

St George's Catholic Primary School



Starting School 2021

Welcome to St George's Catholic Primary School. We hope this booklet will answer some of the questions that you might have and help in preparing your child for school. Our aim is to work together in partnership to make this transition to school a smooth, pleasant and happy experience for you and your child.

Transition to School

During the Summer Term we begin to build up a picture of your child through collaboration with you and their Pre-Schools/Nurseries. This year our transition procedure will have to be adapted due to the current situation relating to Covid-19. We will make phone call/email links with your child's current setting. If circumstances allow we will offer the opportunity for your child to visit the school and start to become familiar with the classroom and staff. If the current situation means that we are not able to offer these visits then we are looking at ways to liaise with you, which may include phone calls and emails. The school website includes a 'Starting School' page under the Parents tab and important information will be posted on there.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

We value strong partnerships with parents and look forward to getting to know you. We are available at the beginning and end of the day if you need to discuss anything with us and, if necessary, we can arrange a time if you need a longer discussion. Please keep us informed of any changes that may affect your child's happiness, health or behaviour. We are always available to discuss any concerns you may have.

Below are a few of the ways we work with you to ensure your child has a positive experience of school:

- Settling in meeting: There will be an opportunity to come in to the class and have an informal chat about how your child is settling into school. **This will depend on government guidelines.**
- Parents Evenings: Held twice a year to update you on your child's attainment and progress. An end-of-year report is sent out in July.
- Learning Journeys: There will be regular opportunities to look through your child's Learning Journey and books which includes observations, assessments and work completed with an adult.
- Notice Board: This is outside the class and gives information regarding what we are doing that day, as well as other important notices.
- Phonics Workshop: We will talk about how we teach phonics through Read, Write, Inc and talk about ways in which you can support your child at home.
- Class Assembly: Once a year you have the opportunity to watch your child take part in an assembly where they share their learning.
- Class Certificates: These are used to celebrate achievements linked to learning and our Golden Rules. They are handed out during Friday's Golden Book Assembly.
- Website: Information about the class and the rest of the school can be found at www.st-georges-somerset.org.uk.

We welcome any parents who are able to help in some way in class. It is always a valuable help to the school and therefore your child. Anyone who wishes to help will need DBS clearance (forms and further information are available from the office).

Preparing for School

Starting school is a big step and to help your child become 'school ready' there are some areas that you might like to focus on.

Social Skills:

- Sharing with others.
- Taking turns.
- Waiting for something they want.
- Asking for what they want calmly.

Coping with separation:

- Preparing positively for upcoming events.
- Packing their own bag and getting school items ready.
- Knowing who will be collecting them each day (where possible).

Independence in Personal Care

- Going to the toilet independently, wiping themselves and washing hands.
- Dressing/undressing independently (attempting zips/buttons).
- Checking clothes for their name label.
- Drying themselves after swimming.
- Turning jumper back from inside out.

Desire to Learn:

- Helping your child to recognise their name.
- Help your child to write their name using capital for the first letter only e.g. Adam (a copy of the lettering is enclosed in your pack).
- Share books and talk about the pictures/story/characters.
- Sort and count everyday things e.g. when laying the table.
- Encourage imaginative play/dressing up games etc.
- Engage in fine motor activities such as play dough, pegging out the washing, building with construction toys etc.
- Singing rhymes.

Starting School in September

In September, your child will start school in a smaller group on a part-time basis. This is to support your child with settling into the school routine and enabling them to get to know all the practitioners in the early years setting (Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Dinner Ladies). This also allows us to spend more time observing and interacting with your child. These observations feed into our planning and assessment and help us get to know your child really well in the first few weeks. We want your child's start to school to be a happy experience and to allow them time to adjust.

The First Day

The door to the Reception Class will open at 8.50 a.m. Please come in and help your child to complete the morning tasks for the first couple of weeks:

- Hang their coat up.
- Put their water bottle in the tray (**water** only please).
- Book bags in the box.
- Find their name to put in the basket for self-registration.

Then settle your child at an activity which will be set up. Once they have settled then say goodbye. The bell will ring at 9.00. Don't worry if they become a little upset; we are used to comforting children and we find that they usually settle in very quickly once Mum/Dad/Carers have gone.

At the end of the session, please be there to pick up your child. He/she can get very anxious if no one is there. If there is a problem and you can't be there, ring school and let us know.

If Government guidelines still require a staggered start to the day then the timings will change and we will let you know.

Snack

Your child will have access to their water bottles all day. Please only send in water.

Milk is provided free of charge by the government to all under 5's but needs to be ordered from 'Cool Milk'. Information about this is in your pack or can be found on the school website.

Children will have a free piece of fruit from the "School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme". We sit together and have our snack and milk/water.

Lunch

Lunches are provided free of charge for children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Our school lunches are provided by Bishop Fox's. If you choose to take up this option you will need to order lunches online. (We will send out a separate letter). Please ensure you order by the deadline as otherwise your child will have to bring a packed lunch that week. If you choose a home packed lunch on some days then please ensure they have a balanced and healthy lunch. No fizzy drinks or sweets please. This will ensure they are ready for learning in the afternoon.

Please avoid anything containing nuts as we do have children in the school with a nut allergy.

Our School Routine

9.00 am	School day begins
11.00 am	Breaktime
12.20 – 1.30	Lunchtime
2.40 – 2.55	Breaktime
3.30	School ends

At the end of the day please wait outside the classroom door. Please let us know if anyone else is collecting your child or if they are going to the After School Club. Letting the children out may take a little while; please be patient as it is important we make sure all the children leave safely.

If you are collecting your child during school time or have arrived late then please come in via the Office so that your child can be signed in or out.

Illness/Absence

If your child is unwell and not coming to school then please phone the Office (01823 284130) and leave a message. When they come back please send a written note confirming the reason for absence. If your child's absence is due to sickness then please be aware the policy is 48 hours symptom free before they can return to school which then allows the child time to recover and prevents infection from spreading.

There may be times when your child requires medicine to be administered in school. Please note that we cannot give medicine without written permission from a parent. If your child requires us to administer medicine during the school day then you must come in and sign the 'Medicines Book'. Medicines should be prescribed by a doctor. In exceptional circumstances we may sometimes administer paracetamol but please come and see us. We cannot give a child ibuprofen.

Please tell us as soon as possible if your child has any medical needs or allergies; don't wait until the beginning of term. We can then make sure we are prepared. If your child has an inhaler then we need to keep one in school for them if they require it.

EYFS Curriculum

During their time in the Reception Class your child will be in the final year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This very special time for your child at St George's continues the journey from home and preschool and is the foundation of future learning and success. The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning through play. They will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

There are 3 prime areas, these are:

- Communication and Language (Listening, Attention & Understanding, Speaking)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Self-Regulation, Managing Self, Building Relationships)
- Physical Development (Gross Motor Skills, Fine Motor Skills)

As children develop skills in these prime areas they will also develop skills in 4 specific areas:

- Literacy (Comprehension, Word Reading, Writing)
- Mathematics (Number, Numerical Patterns)
- Understanding the World (Past & Present, People, Culture & Communities, The Natural World)
- Expressive Arts and Design (Creating with Materials, Being Imaginative & Expressive)

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The adults working with your child make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs and interests. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creating and thinking critically. Their learning and experiences take place both indoors and outdoors.

During their time in Reception Class your child's learning will be celebrated in their Learning Journeys and in their books. These will be shared with you throughout the year. We encourage you to add to these by sharing your child's learning at home through their 'Magic Me' books and 'Tell us about it' sheets.

Parking and Collecting Children

When dropping your child to school and collecting them in the afternoon we operate a one-way system. Parents are asked to drive down the lane to the left hand side of the main gate and enter the school playground at the bottom through the gate on the right-hand side. You can then park your car in the playground. This does get very busy and you may have to wait in the line for cars to move out of the car park before you can get in. **Please do not park in the lane.** We will look after your child until you can safely park your car in the playground.

This is a very exciting time in your child's life and we look forward to being there at the beginning of their journey as they start school.

If you have any questions then please come and ask us. We are happy to help.