



☀ Welcome to the St. Luke and St. Philip's Family! ☀

A Special Note for Our New Reception Parents

Dear Parents,

Starting school is a HUGE and exciting adventure for your child—and for you! We know this transition from home to school is a big step, and we are committed to making it as **smooth, happy, and secure** as possible for your little one.

At St. Luke and St. Philip's, we truly believe that your child gains the most when **home and school work together as a team**. Please always feel welcome in our school—we are here to support you both!

We are so excited for your child to join our family and look forward to meeting you soon.

Best wishes,

The Staff of St. Luke and St. Philip's CE Primary
Academy



Getting Ready: School Uniform and Clothes

We want your child to feel proud to wear our school uniform!

What Your Child Needs to Wear:

Top: Red sweatshirt with the school logo OR white polo shirt with the school logo.

Bottoms: Grey skirt or grey trousers.

Socks/Tights: Plain grey or white socks, or grey tights in winter.

Shoes: Black shoes with Velcro (Velcro is much easier for little hands than laces!).



Please put your child's name in all their school clothes and PE kit and footwear.

PE Kit:

White T-shirt.

Black shorts.

Black slip-on or Velcro pumps/daps.

Bags: Please purchase a school bag and a PE bag from the school office.



Where to Buy Uniform

You can find all our uniform items at: Whittakers Schoolwear:

<https://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/blackburn/st-luke-st-philips-c-of-e-primary-school/>

Uniforms without the school logo can also be purchased at the supermarkets.

Helping Your Child Get Independent (Our Top Tip!)

Please practise getting changed at home! This is the single biggest thing you can do to prepare them for school.

PE Days: Your child will need to change for PE by themselves (it's safer and healthier).

Practise Makes Perfect: Show your child how to put on their clothes, and how to use zips and buttons. This boosts their confidence!

Safety First: No jewellery is to be worn, including earrings.

Long hair must be tied back.

Lunchtime and Snacks

Lunch Options

Your child can choose to:

Have a delicious school dinner.

Bring a packed lunch from home.

Good News! All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a FREE School Meal under the government's Universal Free School Meal

scheme.

Our school meals are provided by Aspens and are suitable for all children. Our lovely Welfare Assistants will help the children choose their meal.



Children who have a school dinner need to know how to use a knife, fork and spoon.

Packed Lunches: If your child brings a packed lunch, please ensure they can open any packaging themselves (like yoghurt tubes or small packets) to encourage independence.

We generally discourage children from going home for lunch as this is a wonderful time for them to make new friends!

Please ensure that you still register for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of benefits as this will also entitle your child to Free Milk, and the school will receive Pupil Premium funding which helps with the level of support your child could receive.

Snacks and Drinks

Free Fruit: Every infant child receives a free piece of fruit daily under the government scheme.



Water: Fresh, cool drinking water is available to all children throughout the day.

Milk: Your child can have a small bottle of milk (a third of a pint) during snack time.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast club is available to all children, Monday to Friday from 7.50am. It costs £1 per day, or 50p for children who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. At the end of breakfast club, children will be taken to class for the start of their school day.



Fun in All Seasons: Outdoor Play!

We believe that fresh air and outdoor play are essential for your child's development, which is why **our children play outside every day, whatever the weather!**



- **Supervision:** Rest assured that a member of staff will **always** supervise the children closely during all outdoor activities.
- **Cold Weather Essentials:** When it's cold, please send your child to school with a **warm coat, hat, and gloves.**
- **Wellies:** To ensure we can go outside even when it's wet, please send in a pair of **named wellington boots** that will remain in school throughout the term.
- **Encouraging Independence:** We love to see the children becoming independent! Please practice with your child at home so they can **put on and fasten their own coat.** This is a great skill that gives them confidence!

Self-Care Skills: Toileting & Hygiene

Developing independence in self-care is a significant step as your child prepares for school. It is **very important** that your child is confident in the following skills before they start Reception:

- **Using the toilet independently** (including knowing when they need to go).
- **Washing and drying their hands thoroughly** afterwards.

Getting Support if Needed

If your child is **still struggling with any aspect of toilet training**, please do not wait. **Contact your Health Visitor immediately** for support and guidance

Make sure that your child knows how to ask the teacher when they need to go to the toilet. They need to know how to take themselves to the toilet without any adult help and manage toilet routines on their own.

Health & Hygiene Skills

Using a Tissue: 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'

We teach children the vital "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" routine to help keep everyone in the classroom healthy.



We kindly ask that you introduce and practice this routine at home:

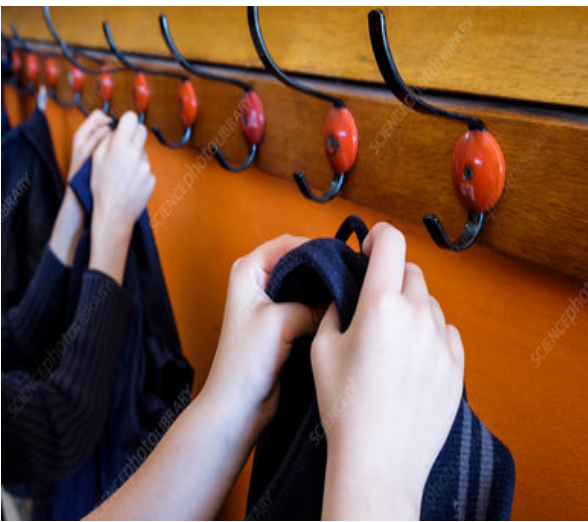
1. **Catch it:** Catching a sneeze or runny nose in a tissue.
2. **Bin it:** Putting the used tissue straight into the bin.
3. **Kill it:** Washing hands immediately to remove and kill the germs.

Tip for Practice: If your child finds blowing their nose tricky, try making it a game! Practice "nose control" by getting them to gently blow a feather or a small piece of paper across a table using just their nose.

Developing Independence

Tidying Up & Routine

At St. Luke and St. Philip's, we work together as a team to keep our classroom tidy and organised. Encouraging tidiness at home helps your child quickly settle into the routines of school life.



Please get your child into the wonderful habit of:

- Hanging their coat up when they come inside.
- Putting their toys away after they have finished playing.
- Clearing their place after mealtimes.

Why not turn it into a fun game or challenge? These small steps build confidence and teach your child that we all have a responsibility to look after our learning environment!

Reception Class Timetable

	9.00-9.30	9.30-10.45	10.45-12.10	12.15-1.10	1.10-2.40	2.40-3.20
Monday	Registration Walk to School Calendar Timeline Doh Disco	Maths Keyworker Groups - Maths Toast- Story/ Rhyme/phonics time	RWI Story/rhyme/phonics time	LUNCH	Registration Toothbrushing Topic Keyworker Groups Tidy up time	<u>Keyworker Groups</u> Colourful Semantics Snack and discussion time Story
Tuesday	Registration Walk to School Calendar Timeline Doh Disco	Maths Keyworker Groups - Maths Toast- Story/ Rhyme/phonics time 9.45- GYMNASTICS	RWI Story/rhyme/phonics time		Registration Toothbrushing My Happy Mind Keyworker Groups Tidy up time	<u>Keyworker Groups</u> Colourful Semantics Snack and discussion time Story
Wednesday	Registration Calendar Timeline MUSIC	Maths Keyworker Groups - Maths Toast- Story/ Rhyme/phonics time	RWI Story/rhyme/phonics time		Registration Toothbrushing PSHEC Keyworker Groups Tidy up time	<u>Keyworker Groups</u> Colourful Semantics Snack and discussion time Story
Thursday	Registration Walk to School Calendar Timeline WORSHIP	Maths Keyworker Groups - Maths Toast- Story/ Rhyme/phonics time	RWI Story/rhyme/phonics time		Registration RE PE Tidy up time	<u>Keyworker Groups</u> Colourful Semantics Snack and discussion time Story
Friday	Registration Walk to School Calendar Timeline Celebration Assembly	Maths Keyworker Groups - Maths Toast- Story/ Rhyme/phonics time	RWI Story/rhyme/phonics time		Registration Toothbrushing Helicopter Stories Keyworker Groups Tidy up time	<u>Keyworker Groups</u> Colourful Semantics Snack and discussion time Story



From Home to School: Our Partnership

Starting Reception is a wonderful, big step! We want this transition to be a happy and smooth experience for your child, and we are excited to work with you to make that happen.

You Are Your Child's First Teacher

You have already taught your child so much! The skills and experiences you share at home are the foundation for their learning here. We look forward to continuing this learning journey together once they start school.

Preparing for Change

School brings exciting changes—new rules, a new classroom, new routines, and lots of new friends and grown-ups! Sometimes children need a little help preparing for this.

Here are two simple things you can do to help your child prepare for change:

1. **Vary Routines:** Try mixing things up occasionally! Take a different route when you walk to the park, or shop at a different supermarket. This helps your child become flexible and confident when facing new situations.

Understanding Feelings with The Colour Monster

To help your child understand and manage their emotions, we use The Colour Monster concept daily in the classroom. This wonderful tool encourages children to develop an understanding of their feelings by linking them to colours.



How You Can Help at Home

You can greatly support your child's emotional development by reinforcing this learning:

1. Mirror Practice: Encourage your child to practise what these emotions look like in a mirror. Making faces for these emotions can make learning fun!
2. Reading: Discuss these emotions when you are reading books together, asking, "How do you think that character is feeling?"

3. Real-Life Talk: Most importantly, talk about these emotions when you or your child are genuinely feeling them. Naming the feeling helps your child understand what is happening inside.

Home Time and Collection

We aim to make the end of the day smooth and happy for everyone. Your cooperation with the following points is essential for your child's safety and well-being:

Collection Routine

- Who is Collecting? It is crucial that the class teacher knows who is collecting your child each day. Please notify the office or the teacher immediately if there is a change to the usual person.
- Punctuality: Please try your very best to arrive on time to collect your child. Children can become very upset and anxious if they have to wait after all their friends have gone home.
- If you know you are going to be late collecting your child from school, please contact school **immediately**. Failure to do so will result in school having to make alternative childcare arrangements which could incur a charge.

We participate in the WOW walk to school challenge where children report their daily journey to school on the WOW Travel Tracker and receive badges for making active choices (walking, wheeling, cycling or using a scooter).



- **Walking vs. Driving:** We encourage all families to walk to school if possible, as it promotes health and reduces congestion.
- **Parking Restrictions:** If you must drive, please park outside the school grounds on the road. Do not drive into the school car park to drop off or collect. Ensure you park legally and always stay clear of the yellow zig-zag lines, as these are legally restricted areas that keep our children safe.

School starts at:
8:55 every day – please
remember to be on time!
Doors open from 8.45am.

School finishes at:
3:30 every day



School finishes promptly at **3:30pm**. This is a vital time for teachers to relay information about your child's school day and highlight future events. We ask all parents and guardians to be punctual for pickup.

In the event of an emergency delay, please **notify the school office without delay**. For the safety of our students, children not collected on time without prior notification may be placed into alternative childcare, which may incur an additional fee.



Your First Week Checklist

Preparing for the first week helps your child feel confident and ready to learn. Use this checklist to ensure a smooth start for the whole family!



Timing & Routines

- **Practice the Run:** Have you done a "dry run" of the school commute and morning routine?
- **Drop-off Details:** Do you know exactly **where** and **when** to drop your child off?
- **Pick-up Plans:** Are you clear on the collection point and time for the end of the day?
- **Communication:** Does your child know exactly who will be waiting for them at the gates?

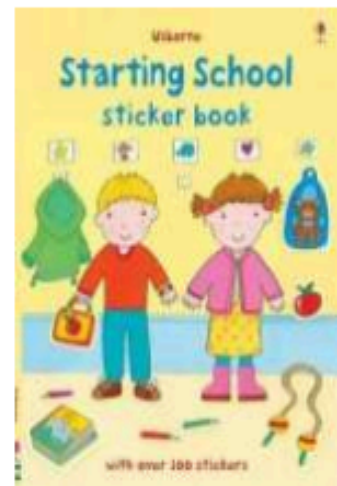
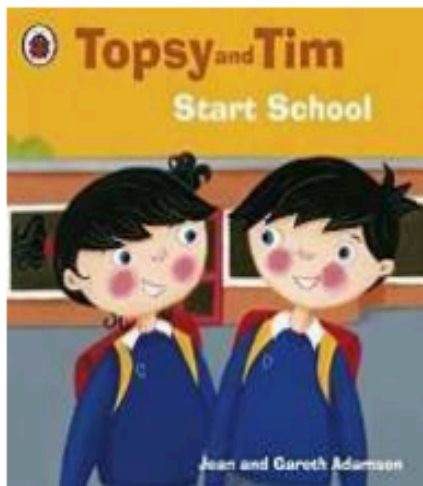
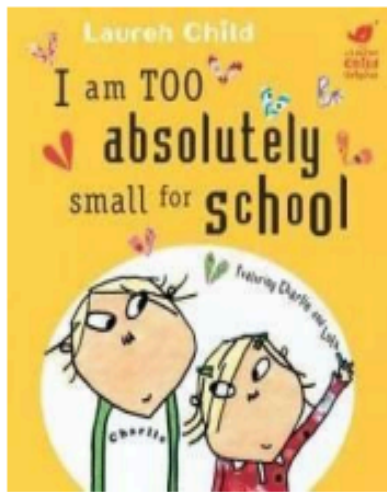


Uniform & Equipment

- **Label Everything:** Have you put name labels on **every** item of clothing and equipment?
Top Tip: Show your child where their labels are located. Make sure they are easy to find so they can identify their own belongings!
- **Daily Essentials:** Do you have the correct equipment and stationery ready for the first few days?
- **Settling In:** Does your child know where to hang their coat and store their PE kit?

READ BOOKS ABOUT STARTING SCHOOL

These picture books about going to school may be helpful:



- I Am Too Absolutely Small For School – Lauren Child
- Topsy and Tim Start School – Jean and Gareth Adamson
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Go To School – Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds
- Come to School Too, Blue Kangaroo! – Emma Chichester Clark
- Usborne Sticker Books
- The Colour Monster Goes to School - Anna Llenas

Supporting Your Child's Journey

The Power of Learning Through Play

We believe that a child's early years should be filled with wonder and joy. At this age, **play is a child's most important work**. You can support your child's development by keeping learning light and stress-free at home.

- **Keep it Fun:** Avoid the pressure of formal lessons; instead, follow your child's interests.
- **Play Together:** Whether using educational toys or imaginative games, playing together builds confidence and curiosity.
- **A Lifelong Love of Learning:** Our goal is to ensure your child's many years of schooling are happy ones. By keeping home activities enjoyable, we ensure they remain eager to step through our doors every morning.



Every Day Counts: Attendance & Appointments

To help your child make the best possible progress, consistency is key. Being in the classroom every day allows them to build strong friendships and stay on track with their learning.

- **Term-Time Leave:** Please note that we are unable to authorise holidays during term time.
- **Appointments:** Whenever possible, we ask that medical or dental appointments be scheduled after school hours or during the holidays.
- **Impact on Progress:** Missing even a short amount of school can have a significant impact on your child's educational journey and social confidence.

We Are Here to Help

We hope this information has been helpful as you prepare for the term ahead. Our door is always open—if you have any further questions or simply need a little more guidance, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team!

Communication & ClassDojo



- **Sharing Success:** We encourage parents to use **ClassDojo** to stay in touch with teachers and upload photos or videos of work your child has completed at home.
- **Open Door Policy:** If you have any concerns or feedback, please reach out to any staff member. We value open dialogue and aim to resolve any issues quickly and informally.
- **Policies:** For a printed or digital copy of the school's **Complaints Procedure**, please contact the main office team.

The door to our school is always open to parents.

