



Welcome to Reception!

Information Meeting Frequently Asked Questions

We want your child to feel confident, happy and secure when starting school and hope this meeting along with this pack answers any questions, worries and fears you may have so that you too feel confident when they start school.

What is Reception?

The Reception classes are the second part of the Foundation Stage. This first Key Stage of learning is for children from birth to five years of age and has its own curriculum. This includes Pre-school, Nursery and Reception.

Who are the staff in the Foundation Stage?

To be advised (Reception 1)

To be advised (Reception 2)

Mrs J. Dunn Head of Early Years

The children will also have links with:

Headteacher: Mrs. J Maguire

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Dunn,

Assistant Headteachers: Mr S Macleod, Mrs C Macleod, Mr A Hawthorne

Safeguarding and Pastoral: Mrs M Kelly

Office Staff: Mr Ralston

Miss Tierney

Mrs Pickett

Mrs Jones

Mrs McTigue

What are the transition arrangements?

Present Nursery children will visit Reception during their nursery sessions. The Reception teachers also visit the Nursery children at play and story times. Nursery children will have times to play in the Reception rooms when the current Reception children are out in order to familiarise themselves with the space.

Children new to the school will be invited to visit the new class and teachers in the term before they start. You will receive a date and time for this transition afternoon. If your child is from a setting other than AS or ACC and does not receive a letter confirming a transition date please see the teacher and arrange a transition meeting

As well as this Information Meeting, you will be invited to attend a meeting with their new class teacher in September to find out more about school and routines etc. and there will be further opportunities to ask questions.

What do I do when I bring my child in the mornings?

School opens at 8.30am and you can drop your child off at class any time after that. Lessons begin at 8.50am.

Please say your goodbyes quickly, even if it seems really hard and the children are reluctant to leave you. They are much more likely to get upset if you make a fuss.

We aim to develop children's independence from the very first day, so please let your child hang their own coat up, put their bag away and find their name badge unaided.

The school day finishes at 3.05pm and you may wait for your child outside the Reception classrooms. Try and stand back and not crowd the door as teachers can only dismiss children when they can clearly see who the child is going to. Teachers dismiss one child at a time, so please be patient. Please try to be on time as children can get upset if they think you might not be picking them up.

What happens if my child is late or absent from school?

If you arrive after the start of the school day, you should take your child to the school office so they can be put on the register and be marked in for their lunch. The school needs to know the exact number of children in school on case of emergency.

If you feel your child is too unwell for school, please call school as soon as possible. There has been a recent change to the law and, if questioned, schools now have to be able to prove that all their pupils not in school are safe.

If you are ever unsure whether your child is well enough to come to school bring them into class, as the teachers will always call you if a child becomes too unwell to be in school.

We have to report lateness and absence to the local authority.

What do I do when it is not the usual person collecting my child?

If anyone other than the usual adult is going to collect your child please notify your child's teacher verbally, in writing or in the case of emergencies through the school office. There is a form available for you to list friends/ relatives that may regularly collect your child. **We will not hand your child over to anyone who is not authorised.**

What uniform does my child need for school?

The children will need to have wellingtons and outdoor coats.

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery, make up or nail varnish at school and long hair should be tied back.

Please ensure all your child's belongings (book bags, clothing, shoes, lunch boxes, coats etc.) have your child's name clearly written on them.

The full school uniform is explained in the school prospectus (page 13)

P.E. kit:

School T shirt Black

Black shorts

Black plimsolls

(Teachers will advise which day of the week your child will have P.E. On these days your child should come to school in P.E Kit)

EVERYTHING MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED

Where do I go if my child loses something?

Teachers try really hard to ensure that children do not lose their belongings, but with thirty children in each class, things inevitably go missing from time to time. If the teacher is unable to locate lost items in the classroom, please look in the lost property area on the corridor by the lift.

We discourage toys or personal belongings from home being brought to school due to the fact they can become lost or broken.

Will my child go to assemblies?

The children will attend most assemblies but will not be expected to go to long assemblies until the teacher feels they are ready.

Will my child need a snack?

We provide a healthy snack in Reception class continuing the practice of the Nursery. Fruit and milk are provided free by the government until the child is 5. As we offer a range of healthy snacks in addition to the fruit we ask for a contribution to the cost of the snack of 50p per week.

Can my child have a drink through the day?

All children have access to a drink of water whenever they are thirsty throughout the day. We ask all children to bring a bottle with plain water in each day. It is school policy that only plain water is allowed in school, and not juice or flavoured water. Children are able to take a drink from these at any time throughout the day.

Foundation stage children have the opportunity to have a drink of milk in the morning.

What happens at lunch?

School dinners are, at present, free for all children under the age of 7. An example menu is included in your pack. A child may also bring a packed lunch from home if they would prefer. If you provide a packed lunch we ask that you do not send in products containing chocolate, sweets, fizzy drinks or glass bottles.

Each day there is a choice between a hot meal and a range of deli sandwiches, wraps and salads. The children sit together in the dining area and are supervised by the midday supervisors. The children will be encouraged to eat as much as possible of their main dinner before starting on any desserts. The children ask permission to go before leaving the dining areas so the midday supervisors can make sure they have finished or have eaten a reasonable amount of food and drink. If the midday supervisors have any concerns they will feed this back to class teacher who will always inform parents.

We would ask that you consider making an application for Free School meals, please refer to the information in your pack. If you are eligible because of a low income the school receives a Pupil Premium which provides extra funding for the school.

Where do the children go after they have eaten their lunch?

The children play in the FS playground where they are supervised by the midday supervisors.

What do I do if my child needs medication?

We cannot give medicines in school without written instructions from the parents. A form is available in the school office and medication can be handed in there. Only prescribed medication which is in date and has the child's name on will be given.

It is school policy not to administer Antibiotics in school routinely. Parents whose children are on an antibiotic, must try to time the dosage to coincide with the school day, or visit the school to administer the medication themselves, if this is not possible arrangements can be made for school to administer but this would be in exceptional circumstances.

Will my child take a reading books home?

Your child will start bringing picture books home to practise story telling. Then, when they can recognise and sound out some words, we will introduce reading books. Lots of reading together at home helps children achieve well in all areas at school. Your child will be given a reading record card which should be signed and dated when you hear your child read, adding any comments you feel useful. Return book bags daily. Please see your child's

Book Bags: Your child needs to keep their reading books and records in their reading bags in a book bag. Don't forget to check the book bags regularly for letters and messages.

We will hold a meeting with parents early in the autumn term to explain how we teach reading and phonics and how you can help.

What should I do if I am worried about my child?

It is always better to sort out problems sooner rather than later. In the first instance make an appointment to see your child's teacher. The time available before school is limited and hectic settling children in, so issues are better addressed at the end of the school day. If you wish Mrs Maguire, Mrs Dunn and Mr Macleod, Mrs Macleod, Mr Hawthorne are also always available to address any concerns.

During the year there will also be occasions when parents are invited into school to discuss how their child is progressing.

Before and after school care.

We operate a before and after school club called Night Owls and Early Birds. It is run by school staff, familiar to the children and provides activities, play from 7.45am to 6.00pm. For further details please see Margie Kelly at our Children's Centre.

How can I get involved with my child's school?

Teachers are always looking for parents to help them in their classes and feel it is a valuable experience for all. You would be welcomed into any class throughout the school, or to go on trips. If you could spare a couple of hours, please let Mrs Jones in the office know.

Volunteers would be required to have a DBS check completed and provide 2 referees.

You are also invited to attend our weekly "Stay and Read" or "Come and Count" sessions in your child's class. This is a great opportunity to share books and a love of reading with your child in their classroom and ask questions about the process of learning to read.

We also have an excellent Parents' group that organises a wide range of activities and support the school in many ways. Information regarding this is included in your pack.

We hope this has answered many of your questions about your child starting school. We would be pleased to hear feedback and suggestions for inclusion in the future. For further information please refer to the handouts and prospectus or speak to any member of the school staff.

Please make sure that we have all of your contact details.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and we look forward to welcoming you and your child to the All Saints school family.

Sincerely,

All Saints Staff