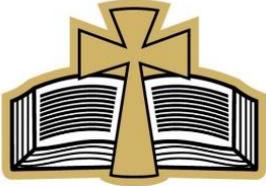


ST. BEDE'S



CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Welcome to St Bede's Catholic Academy, we aim to give your child a happy, positive and successful start to their school life.

Your child will enjoy an exciting, active and creative curriculum where they will explore the world and ask questions. They will learn through the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework which is made up of seven areas of learning:

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION STAGE?

The Foundation Stage begins in Nursery when children reach the age of 3 and finishes at the end of the Reception Year, when most children will have achieved the Early Learning Goals.

There are seven areas of learning within the Foundation Stage. These are:

1. PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children learn about making relationships. They develop self-confidence and a positive self-image. They learn to share and take turns and how to express their emotions appropriately. Children learn to become more independent and to be interested in and be confident to try new activities and experiences.



2. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This is about improving children's skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement.



It helps children to gain confidence in what they do and enables them to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active.

Young children's physical development is inseparable from all other aspects of development, because they learn through being active and interactive.

Activities to develop larger scale movement will include climbing, balancing, swinging, pedalling, throwing and catching. Small scale movement will be developed through use of tools, play dough, plasticine, sand and water.

3. COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE



Children have the opportunity to share and enjoy a wide range of stories, rhymes, songs and poems. They will be encouraged to use language and learn new words in different situations e.g. through role play and small world play. There will be lots of opportunities for children to listen to others and express themselves on a one-to-one basis, and also in groups.

4. LITERACY

Children will take part in our Phonics sessions which utilise the fundamentals of a programme called 'Read Write Inc'. They will be taught letter sounds, key words and writing skills within ability groups. They will also experience a wide range of Literacy based play activities every day.

5. MATHEMATICS



Children will have many opportunities to count, sort, match, look for patterns and work with numbers and shapes. These skills will be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play and through daily Maths sessions.

6. UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

This is a very wide area! It includes learning about themselves and other living things; experimenting with different materials (e.g. sand, water, soil, magnets); investigating construction materials (e.g. kits, box modelling); using simple tools (e.g. rolling pins, scissors); controlling a mouse; learning about past and present and how things change; learning about their environment.

7. EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

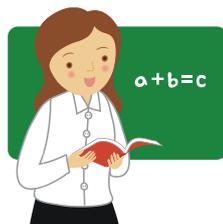
This area of learning includes art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play. This is an important area of learning which allows children to express themselves in a variety of ways. Children will be given time to explore, experiment and practise ideas and skills.



Daily Routine



Children thrive on routine, literacy and maths is taught in Nursery and Reception through whole class teaching, small group work and inside and outside activities. Children access the rest of the EYFS curriculum through our well-planned topics. These topics are designed to engage the children in their learning and take account of the seasons, yearly events and traditions.



We hold formal parent consultation sessions twice a year (usually October and March) when you will have a 10 minute appointment to discuss your child's progress and achievements and to think about the next steps. However, you can always make an appointment to see us to discuss any larger issues or problems.

In Reception your child will need:

- A named book bag (available from the school office)
- A named PE kit
- A named coat
- A named lunch box if they are having packed lunches from home (*remember all children now receive a FREE school meal*)

At St Bede's Catholic Academy our school uniform is part of our identify and we take great pride in wearing it



Ready for School

We have identified the 10 keys to unlocking school readiness. These will help parents and families understand what their children should be able to do by the time they start in a reception class if they are developing typically for their age.

- I can settle happily without my parent or carer.
- I can tell friends and grown-ups what I need.
- I can take turns and share when I am playing.
- I can go to the toilet on my own and wash my hands.
- I can put on my own coat and shoes and feed myself.
- I can tell a grown up if I am happy, sad or cross.
- I know that what I do and say can make others happy or unhappy.
- I am curious and want to learn and play.
- I can stop what I am doing, listen and follow simple instructions.
- I enjoy sharing books with grown-ups.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO TO HELP TO PREPARE MY CHILD FOR FULL TIME SCHOOL?

- Work with your child to regularly practise writing their name. However, please ensure your child forms their letters correctly (see next page) as it is very difficult to 'unlearn' incorrect formation.
- Practise counting everyday objects and singing number rhymes.
- Play 'I Spy' or rhyming games - these really help with early reading and writing.
- Talk in letter sounds e.g. it's time for b-e-d. Ask your child to blend the sounds together to say the word. This oral blending is a key part of learning to read.
- Play simple board games, do puzzles and share stories.
- Sing nursery rhymes together, teach them to say them by themselves.
- Above all, enjoy playing with your child!