ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EYFS WELCOME BOOKLET



With God in our hearts, we learn and grow together, on our journey through life

Our School Values

God

Respect

Opportunity

Wisdom

Independence

Nurture

Gratitude

WELCOME TO NURSERY AND RECEPTION CLASSES

A very warm welcome to you and your child from the Early Years team and everyone at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Starting in the Nursery and Reception Class is an exciting time and we hope that this will be the beginning of a long and happy association with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Included in this booklet is some information about starting at St Joseph's, some guidance on how to be ready for school and information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We hope you will find it useful. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the school staff or visit our website www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk



STARTING AT ST. JOSEPH'S

Staff

Nursery staff	Reception staff
Mrs Harris - Class teacher/ Art & DT lead **Miss Garvey** - Nursery Nurse **Miss Wegner** - Teaching assistant	**Ms Aziz -** Class teacher/ EYFS lead/ Deputy Safeguarding lead **Miss Nawal** - Teaching assistant **Miss Avinta** - Teaching assistant

The School day

Nursery:

Morning Nursery is from 8.30-11.30a.m.

Afternoon Nursery is from 12.20-3.20p.m.

All day session 8.30a.m.-3.20p.m. (45 minute lunch break)

Reception:

Gates open at 8.40a.m. and will close at 8.50a.m.

School starts at 8.50a.m. and finishes at 3.15p.m.

Settling in period

Your child's start to school will be gradual and may need to be adapted depending on your child's needs. This is in order for them to become accustomed to their new surroundings and routines. Children will be assigned a **key worker** who will be responsible for settling your child in and communicating their daily progress with you. The key worker will be your first point of contact but all adults are available to talk to if you have any questions or concerns.

Parents are asked to say goodbye to their children at the door, this gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their independence and it is important that they feel it is their space. We ask that the children hang up their coat and put their water bottle away, please do not do this for them.

Although parting may be hard, the children recover quickly and move on to enjoy the school day. Should children remain distressed for a long period of time, we will phone you. Remember, all children settle differently.

What should my child bring to school?

- A clearly labelled book bag, purchased from the school supplier.
- A water bottle, labelled with your child's name.
- A PE drawstring bag purchased from the school supplier with a spare change of clothes in case of toileting accidents. This should be left at school.
- A raincoat if the weather is wet.
- A sun hat for outdoor learning and playtime if the weather is hot.
- Sun cream must be applied **before** arriving at school as staff are unable to apply.

HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

There are many ways that you can prepare your child for school. Everything you do together will help your child to learn, develop and grow as an individual.

Getting into a routine

It can be hard for you and your child to suddenly follow a new routine, especially if you haven't had to before. To make things easier for you both, it can help to start getting into the routine a few weeks ahead. Start with your child having a regular bedtime, so they get used to it. Your child will be more willing to get up and dressed in the morning if they have had a good night's sleep.

The journey to school

Think about your journey to school. Can you walk, scoot or cycle? Practising the journey at the time you will be going helps you plan what time to leave home to get to school on time.

Arriving in plenty of time helps your child to meet friends and go in together, rather than arriving after everyone is already settled which can be difficult.

Remember they are likely to be tired at the end of the school day, so a healthy snack can boost energy levels.

HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

As your child grows, they will want to become more independent in their self-care skills. It may be faster and less messy to do things for your child but they learn so much more from being able to do things for themselves.

Independent dressing

You can help by:

- Choosing school uniform that is easy to get on and off, such as elasticated waist trousers and skirts.
- Buying shoes with velcro fastenings.
- Teaching your child how to fold their clothes, so that when they change for PE they won't get mixed up with other children's clothes. (Reception)
- Ensuring all items of clothing are clearly labelled with their name and that your child can recognise their own name.

Eating

In Reception, all children receive Government funded free school meals (up to Year 2) and we encourage all children to take this up. It is important that you encourage your child to practice feeding themselves as soon as they are ready and to be confident using cutlery by the time they start school. If you have a fussy eater at home, don't panic. It has been shown that children who refuse to eat certain foods at home are more likely to try them when at the school dinner table with their friends.

If providing a packed lunch, please be aware that we are a **nut free school** so you need to ensure that all ingredients are free from nuts and sesame seeds. No sweets, chocolate, crisps or fizzy drinks are allowed.

Toileting

Encouraging children to take care of everyday hygiene routines and to use the toilet independently helps them to become more independent and self-sufficient. The expectation is that all children are toilet trained by the time they start school. It is also important to teach your child to always wash their hands after using the toilet.

HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

Building confidence

Confident children make positive learners and we build their confidence through our relationships with them. Children love to be praised as it gives them the confidence and courage to explore and try new things.

- Teach them to feel confident enough to ask the teacher if they want to go to the toilet or if they need help
- Teach them to undress and dress themselves
- Make sure they can use the toilet and are able to clean themselves and wash their hands after
- Encourage them to use cutlery with confidence

Learning through play and positive play opportunities

Most children have had lots of positive play opportunities at nursery and at home. It is through play that children learn best. By having a wide variety of play activities, children will be able to develop their language, thinking and understanding of the world. They need to experience playing on their own and with other children, playing inside and outside, and playing with toys or using their imagination. You can support your child by having play dates before they start school in order for them to build their skills and to experience sharing.









HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

Looking at books and singing together

Before children begin to read and write, they need lots of experience of talking and looking at the print around them. Enjoying books is a good start for learning to read. At school, children listen to stories being read to a group or to the whole class. They also look at books quietly on their own or with a friend. At home, you can encourage them to look at books on their own.

Sing along to favourite songs and number rhymes so that your child can use finger actions. Most of all praise, praise, praise your child's mark making (writing or drawing) and listening skills.

Making goodbyes easier

Here are some tips to try and make the experience easier for both of you.

- If your child is having trouble settling in, arrive early and factor in time to comfort and reassure them before you leave.
- Make the actual 'goodbye' quick, firm and reassuring with no long drawn out returns for "just one more kiss or cuddle". Once you have said goodbye, you really need to leave.
- Always say goodbye and reiterate that you will see them later after school, then leave.
- Children need the reassurance of a familiar, consistent goodbye routine whether that is a kiss or a wave through the door. This signal will help them to cope with the transition of being in your care to being in school care.
- It is also important that parents are on time to collect their children at the end of the school day. It can be upsetting for a young child to not see their parents waiting for them.



HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

Prepare them and you!

When children first start school they often don't want to discuss what they have done when they get home. Don't worry, this is normal. Wait for a relaxed time like bathrime when they are more likely to want to talk about their day.

It is good to get into a routine of early bedtimes and wake ups well in advance. Even children who are used to Nursery will get tired after school.

If your child needs food often, then bring a healthy snack when you collect them.

Borrow a book from the library about going to school and read it together or watch the 'going to school' section on the website.

Let them practise putting on their uniform and wearing it around the house. Finally, once they have started school, remember that they are going to be very tired so be prepared for this.





EYFS CURRICULUM

A common misconception is that the children are 'only playing' whilst in the Foundation Stage. However, the best Early Years Education is based on the understanding that whilst children are playing, they are learning. During the day there will be a mixture of adult initiated, child initiated and adult led activities as well as whole class, small group and individual activities. Formal Phonics (Reading), Literacy and Maths sessions take place throughout the week.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is based on four themes and seven areas of learning. The four themes are **The Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Enabling Environments and Learning and Development.**

The seven areas of learning are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Communication and Language**
- **Mathematics**
- **Literacy**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Physical Development**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Each learning area has a number of stages called 'Development Matters' which children work through; with the Early Learning Goals being the end of year assessment of Reception.

Continuous Provision

Children in the EYFS need opportunities to play, explore, experiment and learn in both an indoor and outdoor environment. At St Joseph's we, whenever possible, operate a free flow environment of Continuous Provision where children can choose whether to be indoors or outdoors and can move independently between both environments.

Phonics in Reception

Children will be taught to read through the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' phonics programme. A meeting for Reception parents will be scheduled in the first half term in order to help you better understand how phonics is taught and how you can support your child's reading at home.

ASSESSMENT

Throughout Nursery and Reception, staff will record observations, take photographs and collect samples of work for each child across all the different areas of learning. These will enable staff to develop a full picture of your child and their achievements for their Early Years Profile at the end of the Reception year.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Uniform



The following uniform can be purchased from our school suppliers (PMG):

Nursery

Royal blue sweatshirt with school logo.
Royal blue t-shirt with school logo
Navy, black, or grey jogging bottoms

Reception

Royal blue sweatshirt with school logo
Royal blue polo shirt with school logo
Grey school trousers/skirt/pinafore dress

Black shoes (Reception), except for on PE days when they should wear black trainers. Nursery children should wear black trainers every day.



Please ensure that ALL items of clothing are <u>labelled</u> with your child's name.

P.E. Kit (Reception)

Children are placed into one of the following 'house' colours:

Green = Campion
Red = Fisher
Blue = More
Yellow = Southworth.



Children will be placed in the same house groups as their older siblings. Their PE top must be the same colour as their house group. Plain (no logo) dark jogging bottoms/leggings. PE kits are worn to school instead of uniform on PE days (*the class teacher will let you know which days these will be*).

Milk and Fruit

All children are offered a piece of fruit each day. Children under 5 are entitled to free milk until the Friday before their 5th birthday. If you wish for your child to receive milk, you will need to register at Cool Milk directly, www.coolmilk.com

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Communication

School

- The school communicates with parents through ParentPay. Once your child is on roll at school you will receive an activation code and instructions for registering. ParentPay is also used to make payments to school, including lunch orders.
- Monthly newsletters are sent out giving an insight of the activities which take place in school.
- Parent Meetings are arranged in October and February/March each year with an end of year written report sent home in July.
- Opportunities to come in and share your child's learning journey with them throughout the year.
- Google classroom is used to share home and school learning links in Reception.

Parents

- We ask that parents inform us immediately of any changes to their contact details
- Regular attendance at school is crucial for your child's learning journey. If for any reason your child is absent from school, it is important that you let us know by calling the office by 9.00a.m. We ask that appointments be made outside of school hours where possible.

Hot Meals (Reception)

Our hot meals are cooked freshly each day in our onsite kitchen. The meals are provided through 'Caterlink'. Parents will need to order lunches by midnight the day before through ParentPay. Do involve your child in choosing their lunch as it can help them be prepared knowing what they are having each day.

Website

Please do check the school website for regular updates of events being held in school https://www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk/. Also check the class pages for your child's year group.