



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

'Doing our best for God'

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We know the beginning of school can feel daunting for you and your child and you might be worrying that your child won't be ready for Reception. We are here to tell you not to panic and to hopefully reassure you as well as give some advice and tips on how you can help prepare your child for when they start school.

Here are some things you can do with your child at home over the coming weeks to help make sure they are just as ready to start Reception as they would otherwise have been.

We are most definitely not expecting you to become Reception teachers and we understand that not everyone will find the time to do all of these activities – that is fine. Try to fit them where possible into your daily routines. Whatever happens, we will make sure that all children catch up when they start.

To help your child develop independence, get them used to doing the following at home:

- Getting dressed independently every day – practise closing buttons, putting on socks and shoes on the right feet, putting a coat on and zipping it up
- Going to the toilet on their own and managing their own toileting needs
- Cutting food using a knife and fork
- Tidying up their toys and doing simple household chores – giving them responsibilities will help them to become more independent
- Helping them to recognise their name in writing and to consistently respond to it verbally.

You can practise some of the activities your child will be doing in early years in your own home to help make sure they develop the same skills and feel more ready when Reception starts:

Do turn - taking activities such as playing with a toy – this helps them to get used to taking turns and also to understand the concept of sharing

Get your child used to eating with others even if it is just a snack



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Lots of the learning in Reception happens through play. Get down onto the carpet so you are at their level and enjoy some play with your child. Follow their lead with what they are doing or how they are playing. Then, try to get them to follow your lead and create games together. This will help them to get used to playing and engaging with other children

In order to facilitate a smooth transition to school, we will operate a staggered start. The class will be split into two groups - Group A and Group B.

Group A will start on Tuesday, 2nd September and have 4 full days in school (from 8:50am – 3.10 pm). Their last 'staggered' day will be Friday 5th September. **Group B will not be in school during this week.**

Group B will start on Monday 8th September and have 4 full days in school (from 8.50am – 3.10 pm). Their last 'staggered' day will be Thursday, 11th September.

Your children will line up in the playground ready to come into their classroom (we will be there to assist you).

Both groups will come together and be in school on Friday, 12th September, 8:50am – 3:10pm.

All parents/ carers are welcome to attend our 'stay and play' session with their children on this day from 1:30pm – 3:00pm. This session will give you the opportunity to meet your child's 'buddy' and have a look around the classroom.

This staggered timetable allows us to ensure we have lower numbers in class so that we can offer a bespoke experience in those first few days, with a higher ratio of adults enabling us to fully meet their needs. This is essential. Often in the early days, children need a lot of nurture and reassurance. This also enables children to develop routines, make new friends and get to know the staff who will care for them.

From Monday 15th September, the whole class will come together again. You should arrive between **8.45am – 8.50am** and finishing time is **3.20 pm**.

On Monday, 30th June we invite your child to attend a settling in session at school from 1:30pm – 3pm. Please drop your child off at the main reception, Miss Gooch will be there to greet you. Children do not need to wear their uniform on this day.

We look forward to working with you and your child in September.

Kind regards,

Alexis Satterthwaite

Head Teacher