



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 - Mrs Sarah Durand

Assistant Head teacher, EYFS & KS1 Leader - Mrs Angela Beirne

Class teacher for Class RAB - Mrs Beirne

Class teacher for Class RHH - Mrs Harrison

Teaching Assistants - Mrs Hayday, Mrs Patel & Mrs Rispoli

Office staff - Mrs Bernadette Smith

Mrs Elizabeth Tracey

Mrs Linda Noon

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!

At the beginning of the school year you will be asked to sign a copy of our home/school agreement.

STAY AND PLAY

Monday 4th July and Tuesday 5th July - There will be two Stay and Play sessions from 2pm to 2:45pm and we look forward to meeting you on your allocated date.

MEET THE TEACHER

We are really looking forward to meeting you and your child when you come to visit us in September. 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.

WHAT SHOULD HE/SHE BE ABLE TO DO?

Can he/she...

- Dress and undress themselves.
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there in a recognisable way.
- Tidy up after himself/herself.
- Recognise their own name. Please tell your child's teacher if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed himself/herself when eating their school lunch or packed lunch.
- Share toys and equipment.
- Handle a pencil.
- Sing some nursery rhymes.
- Practise counting to 10.
- Listen well and follow simple instructions.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE FOR SCHOOL?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.
- Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress free time to get ready for school.
- Never threaten them with school. Be positive. Show it to them as an enjoyable experience.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY CHILD BEFORE THEY START SCHOOL?

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: Drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws
- Get them used to: pencils, crayons, felt pens, chalks, paints, play dough, scissors
- Share stories, books and rhymes. **Read to them every day.**
- Count everything and share things out.
- Use lots of one to one correspondence - cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for each person.
- **Talk to them all the time.** Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for. Talk about what you see when you are out and about. Watch people work and discuss what they are doing.
- All children enjoy watching films and tv and this is fine but try to watch with them so you can share the experience and talk about what they are watching.

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

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

Wednesday 7th September and Thursday 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?

Wednesday 7th September - Wear your school uniform including coat and bring an empty book bag and a named water bottle. Also, bring your PE Kit to leave at school.

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

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

THE SCHOOL DAY

School starts: 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.