



Bishops Lydeard Church School

Headteacher: Mr James Dakin
Chair of Governors: Mr David Williams

Bishops Lydeard Church School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

'That they may have life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Respect

Endurance

Friendship

9th September 2026

Dear Nursery Parents and Carers,

Welcome

We are so excited to share the start of the new nursery year with you. We are especially delighted that the children will be using our brand-new early years building: this is a calm, bright and purpose-built space designed to inspire curiosity, play and learning.

A few important updates and a quick note about the first days:

New staff:

- We appointed Rachel Phillips as Nursery Lead at the end of the last school year. Rachel brings strong early years experience and a real passion for play-based learning.
- We also appointed Becky Hewlett as an Early Years Assistant.
- We continue to recruit for one further early years post and have an advert currently live; this means we will add another familiar face to the team as soon as possible.

Staffing structure:

Below are the staffing arrangements for each room this term. If anything changes, we will let you know promptly. While we have the children allocated to different rooms, much of their time is spent in shared environments, working with a range of staff members, sharing lunch times and sharing spaces.

	Emma Arafa	Early Years Lead
	Rachel Phillips	Nursery Lead



 Laura Simpson	 Lillie Blease	 Nina Lewis	 Becky Hewlett	Early Years Assistants
 Kirsty Trathen	 Lizzie Bradbury	 Chloe Gilbert	Early Years trained TAs supporting	

While the practitioner on the door at drop off and collection is your primary point of contact, Mrs Phillips is your first point of contact if you have any concerns, and Mrs Arafa will support with any escalation.

2/3 Room



Day of the week	Staffing
Monday	Mrs Phillips (Nursery Lead) and Miss Blease
Tuesday	Mrs Phillips (Nursery Lead) and Mrs Hewlett
Wednesday	Mrs Phillips (Nursery Lead) and Miss Blease
Thursday	Mrs Phillips (Nursery Lead) and Miss Blease
Friday	Mrs Phillips (Nursery Lead) and Miss Blease

3/4 Room



Day of the week	Staffing
Monday	Mrs Simpson and Mrs Trathen
Tuesday	Mrs Simpson and Mrs Bradbury
Wednesday	Mrs Simpson and Mrs Hewlett
Thursday	Mrs Simpson and Mrs Hewlett
Friday	Mrs Hewlett and Miss Gilbert

Staffing may change from day to day due to the needs of the children, the requirements of the school, and last minutes changes such as sickness and absence. We will try to keep it as consistent as possible.

Drop off and collection

As many of you will have found out, we have now opened the new nursery entrance. This reverts back to the green gate that was previously used. Please buzz on the gate pad using the alarm symbol and we will let you in. We had some issues with the gate pads which were only resolved on Friday last week. We apologise that we could not confirm arrangements until now.

We will shortly be building a new decking area with overhanging permanent awning underneath the nursery window. This will help give more space to those with buggies and push chairs. We will also be installing a new school sign to give clarity for where to go for the nursery and where to go for the main school building.

Patience and understanding as we settle in

- The new building was completed on 28th August.
- During the week beginning 31st August our team worked tirelessly together to assemble resources, set up classrooms and prepare for opening.
- We opened the nursery to children on 7th September.

Because we moved quickly to make the space available when families needed it, you may notice a few teething issues as routines and resources settle into place. We ask for your patience and understanding while we finalise small practical matters. Our priority was to ensure the building was completed, staff were recruited and in place so we could open on 7th September, and that any communication we provided would give clarity and continuity for children and families.

How we will communicate with you

- We will update you by email and on Famly about any changes to staffing, routine or room organisation.
- If there are short-term adjustments (for example, supply cover or resource moves), we will explain what is changing and when we expect the situation to be resolved.

If you have questions or immediate concerns, please speak to Mrs Phillips or a member of the nursery team at drop-off or by emailing the school office. We are committed to making this a smooth, positive start for every child and family.

Thank you for your support and for entrusting us with your child. We look forward to a fantastic year together.

With best wishes,

James Dakin
Headteacher
Bishops Lydeard Church School