

Mission Statement:

“I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.”

(John 10:10)



Striving for excellence, inspired by Gospel values



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Early Years
Welcome Brochure

Welcome to St Aloysius

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to St Aloysius.

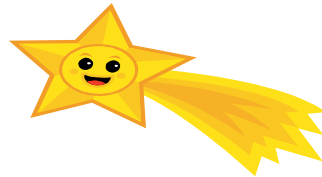
We are delighted that you have chosen St Aloysius as your child's school. Our aim is to ensure that your child is happy and fulfilled during their time with us. We will encourage, guide, motivate and support them to reach their fullest potential.

This booklet has been prepared to provide you and your child with some useful information and answer some of the common questions parents may have as their child starts in Reception class.

If you have any further questions about your child starting school please feel free to contact me here at school to discuss them further. We want the transition from Nursery to Reception to be as smooth as possible for both you and your child.

Yours sincerely

Nick Conway
Federation Head Teacher



Contact Details:

Sharpdon Street, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 1RZ

Telephone: 0191 4832274 Fax 0191 4834033

E mail: info@st-aloysius.co.uk

EYFS Lead: Miss K.Fenwick

Reception Teachers: Miss J Doughty and Miss M Welsh

Reception Teaching Assistants: Mrs S Crawford and Miss A Proud

Checklist

- Please provide a P.E kit. These should stay in school until each half term and be brought back into school when the child returns after each holiday.
- Please name **all** items of uniform.
- Children should always have a suitable coat with them. Wellies can be left at school too.
- Provide your child with a filled water bottle each day. Please ensure this only contains water. Children may bring their own fruit or vegetable snack each day.
- Book bags and reading books should be brought to school every day and homework to be completed weekly.

Parent, Teachers and Friends Association

At St Aloysius we are fortunate to have a very hardworking PTFA. They run social events for the children and also undertake fundraising events. Their work is vital to the school and very much appreciated. In order to ensure the continued success of the PTFA we need parents to volunteer to be part of this group and help with the organisation and running of these events. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the school office.



School Website

The school website is a great way to keep up to date with what is happening in school. It is full of news and useful information about our school. Do take a look!

www.st-aloysius.co.uk

Helping us

We acknowledge the importance of parents as a child's first educators and aim to work together with parents. We attach great importance to the relationship between home and school in maximising the learning of your child. Children settle into school more quickly and make speedier progress with their learning when parents and school work together in partnership.

If you have skills or talents that may be helpful in any area of school life, such as making costumes or gardening, then we are always keen to hear from you and welcome your involvement.

Workshops

Over the year, parent workshops will be offered to share some of the ways in which we are teaching your children to learn new skills, such as reading. Please do support these workshops wherever possible.

Home-School Diary

At the beginning of the year your child will receive a home-school diary. This is an opportunity for you and your child to record any news they have from outside of school. This may be in the form of photographs, bus/cinema tickets, drawings etc. Your child will share their diary weekly with staff and peers.

Reading Together

Supporting your child's reading development is one of the most important things you can do for them over the coming year. Children who are supported at home and heard to read on a regular basis, make accelerated progress in reading. Reading contributes to all areas of learning across the curriculum. Your child will have a reading record for you and the class teacher to comment on the child's progress. This is a great way of communicating with staff about your child's reading.



School Hours

All Reception children will begin school on Thursday 3rd September 2015.

The school day is organised as follows:

Doors open	8.45am
School starts	9.00am
Lunch	11.30-12.30pm
School ends	3.15pm



Before and After School Care

St Aloysius offers a breakfast club providing early morning care. It runs daily, from 8.00am until 9.00am. There is also an Out of School Club available for after school care. Please contact the school office for further details.

Settling In

Most children are excited about starting school and settle in to the routine of the school day quickly. However some children may become upset at your leaving—this is natural and our staff are very experienced at dealing with these situations.

The children are brought out to you in the playground at the end of the school day. Please inform school if collecting arrangements change at any time.



Learning in the Early Years

Safe, secure and happy learning environment



Meet the needs of each individual child



Caring, attractive and stimulating environment



*Development in all areas-
Educational and social*

Helping your child

You can help your child to settle quickly into school by talking positively about the experience. Please use the photo sheet we have provided to help prompt conversation. It would also be useful to encourage your child to carry out tasks for themselves, such as getting dressed, putting their shoes on and zipping up their coat. Independence is a great confidence booster. The children quickly want to manage these tasks alone to show how grown up they are!

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital. The Reception year is fast paced and full of fun learning opportunities. If children are absent from school they are likely to miss out on lots of new learning and this will affect their progress. There are times, due to illness that your child is unable to attend school. If this happens please ensure that you contact the school office, stating the reason for your child's absence.

Punctuality

The school doors open at 8.45am and the school day begins promptly at 9.00am with registration. This is a very important part of the school day as children are recorded as present or absent at this time. It is also part of our daily routine and offers the children the chance to start the day in the best possible way. Please try and ensure your child arrives in good time.

Behaviour and Attitudes

We believe that excellent behaviour is essential for effective learning to take place. Children will be encouraged to understand that they are responsible for their own actions and that their actions have consequences. Please support us in maintaining our high standards of behaviour.



Other Useful Information



P.E and Outdoor Clothing

All children need a PE kit which will be kept in school and sent home each half term. PE kits must be in a clearly labelled bag, separate from your child's book bag.

Please label each item of kit clearly with your child's name.

Our children spend a lot of time learning outdoors, in all weathers. It is therefore essential that children come to school dressed appropriately in protective clothing for when accessing their curriculum outdoors.

School Lunches

School dinners at St Aloysius are freshly cooked on site daily and are of a very high standard. All children in reception class are, as a result of the governments universal free school meals offer, entitled to a free school meal. Parents in receipt of benefits **must claim** this entitlement by completing the relevant forms provided.

Drinks and Snacks

Children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable free of charge as part of the Fruit in Schools initiative.

Milk is available at a cost of £9.10 per term, payable at the beginning of each term. Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle into school. Juice or fizzy pop are not permitted in classroom.

Medication

It is your responsibility to ensure school is aware of any medical condition your child may have. Children with asthma must have an inhaler in school at all times. Prescribed medicine should be administered at home wherever possible. If medication is required during the school day it will be administered by a first aider upon completion of the appropriate forms by parents. All medicines must carry a dispensing label with the child's name and the correct dosage clearly shown. A dosage spoon should also be provided.

Good Behaviour Code

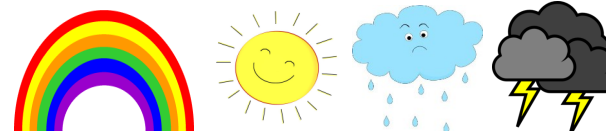
From starting Nursery children are supported to follow the rules and routines of our school, intended to promote a happy and effective learning environment. We have few rules and those we have are deliberately wide. We aim to support your children to behave in a way in which will lead to self-discipline and encourage children to perform at their best in all aspects of school life.

Care and Share: Everyone should behave in a considerate manner, treating each person with respect at all times.

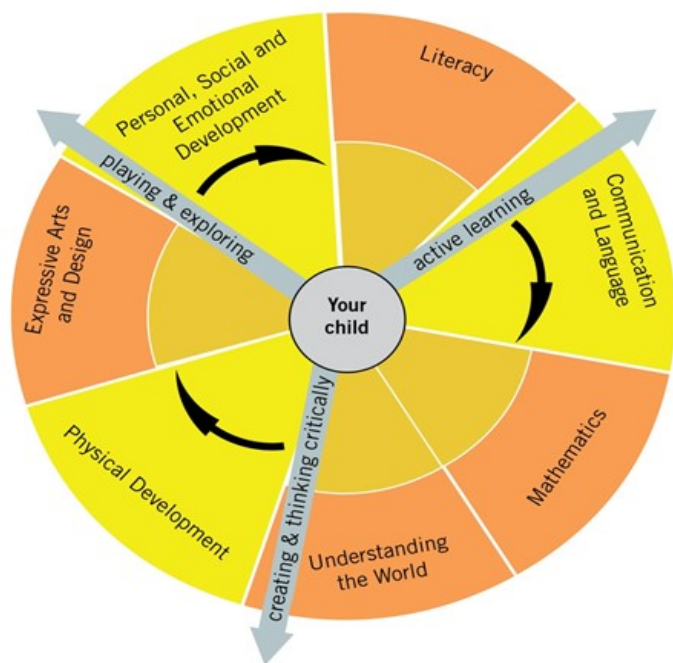
Work Well: Work hard. Always be proud of your efforts.

Play Safely: Be sensible. Care for each other in your play so you do not hurt yourself or your friends.

Tidy as you go: Keep the school and the classroom clean and tidy – it's your building, be proud of it!



The Early Years Curriculum



Children learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding in 7 areas of learning and development.

Prime areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Communication and Language
Physical Development

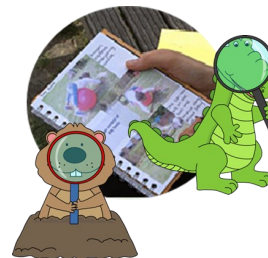
Specific areas:

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding of the World
Expressive Arts and Design

Children mostly develop in 3 prime areas first, which then supports development in the 4 specific areas.

These 7 areas support and guide the teaching and learning of the EYFS

Assessment



The government have introduced a baseline assessment for this coming academic year and as such a baseline judgement will be reported for each child within the first six weeks of their time in Reception class. This will be completed through observations of your child to help create an accurate picture of their starting point.

Throughout the Early Years we will continue to constantly observe, assess and record children's progress. This enables us to plan and provide activities relevant to each child so as to maximise learning. These observations will form your child's Learning Journal.

Photographs of your child's actions or achievements, quotations from discussions with your child or evidence of tracings and mark making activities, all inform the observations made. Parents too are encouraged to report to staff on observations made at home and outside of school that may inform your child's stage of development, using the parental Wow! slips.

By the end of the Reception Year... Children are assessed as 'Emerging' 'Expected' or 'Exceeding' in relation to the 17 ELG's and a report is written commenting on how your child learns using the 3 Characteristics of Effective Learning.

This makes up the EYFS Profile.

Special Educational Needs

Through our observations children with a special educational need are identified at an early stage and strategies are developed between the teacher and the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) to address the concerns. Partnerships with outside agencies such a Speech Therapists and Educational Psychologists will be developed if required. The earlier such concerns are addressed the better. Please do inform the school of any specialists currently involved with your child or if you would like a referral to be made.