



# Starting in Reception at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



**An information  
pack for  
Parents and  
Carers**



**"When we give every child the best start in their early years, we give them what they need today. We also set them up with every chance of success tomorrow."**

***Development Matters,  
July 2021***

# The school day



We aim for a balance of teacher led tasks and independent activities to ensure the child can lead their own learning and follow their own interests.

We have a daily routine which includes activities such as; story share, phonics, circle time, teacher tasks and independent planning. The children will also participate in whole school Celebration of the Word, assemblies and other special events like celebrating Mass in Church.

PE sessions will take place once a week as well as our weekly visit to the school library.

Throughout the academic year the children will go on planned trips and excursions aimed at enriching our curriculum and inspiring learning.

Your child will start Reception during the year that they turn five years of age. The Reception class will consist of up to thirty children, a teacher and at least one teaching assistant.

The Reception building is located next to the Nursery building, allowing our Early Years children to develop and make friendships when accessing our outdoor provision. On entering the building, the children will be welcomed by a friendly member of staff, starting their day with a smile. During the school day they will be involved in a wide range of planned activities.



# What Your Child Needs To Bring To School

Listed below are the items children need to bring to school.

- Suitable coat with a hood as the children will be working outside as well as inside
- Bottle of PLAIN water to keep in the classroom to drink throughout the day
- Wellington boots which are named (to remain in school)
- PE bag with black plimsolls, school PE t-shirt and navy shorts (We keep the PE bags in school and send them home each half-term for a freshen up)
- A book bag



**Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name**

Children are able to have milk which will be paid for through the Cool Milk Scheme (cashless payment system) or they can have water. The school also participates in the free fruit for school scheme and a selection of fruit is offered each day. School meals are free for all children in Early Years and Key Stage One. All children will have a school lunch in the hall.



## Welcome

We want to inform you about the activities and learning experiences that your child will be taking part in. We update parents using the following:



Fortnightly  
Newslettter



EYFS Instagram



Youtube



Facebook

# How YOU CAN Help



## Bringing and Collecting Your Child

- Our Reception class is accessible via St Joseph's Way. If you are driving, please park in the Church car park or Community Centre car park.
- Please stay on the paths provided to ensure everyone coming to school is safe.
- Please ensure that anyone dropping off or collecting your child is over 16 years of age.
- Please contact our school office or speak to a member of Reception staff if someone different will be collecting your child or if you are going to be late for any reason.
- Please ensure that your child is brought to Reception at the time specified to ensure that no learning is missed.

## Absences and Illness

- Please inform the school office of any change of address or contact numbers so that we can get in touch with you if your child becomes unwell.
- If your child is absent please contact the school as soon as you possibly can.
- If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please keep them at home for 48 hours after their last period of sickness.
- Please inform us if your child is going on holiday during term time. You must complete a leave of absence form.

## Clothing and Personal Items

- The children wear school uniforms in Nursery. We promote independence in our children so please try to provide them with clothing they can put on themselves.
- We ask that ALL clothing is fully labelled with your child's name.
- Please provide sensible, velcro fastening shoes that will allow your child to access indoor and outdoor activities. We love to climb, run and explore our school grounds.
- Every child will have his or her own coat peg with name and picture.
- We ask that your child brings a named water bottle each day.
- We ask that toys and teddies stay at home as they are too precious and may get lost.





# How YOU CAN Help



## Snack Time

- During the day, we have a snack time when the children are given milk. This must be ordered through the Cool Milk Scheme.
- A snack of fresh fruit and topic related food will be provided during the day.
- We talk to the children about healthy food and where food comes from.
- Please let us know if your child has allergies or shouldn't eat certain types of food.

## Reception Fund

- We ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p per week towards extra supplies such as ingredients for baking etc. It may also be used to provide extra equipment for Reception, which we may need from time to time.

## Library

- At St Joseph's we have a passion for reading. Our well stocked library is open each morning from 8.30 for 'Reading Club' to all of our children and families. The children will receive a library card and receive stamps for each attendance. Certificates are given to those children with the best attendance each half-term. We would love to see you there.
- The children will visit our wonderful school library and are encouraged to borrow a book. These will be changed weekly.

## All are welcome

- We hold 'Stay and Play' sessions each term when you will be invited to work alongside your child, as well as see your child's progress. We want you to feel welcome in Reception and will always have time for you.

## 'Friends of St Joseph's'

- We have an active PTA who organise events throughout the academic year with the whole purpose of raising money for the school and children. We are always looking for new members so if you would like to be involved then please speak to a member of staff.





# CURRICULUM

## THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM INFORMATION ABOUT CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Whilst in Reception, the children are working within the Foundation Stage and follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This curriculum has four key themes and principles.

These are:

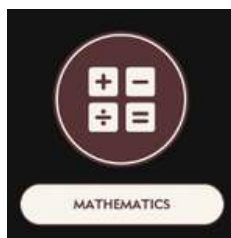
**A Unique Child** – every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

**Positive Relationships** – children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

**Enabling Environments** – children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

**Learning and Development** – children learn and develop in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Within the Foundation Stage curriculum there are seven areas of learning and three key characteristics of effective learning.







# CURRICULUM







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## THE THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING

**Playing and Exploring** – engagement

**Active Learning** – motivation

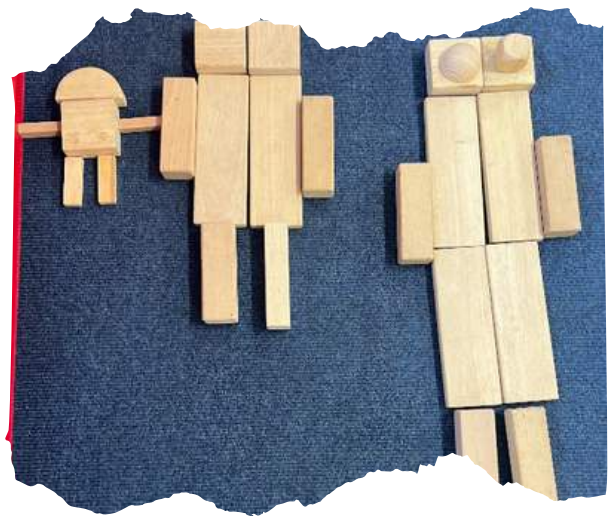
**Creating and Thinking Critically** – thinking

The curriculum is planned in a very practical way and is based around the topics that are of interest and are relevant and meaningful to the children. Adult and child directed activities take place both in the classroom and outside in the secure outdoor learning environment. The Reception children have direct access to the outdoor area which they use throughout the year and are encouraged to decide where they work and learn.



## ASSESSMENT

**Assessment** plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners (teachers and teaching assistants) recognise children's progress, understand their needs, identify gaps in learning and to plan activities and target support. Throughout the year, your child's progress will be tracked and assessed and at the end of the academic year will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELG's). Children are defined as having reached a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of the EYFS if they have achieved the expected level for the ELGs in the prime areas of learning and the specific areas of mathematics and literacy. This helps teachers and parents to understand broadly what a child can do in relation to national expectations.





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