



WELCOME TO RECEPTION

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old and it won't be long before your child will be starting with us at St Mary's. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your child is well prepared for this important event. We aim to make it a happy and memorable experience. We hope that the following information will help your child to settle into school quickly.

KEY STAFF

Head teacher - Mrs Isobel Vassallo

Deputy Head teacher and SENCO - Mrs Sarah Durand

Assistant Head teacher and EYFS Leader - Mrs Angela Beirne

Class teacher for Class RAB - Mrs Beirne and Mrs Slade(Fridays)

Class teacher for Class RPC - Miss Colyer

Teaching Assistants for RAB - Miss Clack

Teaching Assistant for RPC - Mrs Jackson

Reception SEN Support - Mrs Monaghan

PPA Cover - Miss Neville and Mrs Patel

Office staff - Mrs Tracey

PARTNERSHIP AND WORKING TOGETHER

We strongly believe that co-operation between parents and school staff is vital in creating a secure, happy and caring environment essential for successful learning and development. Parents are welcome to discuss their child, either informally - both before and after school, by telephone or by appointment.

We work to establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and will be listened to in an open positive atmosphere. We ensure the children know that they can approach any member of staff if they are worried or in difficulty.

Staff in school are in a good position to keep a watchful eye on children and their safety and to protect them from harm.

Please let us know if anything may have upset your child or altered their mood prior to coming to school, (they have fallen out with their brother/sister on the way to school, their pet has died, they had a late/restless night) however small it may seem!

STAY AND PLAY

Monday 6th July - There will be two Stay and Play sessions from 10.45-11.30am and 2pm to 2:45pm and we look forward to meeting during your allocated session.

MEET THE TEACHER

We are really looking forward to meeting you and your child when you come to visit us after the summer holidays. We will meet you with our Teaching Assistant who will spend time talking to your child whilst I talk to you. It will be a very informal visit and a lovely opportunity to get to know you and for you to ask any questions that you may have.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Your child will be one of a class of 30 small children and we are sure that they will settle into school quickly and happily. We know that this can be an anxious time for you so we want to help your child to feel ready for starting school. Please have a look at some of the resources we have prepared on the school website with your child. It will make starting school much easier and happier if they are independent and can do many things for themselves.

SKILLS TO PRACTISE BEFORE STARTING RECEPTION

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help your child move into school more easily and with confidence.

Growing independence

Taking care of themselves

- Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- Using the toilet and washing their hands
- Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

Play, creativity and curiosity

- Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- Sharing story books with caregivers, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world or playing safely with objects at home)

At school your child will be meeting lots of new people and making new friendships. Some things to help them get ready include:

Building relationships and communicating

Being with others

- Practising sharing and taking turns with toys
- Talking to them about how they are feeling and why
- Looking at story books together and speaking about what characters are feeling is a good way to do this
- Beginning to recognise what others are feeling, e.g. understanding if a friend is sad
- Encouraging them to set boundaries for themselves and others (e.g. knowing how to say 'no')

Communication and language

- Singing along with songs and nursery rhymes

- Talking happily to others about activities, experiences and the world around them
- Showing they need help by speaking clearly (in basic English or sign language)
- Recognising the pattern of their name (so they can find it on their coat peg or jacket)

Listening and engaging

- Paying attention for short periods of time
- Listening to and following simple instructions
- Carrying on with a task even when it's difficult and bouncing back if things go wrong

Physical development

Getting moving for at least three hours a day

- Walking up and down steps (one foot at a time, using the wall for support)
- Climbing, running, jumping and playing
- Catching a large ball (most of the time)
- Doing simple puzzles and craft activities, strengthening their grip with cutting and sticking

Healthy routines

- Going to bed around the same time each night, waking up in time to get ready for school
- Limiting screen time to the recommended daily amounts (see advice)
- Eating a healthy diet and trying new foods
- Brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day (you'll need to supervise this until they are at least 7)

Further information and guidance can be found at <https://startingreception.co.uk/>

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

To help your child start their first day happily:

- Please arrive on time.
- Leave cheerfully.
- Don't linger about looking through windows.

Monday 7th September and Tuesday 8th September - These will be the children's first days at school and they will attend on a part-time basis. During our recent telephone conversation, we will have informed you of your child's times.

What do the children need?

Monday 7th September - Wear their school uniform including coat and bring an empty book bag and a named water bottle.

Tuesday 8th September - Bring a pair of named wellington boots to leave at school.

Wednesday 9th September - We hope that all children will be able to attend school on a full time basis.

PE Kit- The Reception classes will both have their PE lessons on Fridays. The children should come to school every Friday dressed in their PE kit. They should wear their white PE t-shirt, black or navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms (weather dependent), a black or navy tracksuit top, white socks and trainers.

THE SCHOOL DAY

School starts: 8.40 to 8.50am

School finishes: 3.15pm

We will open the classroom doors at **8:40am** and children come into school independently. The playground gate is closed at **8.50am**. If you arrive after this time children must enter via the school office and they will receive a late mark in the register.

Before and after school teachers may be available for an informal chat but appointments should be made for longer or more confidential conversations.

Please try to avoid arriving late as a sensitive child may be embarrassed or worried if they have to walk into class late or if you are late coming to collect them. Always

telephone school if you are unavoidably delayed. Please ensure that you tell the teacher if someone other than you will be collecting your child at the end of the day.

If you are dropping off or collecting your child outside of normal school hours please use the main entrance and report to the main office. The other gates into school will be locked during the school day. It is important that you inform the main office if your child arrives at school after morning registration.

At the end of the day please wait in the Reception playground and we will send your child out when we see their familiar adult.

Our children are offered a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day from The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day and are encouraged to use their own named water bottle. We will refill these as and when necessary.

Finally, enjoy your child's time at school. It is a very valuable period in their life and will pass all too quickly! St Mary's is a wonderful community and we are sure that you and your child will enjoy making many new friends.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is anything that we can help you with.

When the children are full time, we will send a letter home to you every Friday in the book bags which will tell you what the children have been learning about that week, what we will be learning about the following week and how you can help your child at home.

The children will have the opportunity to choose a library book every Tuesday and Friday to bring home. This is a book for you to enjoy sharing together.

Reception Welcome Evening

You are invited to come to school at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd September for our Reception Welcome Evening. We will tell you all about what your children have been doing at school, the EYFS provision that we have, how they learn and how you can help them at home.