# Our School Priorities 2026–27

## Welcome

This year we are focusing on four priorities, all aimed at one thing: **every child learning well, every day, in every classroom.**

Each year we choose a small number of priorities to keep Bowhill improving. They build on what went well last year and on what research tells us about how children learn best. Our full School Development Plan is a working document for staff and governors. This page is the short version for families: what we are working on and what you might notice.

## Priority 1: Great lessons for every child

We want every lesson to be carefully planned so that all children, whatever their starting point, are supported and stretched.

Our teachers are working together on how they design lessons: spotting where children might get stuck before the lesson starts, checking understanding as they go, and adjusting straight away when someone needs more help or more challenge. Teachers receive regular, short coaching sessions to keep improving their practice.

> **What you might notice:** your child talking about going over something again or having a go at a harder challenge.

## Priority 2: Expert support from our teaching assistants

Our teaching assistants are a huge strength, and we want every minute of their time to make a difference for children.

This year teaching assistants are working more closely with teachers during lessons, for example by preparing small groups before a new topic or supporting children with practical resources. They also run short, focused groups using proven programmes in three areas:

- **Reading and writing,** including phonics catch-up, sentence structure, spelling and handwriting
- **Maths,** building secure number knowledge
- **Wellbeing and social skills,** helping children manage feelings, friendships and developing resilience and confidence

> **What you might notice:** if your child joins one of these groups, we will let you know what it involves and how you can support it at home.

## Priority 3: Confident speakers and listeners

Talking well helps children think, learn and make friends, so we teach speaking and listening..

This is our third year working with Voice 21, a national oracy charity. Children practise explaining their ideas in full sentences, building on what others say, and speaking with confidence to different audiences. Our oracy leads support staff across the school.

> **What you might notice:** your child using “talk sentence stems” such as “I agree with… because…” or “I’d like to build on…”, and taking part in discussions, presentations and debates.

## Priority 4: A strong start in Year 1

Moving from Reception to Year 1 is a big step, and we want it to feel smooth and exciting for every child.

We are developing a clear Year 1 approach. In the autumn, children keep some of the play-based learning they know from Reception, including an exploration space. Through the year, more of their learning gradually moves to whole-class lessons. By the summer term, children are ready and confident for Year 2.

> **What you might notice:** if your child is in Year 1, you will see a gradual change over the year in how their day is organised, with plenty of hands-on learning along the way.

## How you can help

You make a big difference to how well your child learns. A few simple things support all four priorities:

- **Talk together** about their day. Ask them to explain what they learned, and give reasons for their answers.
- **Read every day.** Even ten minutes of sharing a book helps.
- **Celebrate effort.** Praise your child for sticking with something tricky, not only for getting it right.
- **Keep attendance high.** Every day in school counts.

We will keep you updated on our progress through newsletters and parent meetings. If you have any questions about our priorities, please speak to your child’s class teacher or contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Anna Lopez**
Headteacher