

Dear Parents and Children of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Welcome to Reception year at St. Joseph's (Early Years Foundation Stage). The following information included in this brochure is intended to give you a better understanding of the structure and work carried out in the Foundation Stage Class. As parents, your support and cooperation play a vital part in your child's education. We have an 'open door' policy which means that you are always welcome to come into the classroom, to share your child's achievements. We are happy to discuss any aspect of your child's education, please arrange an appointment with your child's class teacher.

Adults involved with Early Years Foundation Stage

In Early Years, as in every class, the efforts of a number of people, apart from the class teacher, are essential in developing each child's full potential. We run as an Early years Unit and have 4 members of staff. Our EYFS lead is Miss Stevenson. We also have 3 teaching assistants Mrs Moore, Miss Jones and Miss Hauxwell.

Parents or volunteers from the school community are welcome to help in the unit hearing readers or working with a small group. You are more than welcome to come into class to help and support (DBS check would be essential due to legal requirements.)

The Year's Main Focus

Our main focus in EYFS is to provide a stimulating and enjoyable teaching and learning environment. This class is part of EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). This stage includes children from 0-5. Children can enter our Nursery once they are 2 if a place is available (paid and funded places are available for 2- 4 year olds, free nursery places begin term after 3rd birthday). They then begin school the September before their 5th birthday. There is also now the option for summer born children to defer their school start to the following year. If you would like more information about our Nursery or starting school please contact school.

One of our main aims is for children to settle in quickly and happily, to develop their personal and social skills encouraging independence and responsibility.



Topics and Educational Visits

Throughout the school year we will cover a broad spectrum of topics which will incorporate all areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage. These topics are dictated by your child's interests and we aim to provide a personalised curriculum with activities at the level appropriate to your child. All topics involve discovering about themselves and the environment in which they live. There will be a balance between science, history and geography based topics.

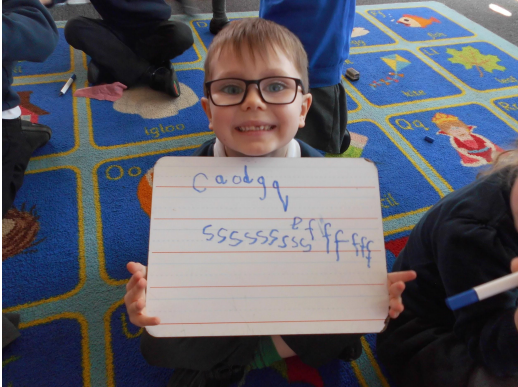
EYFS promotes educational visits. Parents who have been DBS checked (Criminal Record Bureau) are welcome on these visits. If you are interested in becoming a parent volunteer please see the EYFS teacher who can discuss the process with you. Parents who have been DBS checked (Criminal Record Bureau) are welcome on these visits.



Handwriting

In Reception we start the year by working on fine motor skills and love a session of Dough Disco or Squiggle while you wiggle. We also really encourage gross motor movements to

build upper arm strength, activities such as sweeping the floor and climbing trees are great for building this strength.



Children are introduced to handwriting when appropriate for that particular child.

Once children have a good understanding of letters and their use, we then provide opportunities to practise the formation and orientation of specific letters.

At St Joseph's we learn to write in many fun ways:

- We finger paint
- We chalk on the floor outside
- We write in sand
- We make letters out of play dough
- We draw letters in the air.



Finally once we have acquired the appropriate fine motor control and are able to hold a pencil correctly we learn how to write on whiteboards and paper.

Religious Education

Our themes in Religious Education lay the foundations for Catholic beliefs and introduce an understanding of how Christianity can fit into their daily lives. The themes

change each year and are identified in the half termly topic web.

The children are encouraged to learn to make the Sign of the Cross, Morning offering and end of the day prayers, as well as Grace before Meals prayers.

All the children take a part in the liturgy by listening to stories, prayers or singing hymns.



Reading Books

Once the children have learnt all their initial sounds and can blend and segment words confidently, they progress onto reading scheme books.



In EYFS we use phonetic reading books to build confidence when learning how to blend letters together to read words. Once the children have reached a certain standard of phonetic knowledge, they can take books home to reinforce letter sounds, vocabulary and an understanding of books. This is a great opportunity for you to listen to their reading and see their progression in school.

Your child's progress is recorded in school each time we read. There is a home reading diary where parents are encouraged to write their personal comments in this book, regarding the child's reading. Every time you read please sign in here- even just a signature will do. When your child has reached this level in their reading they will be listened to read weekly in school by either the class teacher, teaching assistant or other adult and a reading scheme book will be sent home. ***It is expected that you will also hear your child read and return the book to school everyday.***

The Book Bag

School will provide your child with their first book bag free of charge. This enables children to safely carry their books home and, back to school again hopefully, preventing any getting lost. The Book Bag is also the place to find school letters. Please check the bags on a daily basis for new books and any communication from school.

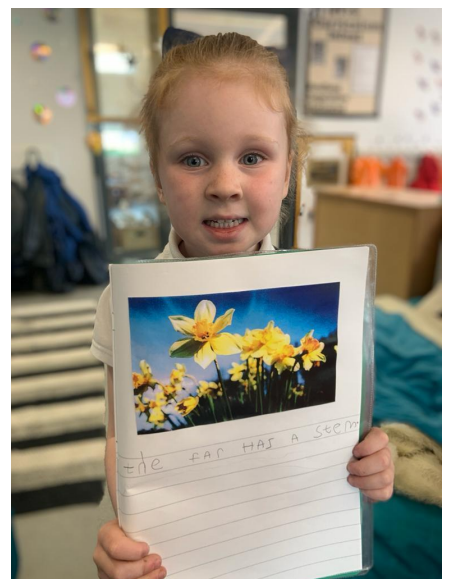
If you wish to get a message to us you can send one via evidence me.

Independence

We spend a great deal of time encouraging your child to be independent in all they do. Your child will find this easier in school if you have spent time preparing them before they begin.

Try to encourage them to;

- Recognise their name by sight
- Dress and undress
- Use a knife and fork correctly and independently
- To use a toilet independently
- To put on a coat
- To complete some simple tasks independently



Leaving your child; When to leave your child in the morning

A big journey begins with a little step! We aim to help children become learners for life. It is our belief that an independent child becomes an independent learner, a vital stage in their development.

Our aim is for every child to enter school, on their own. To support this goal we have a number of procedures in place with regard to leaving your child each morning, in place. These are outlined below.

- All children enter our EYFS through the gate to the left hand side of the building. There is a buzzer system in place, please press and wait for the gate to unlock before pushing. For the first few weeks you are welcome to accompany your child into the class until they settle. Our intention is to make transition into school as smooth and easy as possible. We recognise that you may like to see the location of your child's peg and help them with their belongings in these early stages.
- As **soon** as your child is ready please encourage them to enter school independently.
- Should your child rush in school without their belongings, please pass them to the member of staff on duty, who will ensure they reach the correct peg.
- In fairness to all children, we ask families to adhere to our ethos of independence. We try to protect the child who has been brave and said 'goodbye' to their parents at the school door, by ensuring they don't see other children in school, accompanied by their Mummy and Daddy. From experience this can cause the child who had previously felt brave to then feel upset.
- This final step of independence will help to prepare your child for Year 1, where they will join the rest of the school in the same routines.

Induction procedures

We aim to provide a smooth and successful induction for your child into school. This aim is met in many different ways. Often the most frequent area of concern is the first few weeks at school.

Week 1- 6th September 2022

Half days; 8.55-12.15

Your child can experience a school lunch in the dinner hall and then head home.

Week 2

This week is flexible depending on the needs of the individual child. If your child is confident and would like to stay for the full day the times are 8.55-3.30pm.

If you feel your child could do with shorter days then this can be accommodated, please discuss this with your child's teacher.

Week 3

Ideally we would like all children to be in school full time from this week however we will continue to be flexible up until the half term if the need arises. We aim to ensure all children are fully settled into school and happy during this half term.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

This is a statutory EYFS document that all schools must assess children with at the end of the year. This profile consists of 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas of learning.

3 Prime areas;

- personal, social and emotional development
- communication and language
- physical development

4 specific areas;

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design



You are welcome to see these documents at any time please make an appointment with the class teacher.

Outdoor play

A major aspect of EYFS curriculum is the emphasis on outdoor play. We do this in ALL weathers! We all go outside on a daily basis even if it is raining, snowing, windy, sunny etc. Please always ensure your child brings appropriate clothing into school.

We have a class set of waterproof suits which we will put on your child if it is very wet or snowy.



Please ensure you send into school a pair of wellies for your child to wear! These will be kept on the welly rack your child to access whenever it is wet or muddy.

We strive to keep all children as clean as possible but there will be circumstances where your child will get dirty (this is the fun part of being a child!) You are welcome to send into school a spare outfit which your child can change into if needed. This will be kept on their peg in the classroom.

In the warmer weather we ask that you ensure your child comes to school with suncream already applied. We have a factor 50 suntan cream in school which we will reapply to all children around midday.

Celebrating Successes

Teachers at St. Joseph's adopt a positive teaching style and are well aware that it is important to give positive reinforcement and praise whenever the opportunity arises. A child will be continually praised and awarded a sticker for varied achievements. In class we also use a variety of points systems to reinforce good behaviour, including our star chart.

Outstanding behaviour and achievement is also shared with the other classes during our weekly Celebration Assembly on Friday afternoons. EYFS begin attending some of these special assemblies in the summer term. Several children from all classes are awarded a certificate by their class teacher for good work or achievements. During this assembly, they could be awarded a "Star of the Week" trophy for a good attitude or the "Wise Owl" award for good work. The Head Teacher never misses an opportunity to offer praise and give an award. The Head Teacher's award is given for exceptional progress or attitude and the badge is worn with pride .

Yearly Events

Whole school newsletters issued, should provide you with further information regarding events which are relevant to the EYFS class. This will be sent home via email Please ensure your email address is up to date. EYFS also sends home a class newsletter at various times in the year to keep you up to date with what is happening in EYFS.

Throughout the year there will be other opportunities for you to spend time in your child's class and in school, if possible please try to attend, we would love to see you at these events to share your child's experiences and achievements.

No shoe policy

We have recently adopted a no shoe policy in EYFS. Please encourage your child to take off their own shoes on a morning before entering school. they are welcome to bring in a pair of slipper socks or soft soled slippers, or simply socks is fine. All staff members are also following this policy in an attempt to keep our classroom clean and hygienic.

Special Request from the Class Teacher

- Please send in a £1.00 every Monday to cover the costs of your child's toast/snack, which we have available in class every morning. The cost also helps cover other classroom essentials (such as baking ingredients/ role play costumes/ creative materials etc).
- Please make sure that names are on all clothes, bags and shoes. Things do get mixed up sometimes! Make sure that your child can manage their clothes and shoes- i.e. zips and Velcro- fasteners are easier than buttons and laces.
- PE kits are currently not needed in school as children can wear their PE wear on our PE day which is a Friday. Black/ navy trousers or short and a white t shirt. (school logo or plain white)
- Any questions or queries please speak to a member of the EYFS team.

Thank you...Miss K. Stevenson
2022



