Welcome to St Thomas' Church of England Primary School



May 2020



Learning and growing in the sight of God

Welcome to Reception!

Welcome to our school!

This year is a little different but we are all working hard to support the ensure the transition into our school is a happy and safe experience.

We hope this information helps you learn more about Reception at our school and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

Take care,



Mrs Hadfield

Miss Scott

Mrs Mellor

Miss Wild

Mr Attwood

Ms Bucknor

What to expect, when?

Guidance to your child's learning and development in the early years foundation stage







This September we have opted to start planning, teaching and assessing using the new EYFS curriculum. We are currently waiting for guidance regarding this. However, in the meantime, you can refer to the 'What to Expect, When?' document for ideas of what we currently expect children to be able to do.

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015

School Website





We update our EYFS webpage every week under the 'Next Week's Learning' section. You can use this information to support your child's learning at home. We also update the EYFS Information page with new websites and guidance that also may be of use.





Assessments in the Early Years

What are assessments and why are they important?





Baseline Assessment

- The purpose of the 'baseline check' is to assess each child's level of development at the beginning of their formal schooling in order to measure progress
- In September 2020 the government were planning on bringing out a new baseline assessment format. We are currently awaiting information about this.
- The assessments will take place during the first weeks of school and will be carried out either on a one-to-one basis through discussion or through observation of your child during normal classroom activities.

Observations

- A picture of what the child is doing can be taken and the practitioner will write a dialogue of what the child was doing and saying
 - This information will be stored on your child's learning journal, which you will receive on a CD at the end of the school year



Next Steps of Learning

Children have their own square displayed in the classroom to showcase their learning. This square will also show what their next step in learning is so that practitioners can see where to support learning.



Good News Tree

All children have their own branch
Each half term your child will be sent home with some leaves
for you to record any achievements your child has
accomplished at home

Our newsletter which is sent home every half term will have an area of learning for you to focus on. The leaves will then be put onto your child's branch.



Green leaves for parents
Orange leaves for grandparents
or other family members
Yellow for other childcare providers



Settling In









Transition Day

Usually, we would be welcoming our new starters to our school with a transition morning or afternoon. However, due to the current issues, this is under review along with plans for settling in the children in September.

Please keep us up to date with your information as all transition plans will be sent out via email once they have been arranged.

'All About Me' board

- A3 board about themselves
- Your child can choose to draw parts or collage using pictures of their loved ones and interests
- They will need to return their boards to school during their 'Meet the Teacher' meeting
- Your child will use their boards to introduce themselves to their friends
- They will then be placed on their 'Special Square' in the classroom for everyone to see
- There is also a School Readiness Rocket in your hand book that your child can complete

'Meet the Teacher'

We usually hold a 'Meet the Teacher' session for all our children in September. However, again these are currently under review.

We will update you with the plans for these nearer the time.

School Dinners

- Your child is entitled to the universal free school meals
- There are always 3 meals to choose from, which always includes at least 1 vegetarian option
- The children pick their lunch in the morning

 Menus are available online for you to discuss in advance with your child so you can help guide their

unch Time Board &

choice

The Usual Timetable

We currently do not know what school will look like in September. However, our usual timetable in Reception runs like this:

- 3 carpet sessions in the day for Phonics, Maths and Topic
- Continuous Provision in the indoor and outdoor provision
- Child-led play where the adults extend their learning through questioning
- Lots of physical activity including Playdough Disco, Write Dance and Scribble While you Wiggle
- Attend 2 whole school assemblies in the week, which are singing and 'Star Awards'
- Weekly RE lessons and class assemblies

Snack

- The children always have fresh fruit, milk and water available daily
- Children can bring their own snack if they wish
- Snacks brought from home need to be fresh fruit only

 Water bottles can be brought into school for your child to access their own water throughout the day. The bottles must

only contain water







School Fund

- Voluntary contribution of £1 a week
- Can pay at the start of every half term
- The fund is used to purchase items for fun activities such as baking, planting and craft activities







Things to bring to school

- Wellies
- Water bottle
- Book bag no rucksacks
- Spare underwear and socks to be kept in their school bag or PE bag
- PE kit ready for both indoor and outdoor sessions
- Snack if they wish to have a particular fruit







Before and After School

- Please do not enter the Early Years area until the gates have been opened
- Children are not allowed on the climbing frame without teacher's supervision





Class Changes

Currently have their class teacher in the pack

 This will change when the children move to the junior site in Year 3

How do you know what's going on?

- Email
- Text message
- Letter
- Poster/noticeboard
- Website
- Class Dojo from Year 1

What if you want to chat to your child's teacher?

- Reading Records
- Parents' Evening twice a year
- Write a note/letter to the teacher
- Make an appointment to discuss an issue at the end of a day
- Ring the office

How can you be involved?

- Events
- Supporting your child with schoolwork and attendance
 - PTA
 - School Governors
 - Volunteering in school