



## **Meet our Reception Teacher - Buxlow Preparatory School**

### **Meet Mrs Patel, Reception teacher at Buxlow Preparatory School.**

After achieving her Bachelor of Arts (BA) Honors in Childhood Studies, Mrs Patel's journey in the education sector began as a Teaching Assistant, progressing to roles as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant across Reception to Year 6. She has also taken on responsibilities involving sole classroom management, and has managed an after-school club business which achieved an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted. Mrs Patel successfully qualified as a teacher within a term of starting her training.

With her diverse experience, Mrs Patel has developed a wide skillset and understanding of the educational landscape and has grown a deep passion for contributing positively to the academic and personal development of young learners. She looks forward to utilising her expertise and making a meaningful impact within the Buxlow community.

We interviewed Mrs Patel to gain a deeper insight into Reception at Buxlow Preparatory School. Keep reading to find out more:

### **What is unique about Buxlow Reception**

Buxlow School has a unique and pupil-centred approach to education that values independence, choice, and individualised support for children. The school empowers pupils to take ownership of their education and explore topics that interest them.

The emphasis on small class sizes is also a significant advantage as it allows teachers to provide personalised attention and support to each child. This has allowed me to personalise attention and support, creating an environment where every child's needs can be addressed effectively. With the help of an outstanding teaching assistant working alongside me, the children have benefited from additional guidance, individualised instruction, and differentiated support, which has contributed to their overall learning success.

### **What is your favourite part about teaching Reception?**

Seeing the progress and development of young children in Reception has been rewarding for me. It has also been a pleasure to develop strong connections, and see these meaningful relationships last as the children grow up and progress through the school. Knowing that we are laying the foundation for a child's future academic and personal success is a motivating factor for the Reception team at Buxlow.

### **What do you think is an important quality in an Early Years/Reception teacher?**

Early Years and Reception teachers play a crucial role in the foundation of a child's education and development. One of the most important qualities that a teacher in this stage should possess is patience. It allows teachers to provide focused attention, support, and guidance to each child as they navigate through the early years of their education.

It is also crucial for us to empathise with the emotions, feelings, and experiences of young children to create a safe and nurturing learning environment. Empathetic teachers can support children in developing their social and emotional competencies, building confidence, and fostering a sense of belonging and security.

### **How do you keep learning engaging in Reception?**

Creativity is needed to engage young minds and make learning fun and interactive. In the classroom at Buxlow, we are always finding innovative ways to keep learning exciting for the children. For example, through our recent lessons in phonics, we have been using engaging stories such as 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', to encourage pupils to come up with new sentences related to the story to aid their learning while integrating some of their favourite stories.

We also gave the children the task of creating their own superheroes using real vegetables. They used their imagination and creativity to design unique characters, discussing and writing down the qualities and characteristics of their creations, sparking plenty of excitement as their ideas came to life.

### **Favourite memory of Buxlow Reception?**

A favourite memory of mine was our class trip to the local supermarket. The class was learning about a story called 'Supertato', a story about a supermarket superhero who is a potato on a mission to rescue his fruit and vegetable friends from an Evil Pea who has escaped from the freezer. This story led to valuable discussions about healthy food choices, food from around the world, basic food groups, and the importance of exercise.

During this topic, the children had the chance to go to the supermarket to explore the produce, and were given money to select their favourite fruits to make fruit salads for their families. This trip was an excellent opportunity for the children to make independent choices and express their creativity, and it was a pleasure to witness their confidence and enthusiasm during the trip.