



Reception



Reading

In Reception we love to read and re-read a variety of fiction, non-fiction texts and picture books. We encourage every child to begin building a love of reading throughout their first year at St Stephen's.

Every child will receive a decodable reading book in line with what is being taught to them in school. This book is for your child to read at home with adult supervision.

Your child may also receive a sharing book that they can share with you at home, this may not be fully decodable, but will contain very simple words and phrases, they may also include some high frequency words.

Please note, we will only give your child a book containing sounds and words they have already been taught.

Once your child receives a decodable reading book, we ask you to practice at home as much as possible. We recommend your child reads their book a minimum of 4 times before it returns to school.

Before your child's book returns to school, a parent/carer must sign and date their reading record, alongside a short comment about how your child did whilst reading and any other comments you wish to share. Records will be checked and books will be changed on a weekly basis.

Reading Books will be sent home on Friday and should be returned the following Thursday morning.

At the end of the week, you will be updated on which sounds your child has been taught and encouraged to reinforce this learning at home.

Writing

We understand writing can be a difficult skill to learn. In the early stages of Reception, we encourage children to develop their prerequisites to writing.

This can be in the form of threading, manipulating playdough, making big



marks with chalk etc.

All of these activities will help your child develop the muscles they need to be able to control their writing and hold a writing tool.

In Reception we use the font you are currently reading and this formation will be taught to every child.

Snack Times

In Reception the children help to choose and make our snacks.

We use a variety of foods to encourage your child to try new textures and tastes. Preparing snack also gives us the opportunity to discuss mathematical concepts such as sharing, weight etc.

Snack is £10 cash per half term, this is payable to Mrs Bonnar in the office.



P.E

We will not begin P.E sessions until after the October half term.



We spend most of our time outdoors in Reception. But we will be participating in specific physical activity every week.

Our P.E. day is every **Monday**.

Whether depending, this will be indoors or outdoors. Your child must come to school wearing their P.E kit with navy blue jogging bottoms and jumper/cardigan over the top OR a St Stephen's Tracksuit.

P.E kits must contain:

A top in the colour of your child's house group.

A navy pair of shorts.

A pair of Velcro trainers.

And/Or a tracksuit.

Clothing is available from Ziggy's in Farnworth.

Uniform

Please ensure **all** items of clothing are clearly labelled. We spend a lot of time outside, so please make sure your child is wearing whether appropriate clothing coats, tights for winter etc.

Details about our uniform can be found on our school website.

Any hair accessories must also be in line with school colours.

Forest Schools

Forest School sessions will not begin until after October Half Term.



Every Friday we take the children down through our eco garden into a small woodland area called Forest Schools. Here, we learn about the wider world, nature and basic skills such as camp fires, making dens, bird spotting, taking care of insects and their habitats too.

On this day children will need to wear clothes that you don't mind them getting dirty and a thin waterproof coat.

Children should bring a pair of wellies into school, with their name labelled inside. These will stay in school and we will swap into them when we are ready for our Forest School Fun.

Water Bottle

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle into school every day, with their name clearly labelled. Water only. Please no mist, spray or glass water bottles either.



Home Time

The end of the day can be an anxious time for young children. Please let the school office know if there are any changes to your collection arrangements or inform a member of the Reception team on the gate if you know in advance. We will not allow your child to leave our care if we have not been advised of any changes.



Dojo

Please make sure you are signed up to Class Dojo and can access your child's portfolio and any messages from ourselves.

This is where you will receive any updates and where you will be able to see what we have been up to during our time in Reception.

If you wish to add another member of your family onto Dojo, please inform a member of Reception staff who will be able to assist.



Busy Books

In Reception we do not have homework.

However, we do send Busy Books home which have an activity for your child to complete with you before returning the next week.

These activities are linked to our topic at the current time and will help your child share their learning with you at home.

Busy Books are sent home on a Friday and should be returned the following Wednesday.

If you have any queries, please ask a member of the Reception team or Mrs Bonnar in the school office. We are more than happy to help 😊