Blue Sky Federation

Erpingham Primary & Pre-School
01263 761365

ERPINGHAM CofE Primary School 1862

Erpingham VC

C of E Primary School

School Prospectus

2021-22

Welcome to Blue Sky Federation!

Blue Sky Federation is made up of two small, rural primary schools– Erpingham VC C of E and Northrepps. We pride ourselves on our nurturing environments where children thrive socially and emotionally as well as academically.

We passionately believe in helping our children to connect emotionally to their learning and to move from engagement to investment. This means that our children care about real-life issues and talk about big concepts such as equality, justice and diversity with confidence and empathy.

As small schools, we know our children, their families and our communities incredibly well and are able to adapt our curriculum to suit every child and help them to make real progress.

Our core values of love, friendship, courage and respect underpin all that we do and, at Erpingham, these are strongly rooted in Biblical teaching. Our memory verse comes from 1 John, Chapter 4, verse 7 and is '*Let us love one another, for love comes from God*'.

We hope that this prospectus will offer you an overview of our school, our children and the fun that we have whilst learning. If you need any further information, please contact our office staff who will be happy to help.

We look forward to seeing you in school soon!

School Staff

Mrs L. Watts	Executive Headteacher, Blue Sky Federation
Mrs E. Sacre	Deputy Headteacher, Blue Sky Federation
	Blackbirds Part-time Teacher (EYFS & Year 1)
	SENCo & EYFS Lead
Mrs B. Barry	Blackbirds Part-time Teacher (EYFS & Year 1)
Mr L. Kimpton	Wagtails Teacher (Year 2, 3 & 4)
Mr S. Portas	Skylarks Part-time Teacher (Years 5 & 6)
Mrs D Barker	Skylarks Part-time Teacher (Years 5 & 6)
Mrs N. Goodings	Pastoral Lead and Parent Support, Blue Sky Federation
Sonya Sabbagh	Forest School Leader
Amy Dunnett	Forest School Assistant
Saara Smith	Forest School Assistant
Trish Filby	Forest School Assistant
Mrs A. Rowe	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs E. Witham	Cover Supervisor & Teaching Assistant
Miss D. Moore	1:1 Teaching Assistant
Sas Gilding	Pre-school Manager
Julie Cox	EYFS practitioner
Jenni Allen	EYFS practitioner
Rachel Abbott	EYFS practitioner
Mrs S. Tuffin	Office Manager
Mrs J. Fenner	Administrative Assistant
Mrs E. Alexander	Catering Assistant
Mrs E. Forton	Midday Supervisor

Our Vision – The Blue Sky Federation

Our vision is for our children to grow into loving and confident individuals who have a curiosity for learning and achieve their fullest potential.

Erpingham VC C of E Core Christian Values

At the heart of our caring community, we aim to promote a positive Christian ethos based on our four core values of love, friendship, courage and respect. We are passionate about nurturing the whole child through our creative environment with equal emphasis on the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of all.

These are the values which we celebrate in school...

Love – we are all God's children and come together in school to love and care for one other

Friendship – we make deep friendships based on generosity, forgiveness and compassion

Courage – we take on challenges bravely because we have hope and self-belief

Respect – we understand that we are all different and we listen to others with humility and tolerance

Our Curriculum Vision

Over the last few years, our curriculum has developed, grown and changed. We are passionate about ensuring that the curriculum and learning opportunities we offer are as personalised to the needs of our children as possible.

As a starting point for our learning each term, we choose 3 key concepts which the children will discuss and reflect on through their topics. These concepts are big ideas which require deep thinking e.g. compassion, equality, diversity, prejudice and resilience. All of our topics are based around a key question which enables children to consider and develop these concepts fully.

Over the course of our school year we cover three different types of topic: Create – which has an emphasis on the arts; Discover – with a history focus and Explore – which places the emphasis on Geography. This is not to say that we don't cover all subjects each term – we do! But we have found that placing a real focus on one area of learning each term ensures that children are given the opportunity to linger longer and delve deeper in their learning.

It is very important to us that progression through our year groups is carefully mapped so that we know children are learning in a systematic way which builds on previous knowledge. We use progression maps and skills matrices to ensure that learning in each year group meets the specific needs and curriculum of the children. This is especially important in our mixed-age classes.

Our curriculum is wholly designed to ensure that children move from engagement to *investment* in their learning. We want children to be provided with opportunities which encourage them to care passionately about the topics they cover, ensuring that they grow up to become empathetic and critically thinking members of society. We believe in a curriculum of hope (Debra Kidd, 2020) and seek to ensure that our children feel supported to find ways of solving their own problems and playing their part in making the world a better place.

Children in our schools spend the first part of each day on Key Skills and Maths before moving on to topic sessions which allow children opportunities to wallow in their learning. We do not teach discrete lessons at the same time each week but rather spend days on certain subjects to enable children to learn at a greater depth.

Outdoor learning and Forest School are a big part of the provision we offer and we know that these enable children to broaden their understanding of their learning in class, enhancing this with real-life experiences. We seek to invite visitors into school whenever possible and to take part in visits and events which provide writing opportunities rooted in real world situations.

Nurture is at the heart of all we do and we work hard to meet children where they are and support them in developing their self-esteem and identity.

We aim to ensure all our pupils become effective learners.

This means they are:

- Resilient
- Resourceful
- Articulate
- Independent
- Organised
- Critical thinkers
- Receptive
- Calm to learn

School Hours

The school day for pupils begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 3.15 p.m. Children can arrive at school between 8.45 a.m. and 9 a.m. and a member of staff will be on the playground to supervise them during this time. When the bell rings, children line up promptly and quietly with their class.

First Session:	9—10.45 am
Morning break:	10.45—11am
Second Session:	11am—12.15 pm
Lunch break:	12.15—1.15 pm
Afternoon Session:	1.15—3.15 pm

Parents are asked to wait for their children in the playground at 3.15 pm and not in cars. Children must leave the premises with an adult as the road is narrow and gets very busy. Please let us know if you are going to be late collecting your child or if they will be collected by someone else.

We have an 'unofficial' one way system—please approach the school via Scarrowbeck rather than the village. Turn right towards the vicarage, keep going and you will find us! The One Way System improves safety and saves a lot of congestion.

For the safety of all our children, please do not stop or park on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates.

Term dates are sent out at least a year in advance to help parents plan their holidays out of school time. Non-attendance in term time will not usually be authorised. Dates for special events each term are sent home regularly in newsletters or via email.

Admissions

The Local Education Authority organises admission to Primary Schools. If your child is of pre-school age you should receive a County Admissions Booklet in the Autumn term prior to the academic year in which your child starts school, informing you of the County's Primary Schools Admissions Policy and the procedure for obtaining a place at your preferred school.

If you would like your child to join Erpingham Primary School please arrange to visit the school and see it working, to meet the staff and talk with the Executive Headteacher. Before starting school, you and your child will be invited to spend time in school meeting our staff and other children.

Transfer to Secondary School

We are part of the Aylsham Cluster of schools. Most of our children transfer to Aylsham High School at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6). Aylsham High School is deemed 'Good' by Ofsted. It is a comprehensive school about 4 miles away from the Erpingham village.

Class Organisation

All children are taught in small mixed-aged classes. This allows your child to settle quickly and their interests are soon known by everyone.

All our children are welcomed and made to feel confident and secure, so that they can concentrate on their learning.

Our experienced and dedicated staff will understand your child's needs and provide a challenging but fun curriculum, enabling your child to flourish. We have an excellent pupil to adult ratio enabling small teaching groups and clear differentiation of tasks.

The school is currently organised into three classes.

Blackbirds : Reception and Year 1

Wagtails: Years 2, 3 and 4

Skylarks: Years 5 and 6

This organisation may change depending on the numbers of children entering the school in reception and leaving at the end of year 6.

Little Brown Hare Forest School Pre-school

Little Brown Hare is our fabulous outdoor pre-school where children learn at their own pace. Sas Gilding, our pre-school manager, is also a qualified Forest School Practitioner and is passionate about learning in the outdoors.

Little Brown Hare opened in January 2017, providing childcare for children age 2 -4 years. We offer an exciting and unique opportunity for children to experience freedom to learn in the outdoors, exploring and investigating the natural world. On the whole the children play and learn outside, whatever the weather! Although there is shelter and a wood burner for the colder days. If you are interested in your child joining Little Brown Hare, please email Sas on pre-school@erpingham.norfolk.sch.uk

Teaching Methods, the Curriculum and Collective Worship

At Erpingham we use a variety of teaching methods which are varied to suit the need of the class, groups or individuals and usually include whole class, small group and one to one teaching. Children are grouped in different ways according to their needs or the lesson and activity.

When your child joins us in Reception they follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Throughout Years 1 – 6 the children are taught all the subjects of the National Curriculum plus RE. Lessons cover English, Mathematics, Science, Topic (History and Geography), Religious Education, Physical Education, Computing, Music, Art & Design Technology, a foreign language (French) and Personal, Health and Social Education (PSHE). Details of the curriculum for each year group can be found on our website.

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, phonics is taught following the *Letters and Sounds* programme. We use phonics-based reading books from *Oxford Reading Tree, Big Cat* and *Phonics Bugs* to support our early readers. Spelling in Years 2 – 6 is taught using the *No Nonsense Spellings* scheme.

PSHE and RSHE are fundamental to our curriculum and we use resources from the PSHE Association alongside other schemes such as *No Outsiders*. Please see the dedicated RSHE page on our website or further information.

Erpingham is a voluntary controlled Church of England school and so our strong Christian values underpin all aspects of our daily life. Like all schools we offer a daily act of collective worship, which is of Christian character and based on the Bible. Should you wish, you have the right to withdraw your child from assembly after consultation with the Executive Headteacher.

Our Collective Worship builds on our special feeling of community and reflects on aspects of spirituality through prayer and song. We are often visited by our parish priest, Reverend Heather Butcher and other members of the church community. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who organise Open The Book assemblies every week. These are lots of fun and involve dressing up and acting! Each half-term we visit St Mary's church, Erpingham for a Messy Church event. All family members are invited to these.

Assessment

Careful records are kept of children's progress, including samples of their work. These are used to monitor and evaluate progress.

Parents' consultations are held in the Autumn and Spring terms to update parents on their child's progress but additional, informal meetings are held as and when necessary. In the summer term, you will also receive an Annual Written Report which outlines work covered, progress achieved, and next steps.

You are welcome to see the records that we hold on your child but please make an appointment first.

Statutory Assessments

The government directs schools to assess children at various stages in their primary school careers. These assessments are comprised of practical and written tasks and tests (in Year 2 and Year 6).

Children in Reception are assessed after 6 weeks in school for the Reception Baseline Assessment and also at the end of the year against the Early Learning Goals.

Year 1 children are assessed in phonics in June each year.

Children in Year 2 are assessed by their class teacher in English and Maths during May.

Children in Year 4 take part in the Multiplication Check each year which assesses their knowledge and understanding of times tables.

All Year 2 and 6 children sit written papers in English and Mathematics during May. The Year 2 and Year 6 SATs results are reported to parents alongside Teacher Assessment at the end of the summer term.

School Expectations

Our children show good levels of behaviour both in and out of school. Our expectations are reinforced regularly through assembly and class discussions and rewarded with our Hi-Five awards. We use our Hi-Five signal to help children understand our expectations. The five parts of our Hi-Five are…

Our eyes – look at the speaker
Our ears – listen
Our mouths – make no noise
Our hands – are still
Our bodies – sit/stand up straight and are in their own space

Our behaviour policy can be found on our website.

Our Approach to teaching Learners with SEND

We believe in participation for all. We want all adults and children to participate in learning and we celebrate all members of our community. We aim to create an inclusive culture in our school and aim to be more responsive to the diversity of children's backgrounds, interests, experience, knowledge and skills.

How we identify SEND

At different times in their school career, a child or young person may have a special educational need. The Code of Practice defines SEN as:

"A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

1. Have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age: or
2. Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post 16 institutions.

If a learner is identified as having SEN, we will provide provision that is 'additional to or different from' the normal differentiated curriculum, intended to overcome the barrier to their learning.

Our SEND documents are available on our website or from the office.

Safeguarding

Erpingham C of E Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection. We are committed to promoting the safety, health and welfare of our pupils, and have a regularly updated Safeguarding Policy which clearly details how we undertake our statutory obligations. This policy is available at the school office for parents to read. We follow the procedures set out by the Local Area Safeguarding Children Board and take account of guidance issued by the Department of Education.

Our designated staff for child protection are Mrs L. Watts, Mrs E. Sacre and Mrs N. Goodings. Our designated Governor is Mrs A. Johnson who can be contacted via the office.

Pastoral Care

It is very important that your child feels happy and settled at school. We work as a caring and professional team, sensitive to the emotional and social needs of our children. We take an interest in the "whole" child, not just the child's educational needs. The strong family atmosphere at Erpingham is shown in the way the children help and support each other throughout the school day. Please let us know of anything that may affect the wellbeing of your child. We will always make time to discuss with you any problems or difficulties that your child might be experiencing. Personal information is always used sensitively and treated in confidence.

Accidents and First Aid

You will be contacted if your child is unwell or has been hurt, especially if he/she has bumped their head. If you are unobtainable, further medical advice may be sought. We follow the local authority's recommended procedure for first aid. All incidents are recorded on our online system.

Medicines in School

The administration of medicines to children is the responsibility of parents and there is no requirement for the Headteacher or the school staff to undertake these responsibilities. However, we will always try to help.

If, on the advice of your doctor, medicine needs to be administered to your child during the school day, please ensure that the medicine, clearly labelled, is taken to the school office by a parent or guardian. A school form requiring a parent or guardian's signature will be provided for details of the medication and dosage to be documented. Children should not keep medicines in their bags.

Illness

If your child has bout of sickness or diarrhoea then they must not return to school for 48 hours – this is for their own comfort but also to stop it spreading to other children. It is helpful for us to be notified immediately of contagious diseases like German measles so that we can notify anyone who may need to be aware.

School Policies

We have a list of policies relating to our curriculum and the way we work in school. . All policies, including our Safeguarding Policy are reviewed regularly and up-to-date copies are available on our website and from the school office.

School Meals, Drinks and Snacks

We encourage all children to bring a named bottle of water to school. All children are provided with a piece of fruit at morning break, they may bring in a healthy snack instead should they prefer.

Locally sourced, tasty meals are served at school. Our meals are cooked at Aldborough Primary School and are delivered to us daily. They are nourishing and provide good value for money. Please contact the school office for a copy of the most recent menu.

You may choose to provide your child with a packed lunch. We would encourage parents to ensure all packed lunches are healthy. We are a nut-free school and so children are not permitted to bring items with nut ingredients in their lunches.

All children in YR/1/2 are entitled to a Free School Meal every day. You may also be eligible for Free School Meals in other circumstances too. This provides us with additional funding for your child so please do ask at the office if you would like more information.

Attendance

As a school we report records of attendance to the Department for Education (DfE). If your child is going to be absent through illness or any other reason you must phone school or send an email to the office. If we have not heard from you as to why your child is not in school, our office staff will telephone home to find out why; this is to ensure that all children are safe. We monitor attendance carefully and may have to refer cases to the Local Authority where it falls below 90%.

Flexi Schooling

At both our schools, we offer Flexi places to pupils as a bridge between home schooling and a full time place. We recognise that parents want to home school their children but may not be able to offer the full range of learning opportunities. Children also need time to socialise, learn to work as part of a team and engage in challenging situations with confidence.

Flexi-schooling allows for a very rich combination of experiences which can be shared in the classroom with all children. It also provides flexibility for children who may find full-time schooling challenging.

Parents must apply for flexi-schooling places and these are allocated at the discretion of the Executive Headteacher. This process is different from the Local Authority application procedure which must also take place. If this might be of interest to you, please ask the office for a copy of our Flexi-schooling policy which can also be found on our website.

School Uniform

At Erpingham Primary School we believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables children to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for parents/carers.

Our uniform consists of:

- White/bottle green polo shirt or shirt/blouse
- Grey trousers (long or short) or grey skirt
- Summer dress (green and white small checked material)
- Grey, black or white socks, or grey/ black tights for girls
- Bottle green or black fleece (these are available with the school logo). Bottle green cardigan or jumper
- Sensible black shoes/ trainers for outdoor wear
- Trainers, black shorts, white socks and a white t-shirt for PE
- A warm long-sleeved top, jumper, trousers, socks, waterproof boots and lots of layers are needed for Forest School sessions
- Book bag with embroidered logo
- One piece costume, swimming hat and towel (Skylarks & Wagtails)
- A pair of slippers or other appropriate indoor shoes

Nail polish and jewellery should not be worn. If a child has their ears pierced they may wear stud earrings which must be removed for PE lessons. Long hair needs to be tied back.

Please make sure that all clothing is named!

Compliments and Complaints

Members of staff are always delighted to receive thanks for the work that they do with your child – everyone likes to be appreciated! Should you be concerned with any aspect of your child's education you should first discuss the matter with your child's class teacher. Urgent information should be given to the school office. If you are not satisfied with our response then please make an appointment with the Executive Headteacher. Our procedure for complaints can be found on our website.

The Governors

The Governing board for the Blue Sky Federation are a small but dedicated team who support and develop our schools.

They help to plan strategically for our schools, developing medium and long-term plans. They also oversee the financial performance of the schools, holding the Executive Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school . We have a full Governing Body meeting half termly where the focus alternates between finance and pupil and curriculum.

Each member of the governing body brings with them their own personal life experiences maybe as a parent or through the jobs they do or used to do. Most importantly, they are individuals with a commitment to the education of children and who wish to give something back to the community.

More information on our governing body can be found on our website. Our current Chair of Governors is Sam Lee who can be contacted via the office.

A guide to the Friends of Erpingham primary School

Who we are and what we do:

We are a friendly, welcoming group of parents who help raise money for the school and pre-school though fundraising initiatives that are fun for pupils and parents, building the relationships between parents and teachers and engaging with the wider community.

We are a registered charity which allows us to access additional schemes and benefits, and we are registered members of Parentkind, an organisation that provides our insurance and PTA resources.

Our new Chair is Laura Hollinger, and she's supported by Genna Witham. Kezia Everson is the Secretary, with support from Polly and Jaide Carter is the Treasurer with support from Katherine.

Our Facebook group FRIENDS OF ERPINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL is a closed group where all parents can post ideas of things to do, ask questions (is it a Forest School Day for year 4 Wagtails today? When is the last day of term? etc.) and share event reminders with the school community. Please do join it if you use Facebook!

Over the past year and a half, raising funds for the school has been quite a challenge and most of our income has come from the clothes bank in the car park at the village hall. If you have any clothes, bags or shoes you or your family no longer need, please pop them in there. It's emptied every week and the money raised goes to helping the school.

Some of the activities and fundraising events we have run in the past include school bake-off competitions, movie nights, scoot and cake evenings, run/walk/cycle a mara-thon in a month, wreath making for parents, winter wonderland evening with Father Christmas, Christmas presents for parents and tea towels. We've also done a village coffee morning take-over!

The money we raise goes towards the annual school trip to see a Christmas panto, books for the library, Chromebook laptops for pupils and last year we paid the balance (above the grant obtained by the school) of the cost of the new trim trail.

Can I join in?

Yes! While we keep committee members to a minimum, we are always keen to have a group of parents to join us for meetings, to share new fundraising ideas and lend a hand at events. If you'd like to be involved, please get in touch:

friendsoferpinghamprimary@gmail.com or send us a message via our Facebook page.