be dealt with satisfactorily through discussion with the Headteacher, there is a formal procedure by which parents can pursue the matter. Such concerns should be put in writing, addressed to The Governors Complaints Committee and given to the Chairman of the Board of Governors. Ofsted can be contacted on enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

School Attendance Figures 2009 - 2010

Total number of school sessions Autumn 2009 – July 2010	16397
Total number of registered pupils	46
Sessions attended	15594
% attendance	95.1%
Authorised absences	798
Unauthorised absences	5
% attendance missed through authorised absence	4.9%