



Welcome to Reception Class 2021



**Bishop
Hogarth**
Catholic Education Trust

Welcome to Reception

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your child to St Charles Catholic Primary School. The community of St. Charles School believes that Jesus is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to giving every child, every opportunity to achieve their potential in mind and body in a happy, safe and caring environment. Our staff strive to provide excellent opportunities for our children to enjoy and succeed. We are blessed with wonderful children. They have a great attitude to their learning and towards each other through mutual respect.

This booklet has been written to help prepare you and your child for the exciting adventure of starting school. We aim to give you the information you need and some ideas for how you can help get your child ready for school so that they have a really positive start and go on to have a successful education. We recognise the value of parental support to children's all-round development and learning, and we want to work in partnership with you to help your child develop as a valuable member of our school community and go onto achieve their full potential. We look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

St Charles Catholic School has recently joined Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust and we are very much looking forward to opening our Governor led nursery in September.

If you would like any further information about any aspect of life at St Charles, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team.

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hall
Headteacher and Early Years Lead



Mission Statement



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believes that Jesus is at the heart of everything we do.

*We are committed to giving every child, every opportunity to achieve their potential
in mind and body in a happy, safe and caring environment.*

Key information

Key dates:

Monday 6th September - Inset Day

Tuesday 7th September - Taster session. The visit will be for one parent and child and will last approximately one hour. During the visit, you will have the opportunity to meet me and the Early Years staff.

Visit times:

9.15-10.15am **Surnames A-G** **10 children**

10.30-11.30am **Surnames H-P** **10 children**

1.00-2.00pm **Surnames R-Z** **10 children**

Wednesday 8th September- Full time. Arrival on first day will be **9.30am** then times as below. At the moment, we are operating a staggered arrival and finish time for all classes, and we expect this to remain in place in September.

The times for Reception children are:

Arrival time: 8.40-8.55am

Finish time: 2.45pm

Timings of the school day:

Here is an outline of what a current typical day in our Reception Class looks like:

From 8.40am	Reception doors open for children to start arriving
8.55am – 9.10am	Registration and prayer time
9.10am – 10am	Fine motor carousel, news and phonics
10am – 11.30am	Literacy and child-led activities
11.30am – 12.15pm	Lunch time
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Prayers, maths and child-led activities
1.15pm-2.35pm	Curriculum subjects, RE, circle time and child-led activities
2.45pm	Home time at present (due to COVID restrictions)

School lunch:

Children will be offered a range of tasty hot meals from the school kitchens. All children in Reception receive a free school meal. If you would rather your child had a packed lunch, please let us know.

Snacks and milk

Children are asked to bring a water bottle to school daily along with a healthy snack from home whilst COVID 19 restrictions are still in place. Milk will be available too, more information will be given about this at a later date.

Arrival and Collection:

Children leave their parents at the green gates on the footpath from 8.40am. There will be a member of staff to greet all parents at the gates and a member of the Early Years team will meet children at the door to Reception.

When collecting your child, please arrive promptly at the end of the school day and wait on the paved area near the Reception class play area. Staff will bring children out to meet you.

Parking:

If dropping off and collecting your child by car, please park your vehicle on the surrounding roads near school with respectful parking.

Contacting the school including reporting absences:

To contact the school regarding any issues or to report an absence please call the school office on 01388 814285.



EYFS Curriculum

There are four over-arching principles for the EYFS.

These are:

- Every child is a **unique child** – Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children can learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.
- 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 or carers
- **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.** The Framework covers the education and care of all children in the early years including children with special educational needs and disabilities.



Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning development. All areas are important and interconnected. The prime areas are:

- **Communication and Language;** listening, attention and understanding, speaking.
- **Physical Development;** developing gross motor and fine motor skills.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development;** building relationships with others, managing self and self-regulation.

The children are also supported in four specific areas, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied.

These specific areas are:

- **Literacy;** comprehension, word reading and writing
- **Mathematics;** Number and numerical patterns
- **Understanding the World;** People, Culture and Communities, the natural world, past and present
- **Expressive Arts and Design;** creating with materials, being imaginative and expressive.

What will the EYFS curriculum look like in Reception?

- Much emphasis is given to the Personal, Social and Emotional Development, particularly during the first half-term. Children need to feel happy, safe, secure and valued to ensure progress in all areas of learning. Priority is given to forming good relationships with peers and adults, discovering their new setting and settling into nursery routines.
- Activities are based upon what children already know. Building upon these foundations established through careful early and continual assessment ensures success.
- Once children have developed a strong self-confidence their learning rapidly progresses, and they will be stretched and challenged appropriately.
- Activities are practical, hands-on and, most importantly, fun.
- There will be a variety of structured play activities to choose from as well as child-initiated activities.
- Children are encouraged to make their own choices and decisions and to initiate their own activities, developing into creative and independent learners.
- They are given time to become engrossed in activities that they are particularly interested in and opportunities to move on when ready.
- As their concentration span develops, they will be encouraged to spend more time at a single, focused activity.



Working in Partnership with Parents

As parents, you are the first educators of your children. We believe in a close partnership between parents and staff as we join you in educating your child. We want to work closely with you, as good communication between staff and parents enables us to inform each other of relevant matters concerning your child. We would appreciate being informed of any changes at home that might affect your child, and will treat anything you tell us in strict confidence. We will inform parents about the activities and learning situations that your child will be experiencing in half termly newsletters. We provide many varied activities and find that real things such as unwanted small saucepans, old telephones and cameras, clocks, toys, games, jigsaws which children have grown out of, to name but a few, bring alive children's play. Please consult us before you throw anything away - we may be able to use it!

In line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, we use 'Tapestry' which is a secure online Learning Journal to record photos, observations and comments made by your child.

Our relationship with parents and carers is fundamental to our work in the EYFS and we encourage you to help record any milestones and special events in their lives by recording them as 'wow moments' to celebrate with the rest of the class. These also help us to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time here at St. Charles.

These are some of the ways in which **we** help to keep you involved:

- Home visits with parents
- 'Stay and play' sessions for you and your child.
- Sharing your child's learning journal with you
- Parents evenings
- Reports
- EYFS newsletters and curriculum overview information
- Whole school newsletters

Here are some of the ways **you** can work with us:

- Support achievements from outside e.g., swimming, football, dancing etc.
- To add to your child's learning journal by sending observations on Tapestry
- Supporting questionnaires, giving feedback and providing suggestions.
- Update contact details with office as soon as any changes occur (new address, mobile contact number etc.)
- Ensure correct uniform is worn and labelled with your child's name.
- Ensure prompt arrival and collection of your child every day.
- Notify us of changes in home time collections (who will be picking your child up on which days)
- Contact the school office if your child is going to be absent from school on 01388 814285.

Starting Reception at St Charles Catholic School

What happens at school?

- There are two classes within the Early Foundation Stage unit, one Nursery Class and one Reception Class. Mrs Hall is the EY leader and will oversee the setting. Mrs McMullan is the Reception teacher.
- Your child will have a named coat peg. Their book bag will be kept in their class box. Their coats and lunchboxes are kept in the cloakroom area. You can support your child by encouraging them to become independent in following the daily routine.
- **Self-registration** – Your child is responsible to collect their photo/name and place it on the welcome board.
- **Snacks** – We are a healthy school and are part of the National School Fruit Scheme. This means that all children in EYFS will receive a piece of fruit or vegetable for their snack. However, with current COVID 19 restrictions, we are currently asking that children also bring their own healthy snack into school too.
- **Toileting** – Children will always be encouraged to be as independent as possible in this area. Please speak to your child's teacher if your child has any issues regarding this.
- **Illness** – Should your child become ill during school hours, we will contact you or persons named on the personal details form as soon as possible. With the welfare of your child and the other children at school to consider, please do not send your child to school if they have had sickness or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours.
- **Accidents** – Cuts, bumps and bruises are treated with a cold compress, ice pack, or plaster, if necessary, as well as plenty of TLC. In the case of a serious accident, you will be contacted immediately. A member of staff with first aid qualifications will take responsibility until you arrive at school. If your child has received a heavy bump to the head, you will be informed of the circumstances by the teacher at the end of the school day or by a phone call.

What you need to provide or do:

- **School Uniform** –
All our children are proud to wear our school uniform which fosters a sense of community and belonging for the whole school community.

Our school uniform consists of the following:
 - Bottle green sweatshirts, cardigans or school hoodie
 - White or green shirt/polo-shirt
 - Grey trousers, grey pinafore or skirt
 - Girls may choose to wear a green gingham dress in the summer and the boys can wear grey shorts.
- **Naming uniform** – Please ensure your child's clothes are clearly named, especially jumpers and cardigans.

- **Packed lunches** – We ask you to provide a healthy, balanced lunch. Please also include a still drink.
- **Book Bags** – Your child will need a school book bag when they start at our school, please bring it to school every day. All newsletters and information will be sent home in your child's bag, so please check them regularly.
- **Water** – Please bring a **named** water bottle, filled with water, from home every day. Children will have access to them throughout the day. They will be sent home at the end of the day.
- **Healthy Snacks** – Fresh fruit is provided on a daily basis, but we ask with current COVID 19 restrictions that children also bring their own healthy snack into school too.
- **Coats** – Please bring a **named** waterproof coat everyday unless the forecast is very hot. The children have outdoor play and activities every day. Please also provide **named** hats and gloves for the winter, and a **named** cap or sunhat for the summer, children will not be able to play outside without a hat in the summer months.
- **Wellies** – Children need a **named** pair of wellies to enable them to access the wooded area. These are to be kept in school for everyday use.
- **Medication** – If your child is prescribed regular medication by a doctor please discuss with your child's key worker.

How can you help prepare your child for school?

Here are just a few ideas for how you can help your child prepare for school. We're sure you are doing lots of these already, and have lots more ideas that you could add!

- Share books and stories.
- Go to the public library and share a range of books
- Sing nursery rhymes with your child.
- Play turn-taking games such as snakes and ladders; make sure your child learns how to win and lose as well.
- Have play opportunities with other children, especially over the summer holidays.
- Talk about numbers and teach your child to count objects accurately; you could involve your child in helping around the house by counting out the bowls or spoons needed to lay the table, counting steps up and down the stairs, look at house numbers or numbers on cars or buses as you go for a walk.
- Talk about mathematical concepts such as: taller, shorter, heavier, lighter, full, half-full, empty, less than, more than, higher, lower.
- Let your child handle money and learn to recognise coins.
- Talk about shapes and colours.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves, including using buttons and zips.
- Ensure your child can manage using the toilet by themselves, including flushing the chain and washing their hands afterwards.

Key Staff

Head Teacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Thompson



Deputy Head Teacher

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Hill



Early Years Leader

Mrs Hall



Reception Teacher

Mrs McMullan

Office Staff:

Miss Ewington

Mrs Forden



Our Classroom

Please note:

The Early Years Department, both inside and out, is currently undergoing many exciting changes. As soon as our learning areas are complete, pictures will be uploaded to our website as soon as possible. We thank you for your patience.

The Dinner Hall

