

# Corpus Christi Catholic School



## Early Years Handbook

2018 – 2019

### EARLY YEARS CO-ORDINATORS:

Mrs Z. Bray & Mr S. Dervan

### NURSERY STAFF

Nursery Teacher: Mr. S. Dervan

Assistants: Mrs S. Richter-Wolszczak & Mrs M. Channer



### RECEPTION STAFF

Class 1 Teacher: Mrs A. Duffy

Class 2 Teacher: Miss N. Martin & Mrs. G. Jenson

Assistants: Ms R. Donlon & Miss S. O' Rourke

**Trent Road, London SW2 5BL Telephone: 020 7274 4722**

**<http://www.corpuschristischool.co.uk>**

# Welcome!

Dear Parents,

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) staff warmly welcome you and your child to Corpus Christi Nursery and Reception classes.

We look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming academic year.

Enclosed in this booklet is information about how you can help your child during this important stage of their development– The Early Years Foundation Stage.

Warmest regards,

EYFS Staff



“What a child can do in co-operation today, he can do alone tomorrow.”

Vygotsky (1978)

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# Welcome to Nursery!

Welcome to Corpus Christi Nursery. We hope your child will be very happy and enjoy their time with us.

## Sessions and Times:

Our Nursery has a morning, afternoon and full time session and your child will be assigned to one of these.

Morning Nursery: 8:40am– 11:30am

Afternoon Nursery: 12:30pm—3:20pm

Full Time: 8.40am—3.20pm



Please ensure that your child is always at school 5 minutes before the beginning of the session. At the end of both sessions, there is a 10-minute period where the staff are available to talk to parents.

## What will happen when my child starts Nursery?

We operate a staggered entry into Nursery to enable us to get to know the children and help them to settle in easily. Please refer to the printed label on your welcome pack to check the date on which your child starts.

Sometimes children find it hard to say 'goodbye' to parents on their first few days, especially if they have had no previous experience of Nursery or playgroup. We usually find that children settle more easily if parents leave them as soon as they can. We suggest that parents wait near the school office for 10 minutes. A member of the Nursery staff will come and let you know how your child is settling. If your child becomes very upset, please be assured that we will call you back.

# Welcome to Nursery!

## Snacks:

Each day the children will be given a snack mid-way through their session. This consists of milk or water and fruit/vegetables. The children are encouraged to eat this. There is no need to send your child in with any other items of food or drink.



## What did you do at Nursery today?

Children at Nursery follow the seven areas of learning of the EYFS curriculum, as well as RE.

Teaching in Nursery is delivered through a variety of topics, and incorporates whole-class teaching, group activities and individual one-to-one work.

At the beginning of each half term, a letter will be sent home outlining what will be taught, and ways in which parents can support their child at home.



**Nursery Staff:** Class Teacher: *Mr. S. Dervan*

Teaching Assistants: *Mrs S. Richter-Wolszczak, Mrs M. Channer*

# Welcome to Reception!

## The School Day.

The Reception school day is from 8.50am– 3.10pm.

Their lunch break is from 12-1.15pm.

Please ensure that your child is lined up quietly in the school playground by 8.45am each morning.

There is a break mid-morning for 20 minutes.

It is very important to ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day. **If you change the arrangements for collection of your child after school, please inform a member of staff.**



## What did you do at school today?

Children in Reception classes follow the 7 Areas of Learning of the EYFS Curriculum, as well as learning RE and PE. Sessions in Reception incorporate whole-class, group and individual work. There is an equal balance between direct, interactive teaching, child-initiated activities and play.

Through carefully planned and structured topic themes each half term, children experience a broad range of learning experiences across the seven areas of learning, which are explained in more detail later in this booklet.

Sometimes children find it hard to say 'goodbye' to parents on their first few days. If your child is very distressed, we will ask you to wait in the school office for 10 minutes. If your child remains upset, please be

assured that we will call you back.

# Welcome to Reception!

## Drinks/ Snacks

Water is available during the day, and the children are encouraged to drink regularly. Children should bring their own, sports cap water bottle, clearly labelled with their name.

A piece of fruit/vegetable is also available for your child during the morning break each day.

## School Meals

As a Healthy School, we are keen to promote healthy eating among the children, and we believe that our carefully designed menu reflects this priority. Copies of the menu will be sent home to allow you to discuss it with your child.

The meals are cooked on the premises and are of very high quality. We also try to use as much fresh produce as possible, therefore, we ask that all children eat a school lunch.

The cost of school meals is payable on the Monday of each week, or half-termly.

## Reception Staff:

Class 1 Teacher: *Mrs. A. Duffy*

Class 2 Teacher: *Mrs. G. Jenson & Miss N. Martin*

Teaching Assistants:

*Ms R. Donlon*

*Miss S. O' Rourke*

# School Uniform

## Nursery Uniform

Winter Uniform	Summer Uniform
<b>Corpus Christi navy blue tracksuit trousers</b> <b>Corpus Christi light blue polo shirt (with school logo)</b> <b>Corpus Christi navy blue sweatshirt (with school logo)</b> Plain white trainers (no logos, laces or designs) and plain white socks.	Navy blue shorts (also available at the office) <b>Corpus Christi light blue polo shirt (with school logo)</b> <b>Corpus Christi navy blue sweatshirt (with school logo)</b> Plain white trainers (no logos, laces or designs) and plain white socks.

The above items in bold print must be purchased from the school office.

Nursery uniform will be available for parents to look at/ check sizing on the days that children come for their taster day. Should you wish to, you will be able to purchase uniform on the taster days. Office staff will be available to help parents place orders online on these days.

If you wish to order uniforms online at a later date, you may do so, by going to our school website ([www.corpuschristischool.co.uk](http://www.corpuschristischool.co.uk)) and following the links from the homepage.

Uniforms can then be collected from the school office, allowing at least 24 hours from the order date.

The children should start Nursery wearing their winter uniform. They should wear their summer uniform from the first Monday in May.



# School Uniform

## Reception Uniform

<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Mid blue blouse	Mid blue shirt
<b>School tie</b>	<b>School tie</b>
Navy blue pinafore or skirt	<b>School jumper</b>
<b>School jumper</b>	Grey trousers
White socks/ navy blue tights	Grey socks
Black/ Navy shoes	Black/ Navy shoes (with child friendly fastenings—no laces please)
<b>Felt hat</b>	<b>School cap</b>
<b>Navy blue blazer with school badge</b>	<b>Navy blue blazer with school badge.</b>
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Summer</b>
<b>Light blue and white summer dress.</b>	Grey shorts
<b>Straw hat</b>	

***Reception children start school in their winter uniform.***

The above items in bold print must be purchased via parent pay. The children may wear any dark blue/navy coat without stripes or decorations. They should wear their summer uniform after the Easter Holiday.

# School Uniform

## Notes:

- Parents are asked to ensure that the children always wear the correct school uniform.
- Please make sure all uniform is **clearly labelled** with your child's name.
- Shoes: all children must wear sensible black/navy school shoes and with a child-friendly fastening. Boots are not allowed.
- Jewellery: no items of jewellery may be worn in school. Earrings: children with pierced ears may wear plain gold/silver ear studs.
- Hats, blazers, ties, pullovers must be purchased from the school office. Other items may be purchased from chain stores.
- Hair: Please keep hair tied back/away from the face.
- Hair extensions may not be worn in school.
- Boys should have a sensible hair cut. Long hair, steps, lines or shaved patterns are not allowed.

## PE Kits

Children in Reception and Nursery class receive weekly PE lessons. For these sessions Reception children will need:

- A Corpus Christi white t-shirt
- Navy blue shorts
- Plain black plimsolls
- A Corpus Christi PE bag.

**Please remember that all items of PE kit should be clearly named.**

Nursery children receive weekly

Physical Development sessions; no specific uniform is required.



# Information for Parents

## Parental Involvement:

Our aim is to involve parents as much as possible in school life.

Teachers are always pleased to see parents to discuss any concerns that they may have.



However, it may be necessary to make an appointment if you feel that you will need more than just a few minutes of the teacher's time. You can do this by emailing or talking to your child's class teacher to arrange a suitable time.

There are many other ways that you can be involved in school life:

**Emails** —Teachers in the Early Years regularly use email to send out letters/ reminders to parents/ carers. If you are happy for us to email you, your child's teacher will collect your email address from you.

**Weekly school newsletter**— this is available online or via email and there are hard copies available from the school office. It is emailed out on Fridays and is available on the school website. It contains important information about events and activities happening in the school during the week.

**Topic Newsletters**—these are sent out at the start of each half-term outlining the topics that the children will cover and the ways in which parents can help. These can also be sent via email.

**Termly Parent evenings**—these are a formal opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

**End of year report**—this is given to you at the end of the summer term. You can arrange to discuss this with the teacher if you have any concerns.

# Information for Parents

## Parents Evening

In the first half of the autumn term, there will be a Parents' Evening held with your child's teacher/ and their key worker. This is an opportunity to discuss your child and how they have settled into Nursery or Reception. There are 2 more parents evenings in the Spring and Summer Terms.

In Reception, parents are also invited to a Service of Welcome for the children, and to class assemblies (twice during the Reception year).

## Health Needs:

Please ensure that you complete the attached forms relating to your child's health. It is important that we are aware of any medical conditions (however minor) that your child has as soon as they start Nursery or Reception. If your child's health changes over the course of the year, please keep us informed.

We often cook with the children and encourage them to taste different foods, therefore it is essential that we are also aware of any allergies.

## Emergency Contact Forms:

It is essential that parents/carers complete the emergency contact form and that the school office has a copy of this on your child's first day. If your contact details change please notify us immediately so that we are always able to get hold of you.

## Medicals

Your child will receive a full medical by the school doctor or nurse some time during the Reception Year. You will be informed of the date of this, and invited to attend if necessary.

# Information for Parents

## Absences, Attendance and Punctuality

If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office at the earliest opportunity. If your child has a medical appointment, it is essential that the school knows about it as far in advance as possible. Absences during term time, for reasons other than illness, are not allowed by law unless in exceptional circumstances.

Please ensure that your child arrives for school on time every day, and is collected promptly at the end of the day. Young children can become very distressed if they arrive late in the morning or are left waiting at the end of the school day.

## Behaviour

Corpus Christi School has an excellent reputation for the good behaviour of our children. Your child will be encouraged and expected to behave well in a wide variety of situations. If your child is upset by the actions of another child, please do not try to sort it out by approaching that child or their parent. However well intentioned, this usually makes matters worse.

Any concerns that you have should be brought to the attention of the class teacher.



# Information for Parents

## What can I do to help?

Please check that all of your child's clothes and PE kits are labelled before they start school.

Please ensure that your child attends all school sessions (unless they are unwell).

Please ensure that you deliver to, and collect from, school promptly.

## Essentials

Parents can help to prepare their child for school by ensuring that their child is able to do the following things;

### On Entry to Nursery:

- It is **essential** that when your child starts Nursery they are able to use the toilet without assistance
- *If your child is not able to cope with this, it is imperative that you speak to your child's class teacher before your child starts Nursery/ Reception*
- To feed themselves competently

### On entry to Reception:

- Fully dress and undress themselves
- To write their name
- To use a knife and fork correctly



# EYFS Curriculum

## *Personal, Social and Emotional Development*



### **What will my child learn?**

Children will be provided with experiences and support which will help them to develop a positive sense of themselves and of others; respect for others; social skills; and a positive attitude to learning.

We will provide support for children's emotional well-being to help them to know themselves and what they can do.



### **How can I help my child?**

- Meeting other children at parent and toddler groups, pre-school settings or through visiting friends
- Learning to share and play together at home as well as outside
- Managing personal needs such as going to the toilet, dressing, opening doors, using tools, cutlery, comb, toothbrush
- Expressing feelings, talking about being happy, sad, hurt, upset, angry
- Discovering the pleasure of giving to others
- Learning to meet expectations of behaviour
- Learning how to express frustrations appropriately

# EYFS Curriculum

## Literacy



### What will my child learn?

Children will learn skills in reading and writing through sharing stories, 'writing stories', investigating non fiction books and various other learning opportunities.

### How can I help my child?

- Sharing songs, poetry and rhymes
- Enjoying books; visiting the local library
- Recognising the labels on packets and tins
- Playing word games: finding words that rhyme, I-spy
- Beginning to write names and other words that are important to them
- "Writing" birthday cards, shopping lists and letters
- Reading the labels on packets and tins
- Identifying the sounds different letters make





# EYFS Curriculum

## Mathematics



### What will my child learn?

Children will be supported in developing their understanding of mathematics in a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk about their developing understanding.

### How can I help my child?

- Talking together about the world– how much? How many? How big?
- Learning about shapes: circles, triangles, squares, cones, cubes, for example when shopping
- Learning the language of maths: height, weight, distance, quantity
- Number: learning number rhymes and songs, playing counting games, counting stairs or toys
- Recognising everyday numbers– the telephone, front door, car number plate, finding any special number
- Sorting: sorting out the sock drawer, which goes with which and why?
- Setting places at the table
- Proportioning food, sharing sweets
- Building with bricks, stacking and lining them up, discovering symmetry
- Using Mathematics and other computer programmes at home



# EYFS Curriculum

## *Understanding the World*



### **What will my child learn?**

Children are supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. We offer opportunities to use a range of tools safely, encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments and in real-life situations; undertake practical 'experiments' and work with a range of materials.

### **How can I help my child?**

- Talking together about ourselves, our house, our road, where we live, where we shop, what we buy
- Exploring and recognising living things, pets, animals, plants
- Talking, listening and asking questions
- Exploring with all the senses
- Experimenting, investigating everything in the child's environment
- Making things, cutting, joining, folding, building, learning how things fit together and come apart
- Using computers, DVDs and electronic games together, talking about what happens and why
- Sharing historical experiences and memories through talking or old photographs.



# EYFS Curriculum

## *Expressive Arts and Design*



### **What will my child learn?**

We will extend children's creativity by providing support for their curiosity, exploration and play. We will provide opportunities for children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings, for example through a variety of art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role-play activities, mathematics, and design and technology.

### **How can I help my child?**

- Taking opportunities for imaginative play with natural materials, sand, stones, shells, leaves and twigs
- Expressing ideas through painting and drawing
- Moulding and shaping with clay or dough
- Dressing up, becoming another person in another world
- Dancing to music and playing out stories
- Singing and listening to music



# Reading

## Letters and Sounds

All children in the EYFS follow the national Letters and Sounds programme. This begins with sound discrimination and awareness, and develops with the specific, systematic teaching of synthetic phonics to Year 2.

Letterland is used throughout Nursery and Reception to introduce the children to the letters and sounds through fun characters, songs and stories.

## Reading in the Reception Year

The class teacher will give a high priority to the teaching of reading during the first year. This takes skill, time and patience, and requires the co-operation and support of parents.

Every child will start to read at a different time to the other children in the class, so please do not be anxious about your child's progress. If teachers have any concerns they will speak to you.

It is very important that you read to your child so they are encouraged to take an interest in books, and are shown how to care for books properly.

Children's reading is recorded in their Home School Book and stamped when we have read with them at school.

Children are also allowed to choose a library book on Friday, and you can spend time sharing this book with your child.

# Reading

The children are taught to read through a combination of daily Phonics sessions and the Oxford Reading Tree (ORT) Scheme . Phonics sessions begin immediately. ORT will be introduced gradually as the children become ready, and initially ALL children are read with one to one at least bi-weekly.

As children grow in confidence they join a small reading group pitched at their level.

You will end up becoming very familiar with these characters!



# EYFS Curriculum

## Communication and Language



### What will my child learn?

Children will learn skills in communicating, and speaking and listening. We will provide a range of learning opportunities, and encourage them to use their skills in a range of situations and for a range of purposes.

### How can I help my child?

- Talking about everything seen and done together while encouraging your child to use full sentences
- Developing a range of vocabulary
- Encourage use of descriptive words
- Playing listening games: I hear with my little ear/  
Simon says
- Singing songs and rhymes together
- Play clapping games encouraging recall of sequence
- Read stories and encourage your child to retell them
- More formal 'Show and Tells' through out the school year



# EYFS Curriculum

## Physical Development



### What will my child learn?

We will provide opportunities for children to be active and interactive, and improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement. We support them in their understanding of the importance of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food.

### How can I help my child?

- Playing out of doors with balls and ropes or visiting a park play area together
- Swimming at the local baths
- Joining a dance or aerobics group
- Using small tools; scissors, nuts and bolts, pegs
- Practising self-help skills
- Discussing changes to our bodies when we exercise
- Talking about different food groups and their benefits
- Talking about the benefits of healthy eating



# Useful Websites

## Literacy

[www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)

*Provides information on the Letters and Sounds programme that is used to teach phonics, it also has activities for children to play.*

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/magickey](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/magickey)

*A link to a variety of Literacy activities linked to the Oxford Reading Tree characters.*

[www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)

*Online stories and activities.*

## General

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs)

*This website has activities for all seven areas of learning.*

[www.theimaginationtree.com](http://www.theimaginationtree.com)

*Great for creative ideas to do with your child.*

[www.busythings.co.uk](http://www.busythings.co.uk)

*This website has a week free trial and has fantastic games across the areas.*

## Apps:

There are a number of fantastic apps available which support work across the EYFS. This site has a collection of some of the best:

<http://www.apps4primaryschools.co.uk/apps/ios/early-years-foundation/page/3/>



# Taster Sessions

## Nursery

All new children are invited to attend Nursery for a 'taster hour'. Details of this are the front of your welcome pack.

## Reception

Children already at Corpus Christi Nursery will have the opportunity to visit their new class during July. You will be informed of this date.

Reception children new to Corpus Christi will receive an invitation to visit their new class from the school.

**We are sure that your child's time at Corpus Christi will be very happy, and we look forward to welcoming them.**



# Natural Thinkers

## What is “Natural Thinkers”?

EYFS has been involved with the Lambeth Natural Thinkers programme and we are proud to have achieved Natural Thinking status. The aim of this programme is to connect young children with nature, by ensuring all children have access to a natural outdoor area.

## What do we do in Corpus Christi?

We are most grateful to Corpus Christi Church and Father Adrian and Father David who have allowed us use the Church Garden on a regular basis. Developments are ongoing with a fire pit and a pizza oven both in the pipeline for the coming year.

Nursery and Reception children visit the Church Garden on a regular basis to take part in these activities.

## How can you help?

If you are particularly green fingered (or even if you're not) we would love your help! We would really welcome any support/ interest from parents/families/carers. As the garden develops it needs the help of volunteers to keep it clean and free from rubbish.

We often send home homework that supports our Natural Thinking work too.

If you would like to be involved on a regular basis please speak to your child's teacher or email our wonderful church gardener Daisy [dgarnett@me.com](mailto:dgarnett@me.com)

We would love some volunteers!

There is also a Natural Thinkers blog (not linked to Corpus Christi). This provides some examples of the types of activities that children take part in through the programme.



<https://1jules.wordpress.com/>

# Notes

