



All Souls' Catholic PRIMARY SCHOOL



RECEPTION WELCOME BOOKLET 2021-22

"Christ is our Light"

Introduction

Welcome to All Souls' Foundation Stage Reception Class. Your child is now beginning full time education with us. If your child joins us from Nursery, it will be the continuation of a partnership which has already begun. If you and your child are new to us, please know that we are very much looking forward to your child starting their educational journey with us and we hope that, in partnership, next year can be the beginning of a very happy and rewarding time at All Souls.

This booklet is designed to help explain some of the Reception details in more depth and to provide background for you and your child before starting full time school in the Autumn Term.



Purpose and aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been set up to help children achieve the best possible start in life and fulfil their potential. They are supported in this by the five outcomes of Every Child Matters. These outcomes are there to make sure children stay safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic wellbeing.

At All Souls' School we believe that this is achieved by having a good working partnership between ourselves, other professionals and most important of all, parents and carers. For those new to the school, we would typically begin this partnership with a home visit. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions however, it has not been possible to facilitate these visits. We will therefore be offering appointments over Zoom, where we hope to be able to build up an image of your child, their needs, likes, dislikes and interests. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have.

As stated in the Statutory Framework (which can be found [here](#)) for the Early Years Foundation Stage, practice in early years settings is guided by four principles:

A Unique Child – this recognises that every child is a competent learner and focuses on safety, inclusion, development, and health and wellbeing.

Positive Relationships – encouraging children to become independent from a background of loving and secure relationships with parents and staff. The focus is based on respect, partnership with parents, and supporting learning.

Enabling Environments – a key to supporting and extending a child's learning. This focuses on observation, planning and assessment, support for every child, and the learning environment.

Learning and Development – this recognises that all children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates, and that all areas of development are equally important.

Inclusion and Special Needs

Children with disabilities or special needs (SEND) are encouraged to take a full part in all our activities and we endeavor to ensure that all activities are designed to be fully inclusive. As a school we have good contact and support from a variety of outside agencies and specialists. We follow the current Code of Practice on working with, and the identification of, children with SEND. Parents will always be kept informed and consulted if any concerns arise. If you think that your child may need learning support, please discuss this with us so that, if necessary, appropriate support may be put in place.

The Areas of Learning

Within the Reception year your child will continue to work towards establishing a foundation of skills in readiness for the next stage of their education: The National Curriculum Key Stage 1, which begins at the start of “Year One”. This foundation builds around developing skills and experiences in three prime areas. These are particularly crucial for igniting children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. The three prime areas are:

- PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Alongside the three prime areas, there are four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These are some of the ways we will support your child in the seven areas of learning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Split into three strands: **Self-regulation, Managing self and Building relationships.**

Your child is a social being and school is a very social environment. In order for your child to get the best from their first year at school, the school encourages social as well as academic development.

Personal and social development focuses on good mental health awareness and the ways in which children work, play and cooperate with others.

We encourage children to display sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others. We encourage children to develop a positive sense of themselves and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Communication and Language

This focuses on developing skills in speaking and listening.

The children are always encouraged to listen carefully to anyone who is talking to them. They also have lots of opportunities for talking, both formally and informally. Snack time is an ideal time to encourage communication and speaking and listening. Although in Reception we have to work to a more formal timetable than in Nursery, we still value the role of play in developing speaking, listening, and social skills.

Physical Development

Split into two strands: **Gross motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills**

Children are encouraged to move confidently and imaginatively with increased control and coordination, and develop an awareness of space and their peers. We do this through music and movement, apparatus work and developing motor skills through the use of small apparatus and games.

This area includes handwriting, cutting, and using small equipment. We will be focussing on expectations for getting ready for writing.

We develop coordination using indoor and outdoor space.

The prime areas are supported by the specific areas and in these areas we provide activities and experiences for your children, as follows.



Mathematics

Practical mathematics plays a very important part in the Reception year. We will be following a programme of study as outlined in the New Foundation Curriculum guidance. For Reception, this programme is divided into two strands:

- **Numbers**
- **Numerical Patterns**

Children will be encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of numbers and improve their skills in counting, being able to subitise, understanding and using numbers to ten, and then to twenty. We will be focussing on the patterns in number.

Understanding the World

Children are encouraged to talk about where they live, their environment, their families and past and present events in their own lives. Children talk about their observations and ask questions to gain information about why things happen.

In Reception, we undertake much of our work in this area through first-hand experience. We have visits from many members of the community including our Priest, the Police, Fire Service and a Midwife. Children are encouraged to experiment and try things out for themselves.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children explore sound, colour, texture, form and space in two and three dimensions. Through art, music, dance, stories and imaginative play, they show an increasing ability to use their imagination.

Children use their imagination to create shops, cars, trains, schools and building sites.

They are encouraged to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials through art, music, movement, dance and design and technology.

They have free use of pencils, crayons, felts, paints, and glue and collage materials.



Literacy

The area is split into three strands: **Comprehension, Word reading and Writing.**

During the first half of the Autumn Term your child will bring home his/her first reading book. A book will be sent home once a week and will be changed accordingly. Your child will also have words to be learnt alongside the reading books as there is a set of words for every level of the reading scheme. More details regarding this will be sent out during the first half of the Autumn Term. Please be aware that we are currently looking to refresh and update our reading scheme and programme, and therefore the processes described above may change during the next academic year. We will obviously inform you as this develops.

Phonic sessions are run daily, teaching the skills of decoding, segmenting and blending. The school's phonics programme is based around 'letters and sounds', which is a phased, systematic programme for the development of reading and communication skills, produced by the Department for Education.



Some children will already be able to name the characters above. Those who have not met them before will soon be able to tell you all about them!

From the beginning of the year we will start to develop children’s writing skills. This will normally begin with writing their full names. We use the emergent writing approach to writing. This gives the children confidence to become independent writers. As a school, we teach handwriting using the ‘Collins Focus Handwriting’ scheme. This allows us to take a progressive, consistent approach to handwriting and ensure that children develop their styles over a number of years and at their own rate.



Religious Education

The main scheme for Religious Education in Reception, and throughout the school, is “*Learning and growing as people of God*”. However, as a Catholic school, the basic religious ethos is to be found across the whole curriculum. The children in Reception are

involved in whole school masses on Feast Days which are celebrated at the church of The Precious Blood of Our Lord and All Souls.

They are supported throughout the year by Year Six Prayer Friends who accompany the children to church and sit with them through the service, setting a good example of behaviour. The Year Six Prayer Friends have a very important pastoral role, sometimes sharing experiences, reading stories, and taking care of the Reception children at dinner time.

This is one of many ways in which we reflect our school Mission Statement:

Christ is our Light



What happens in the morning?

The children will come into their classroom from 8:30am, and are expected to be ready for registration at 8:45am. Any child arriving later than 8:45am should enter the school via the office to ensure they are marked as present. Parents may walk their child around to the classroom by entering the school site through the pedestrian gate, accessible from the school driveway, walking along the path and then across school playground. A school adult will always be positioned to greet you at the pedestrian gate and an Early Years adult will be there, at the classroom entrance, to welcome your child. We would encourage parents, as the children become more confident and independent, to say goodbye to their children at the pedestrian gate, allowing them to walk around to the classroom independently.

If your child is unable to attend school through illness, please inform the school of this as early as possible on each day your child is absent. The easiest way to do this is by using the 'Report Your Child's Absence' form which can be accessed on the right hand side of the front page of the school website: www.allsoulsschool.co.uk If you are unable to report it in this way, please telephone the office (02476675836) and choose the appropriate option.

Informing us of your child's absence ensures that it is recorded correctly on the official attendance register as 'authorised' and prevent the office from making a phone call home. If we are unable to obtain a valid reason for your child's absence, it may be recorded as 'unauthorised', which is then flagged up with the school's Attendance Officer.

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please try to ensure that they are missing from school for the shortest period possible, so that any disruption to learning is kept to a minimum. Please inform the office of your child's medical appointment so that this is also recorded correctly on the attendance register.

What happens during the day?

The Reception children do not have a set playtime like the rest of the school. All the children in the Foundation Stage will use the outdoor area throughout the day where activities related to the seven areas of learning will be available. Fruit, water and milk* will also be provided as a midmorning snack. Your child will also have access to water so that they may have a drink at any time during the day.

*Free milk is available, funded by the government, for all children under the age of five who attend school. At All Souls, this is provided by 'Cool Milk' the UK's largest school milk provider. We register the children for their free milk on your behalf by providing Cool Milk with your child's name and date of birth. When your child turns five, you can continue to receive milk for your child by paying a subsidised rate. If you wish to continue receiving milk from the age of five, simply register with Cool Milk directly via their website (<https://www.coolmilk.com/>) They will then contact you at the appropriate time to arrange pre-payment. All information handled by Cool Milk is processed in accordance with current GDPR legislation. If you would not like the school to register your child, please let a member of the admin team know.

What happens at lunch time?

At dinnertime the children eat together in the school dining room. Good table manners, i.e. talking quietly to each other and eating carefully are encouraged. A member of the Reception staff will eat with the children daily until at least for the Autumn Half Term, dependent on the children's needs and abilities.

The children are supervised at dinner time by Dining Room Assistants and we do expect the children to show our dinner ladies the same respect as they would any other adult.

School meals are cooked daily on the school premises and are delicious!

Please note all children are entitled to a free school meal.

After dinner the Reception children will join Key Stage One on the playground for a short playtime, before returning back to class at 1:00pm.

What happens at home time?

School finishes at 3:15pm. The Reception children will be ready to meet their parents at the Reception classroom door, located on the main school playground. Please collect your child promptly. If for some reason you are unable to collect your child yourself, you must inform us who will be picking them up as we will not let them leave with someone we don't know.

We operate a password system to assist with security at the end of the day. A password will be kept that only you and the staff will know. Should your child be collected by anyone other than yourself, they will be asked for the password before we let your child leave with them. This is in addition to notifying us by telephone should someone else be collecting your child.

General Information

We work hard to encourage children to be sociable and independent. We encourage them to take off their own coats and hang up these up by themselves, and to put away

their own lunchboxes, water bottles and book bags. We encourage them to be responsible for their own possessions at all times.

Please help your child by putting his/her name on all items of clothing including pumps, shoes, coats, bags, lunchboxes and flasks.

The school has in operation an effective behaviour policy. It is available for all parents to read and keep.

Withdrawing children from school during term time can be quite detrimental to their academic and social development; therefore we ask that you do not arrange family holidays during term. If this is unavoidable, you will need to make an appointment with the Head Teacher. You also need to write to the Governing Body asking for permission, to prevent this time being regarded as unauthorised absence and recorded accordingly.

We do not encourage children to bring valuable items into school. If your child has been asked to bring money into school, then it has been authorised by the class teacher and you should be notified about it.

We discourage the wearing of all jewellery to school for health and safety reasons. Girls are allowed to wear small stud earrings, but these must be removed for PE. In the first newsletter of the academic year, we will let you know on which days Reception have PE.

Please ensure that your child has a PE bag containing a pair of pumps, a school PE top, shorts and an additional change of clothes in. We also ask that children keep a pair of wellington boots in school as we aim to spend much time outdoors – in all weather!

The school has two parent consultations each year, during which you can see your child's work and the teacher. The first is usually during October, the second usually just before Easter. The school uses an online service called 'Tapestry' to record your child's learning journey. We encourage parents to play active part in this and will provide you with details and a log in so that you are able to access, view and contribute to your child's journey.

During the first half term, we hope to hold a special 'Welcome Mass' at church on a Sunday morning. Once we are able to confirm a date, we will inform you of the details.

Medical Information

If your child needs to receive any medication during the day, you should let the admin office know the details and reasons for this. Currently, there is a paper based form, copies of which are kept in the main school reception, to complete. We are, however, looking to make this a digital form, accessible via the school website in the near future. Any medications should be handed to a member of staff in the main office, not sent in with the children. Any prescription medications must show the name and details of your child and we will only be able to administer them in accordance with the directions that have been supplied with the medication.

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics, we would advise that they take one full day of their course before returning to school. If your child is suffering with vomiting or diarrhoea, they should remain away from school until 48 hours after their symptoms have subsided. This is in line with NHS guidance, which can be found [here](#).

Finally...

Please remember that School is a partnership involving your child, yourselves and the staff. If you have any worries and concerns, however small they may appear, please come and talk to us. We will always try to help. We know how precious your children are to you and want you to know that we want the absolute best for them too!