



Welcome to St Thomas More

EYFS NEW PARENTS MEETING - WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE
2025

Our School Prayer

Fill me with your happiness and joy,
Let your Spirit live within me,
In the secret of my heart, teach me wisdom,
And keep me true to your Word,
Forgive the wrong that I do,
And in your goodness, be with me always

Amen



EYFS organisation



- National, regional and local picture – falling birth rates
- Our EYFS structure for September 2025:

Our Nursery and Reception aged pupils will be ‘based’ in the main school building, sharing provision (in and outdoors) in 2 ‘mixed’ classes of Nursery and Reception children

MailOnline

Hundreds of schools are at risk of closure after a massive fall in the birth rate - with the population of young kids expected to plummet by 500,000 in the next six years

Hundreds of primary schools could be forced to close by the end of the decade because of a dramatic fall in the number of births.

The population of young children is expected to plummet by more than half a million by 2030 – the equivalent of 17,000 classes or 1,800 schools – the latest data analysis has suggested.



Schools face closure as falling birth rate hits

School organisation

- Key Stage One: 3 'mixed year group' classes (15 Year 1 children, 15 Year 2 children in each class). 'Open plan' space which continues and builds on EYFS principles and practise and incorporates continuous provision.
- Lower Key Stage Two: 3 'mixed year group' classes (15 Year 3 children, 15 Year 4 children in each class).
- Upper Key Stage Two: mixed year group' classes (15 Year 5 children, 15 Year 6 children in each class).



Stay and Play – Wednesday 9th & Thursday 10th July 2025

- On Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th July 2025 we will host two 'Stay and Play' sessions for all 'new' children to our school community.
- This provides an opportunity for you and your child to meet the team, their new friends and explore the environment.
- Each session is for one hour and we are currently able to allow one parent per child to stay for the duration of the sessions.
- You are invited to attend both sessions, uniform optional



Home Visits

- We have dates available for all new families to sign up for a 'Home Visit.'
- The home visits involve two members of our EYFS Team visiting your child at home and the visits provide an opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with members of our team, and for us to get to know your child and your family. They also provide an opportunity for us to share information and for you to ask any of your questions or discuss your concerns.





Starting school in September

	w/c Monday 1 st September 2025	w/c Monday 8 th September 2025	
		AM (9am – 11am)	PM (1pm-3pm)
Monday	School closed – INSET days	Nursery A	Nursery B
Tuesday		Nursery A	Nursery B
Wednesday		Nursery B	Nursery A
Thursday	Reception children (Group 1) transition into school	Nursery B	Nursery A
Friday	Reception children (Group 2) transition into school	Friday 12 th September 2025 – 9am-1pm including lunch (15h children leave at 11:40am) Monday 15 th September 2025 30h children attend 'full time' 8:40am-3:10pm 15 h children 8:40am- 11:40am	



Starting school in September

Morning 'drop off'

- School gates open from 8:30am, please 'drop' your child off via the outdoor area (under canopy). Adults must accompany children until they are safely in the school building.
- We encourage the children to enter the building independently and 'hang up' their own belongings.
- When 'dropping off' please take note of the 'blue stands/signs' and ensure that the entrance door remains clear for all children to enter the building safely



Starting school in September

Afternoon 'pick up'

- School gates open from 3pm, please queue and collect your child from the outdoor area.
- When collecting your child, please take note of the 'blue stands/signs' and ensure that the exit door remains clear for all children to exit the building safely.
- When collecting your child, the member of the team 'on the door' will ask who you have come to collect, please state your child's name clearly. Your child will be then called from class to exit school.
- Please let us know if there will be a different collection arrangement for your child – e.g. the adult collecting your child from school.
- We release all EYFS children from the same exit, so please bear with us as we safely release all children from school.



Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

Statutory from September 2021

- All Reception aged children undertake the assessment that is produced by the Department for Education (DfE).
- The RBA will be undertaken in the first six weeks of school by a member of the EYFS Team.
- The DfE explain:

“The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a short, task-based assessment of your child’s early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school. It is statutory for all schools from September 2021.

The assessment can take place at any point in the first 6 weeks of your child starting Reception. The assessment will form the start of a new measure of how schools are helping their pupils to progress between Reception and Year 6.

Your child does not need to prepare. There is no pass mark or score and your child should not realise they’re doing an assessment.

Once the RBA is fully established, the intention is to make the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum tests and teacher assessments that children currently take at the end of Year 2 non-statutory.” (Department for Education, May 2021)

- More information can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>



School lunches and snacks

School lunches:

- Reception aged children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals – free entitlement to a school lunch time meal
- Nursery aged children do not qualify for the Universal Free School Meals – but you are welcome to have a school meal at a charge of £1.75
- Lunches provided by Rochdale Council and prepared on site at school
- Parents chose the meals daily with your child (online app)
- You can bring own packed lunch if you would prefer – we advise to pack around 4 items (including a drink)
- EYFS children will eat their lunches in the school hall

Snacks:

- A drink of milk or water and a snack is available during the course of the morning for the children
- Voluntary snack and resources fund – text will be sent via the school office with a link to contribute to the fund each half term

Communication with school

- Speaking to the EYFS team and when we need to speak to you
- Class Dojo – Class Stories
- Phone calls, text message service, letters and newsletters
- Tapestry
- Please ensure all contact details are always up-to-date



Useful information

- We are a 'Nut Free' environment – if you are sending a packed lunch for your child, please ensure that the items sent in are 'nut free'
- The Annex – Breakfast/After School Club
- What to do if your child is unwell
- What we do if your child is unwell
- PE Kits (Reception children only) – further information about PE will be issued in September
- Backpacks and bags





Preparing for September

Can your child:

Respond to an adult or ask for help?

Put their coat, jumper, shoes on/off and (with help) manage zips/fastenings?

Go to the toilet and wash their hands independently?

Get a tissue and blow their nose?

Tidy up toys and put things away?

Wait for their turn when an adult is busy with others?

Comply with reasonable adult requests promptly and appropriately?



Preparing for September



- I am confident being away from my mummy, daddy or main carer
- I am able to identify how I feel and share it with others
- I am willing to have a go at new activities
- I keep trying when I find things difficult
- I know who to ask for help if I'm unsure



- I am able to share with others
- I am able to take turns
- I am good at making friends with others
- I enjoy interacting and playing with others



Preparing for September



- I am able to use the toilet independently
- I can wash my hands
- I can get dressed and undressed
- I can move around confidently (walk, run, jump)
- I have good muscle control in my arms, hands and fingers
- I have good balance
- I am confident within climbing, jumping, and running



- I can open my packed lunch box and eat independently
- I can use a knife and fork
- I can sit at a table when I eat
- I have practised getting my uniform on and being ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I get enough sleep
- I am making sure I have breakfast before I leave for school



Preparing for September



- I am able to sit and listen for a short while
- I can follow instructions
- I am understood when I talk
- I am able to talk about myself, my thoughts and feelings
- I enjoy interacting with others
- I enjoy sharing stories



Steps to starting school

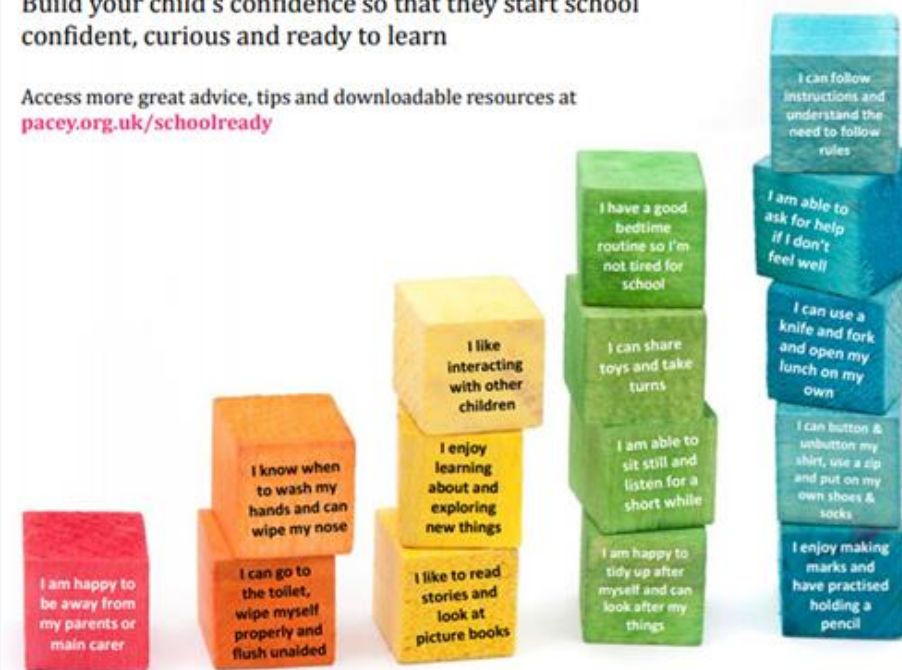
Build your child's confidence so that they start school confident, curious and ready to learn

Access more great advice, tips and downloadable resources at pacey.org.uk/schoolready



More top tips:

- ★ Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day
- ★ Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people
- ★ Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- ★ Let your child practise putting their new school uniform on and taking it off
- ★ And remember, every child is different and starts school with different abilities



Things to bring and remember in September

- A packed lunch for your child (if applicable)
- A pair of wellington boots labelled with your child's name, that can stay in school
- A small bag of 'spare clothing' that can stay in school
- A labelled water bottle
- If your child has an inhaler, please bring relevant medication and equipment
- Please, please, please label every item of uniform and belongings!





Thank you for attending this
evening



IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE SPEAK TO A
MEMBER OF THE TEAM OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE