



Welcome to St. Anne's R.C. Primary School

For further information, do not hesitate to contact:

Information for Parents: FOUNDATION STAGE

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St Anne's Mission Statement:

'To live happily,
love unconditionally
and learn enthusiastically
with Jesus by our side.'



Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child to St Anne's RC Primary School. We are sure you are looking forward to this new "adventure" just as we are looking forward to meeting you.

It is an exciting time for everyone with lots of new information to remember.

The intention of this booklet is to give you an idea of what we can offer you and your child in their early stages of education. We have outlined all the procedures that help us to run a happy Foundation Stage and hope you find these useful.

We aim to work with you as partners in the education of your child. It is a fascinating and wonderful time when you are 3, 4 or 5 years old. Watching children grow and develop at this age is an inspiring experience and we want all of our children to flourish. Every term, there will be an opportunity to share your child's learning experiences, discuss their progress and also hear about our approach to the curriculum.

As a Catholic School we see every child as a unique individual and aim to bring out the very best from each child within a caring Christian environment. Our main aim is that children, parents and carers feel happy, secure and valued so that our children can progress confidently and happily through school life always striving to achieve their best.

We look forward to meeting you and hope that your time at St Anne's will be a happy time for both you and your child.

We hope this booklet will provide you with useful information about the school, but please don't hesitate to pick up the phone or email if you need any more information.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs J Carr
Head Teacher



WELCOME TO ST ANNE'S FOUNDATION STAGE

Welcome to St Anne's Foundation Stage for children aged three to five years. The youngest children aged three to four attend a part time Foundation Stage 1 (nursery) and the older children, aged four to five, attend on a full time basis in Foundation Stage 2 (reception).

First Days in the Foundation Stage

Prior to your child starting Foundation Stage 1, your child will be invited to a Stay and Play session. During this session, your child will meet their class teacher in their new learning environment. Parents are expected to stay during this initial settling in visit. Please request a home visit if you feel as though this would be beneficial to you and your child.

To ensure a happy start for your child, we are staggering entry as recommended for three to four year olds. This means that for the first week of the Autumn Term, your child will be attending Foundation Stage 1 (nursery) for a reduced session however by the second week of term, if your child is happy and settled they will attend the full nursery session. You will be given allocated times during the welcome meeting in the Summer Term. At St Anne's we feel that this helps your child settle more easily into school, provides an opportunity to build positive relationships and allows teachers to get to know your child and their interests.



Times of Foundation Stage Sessions

Nursery 8:40am - 11:45am

Reception 8:45am - 3:15pm

Foundation Stage Routine

Your child will have their own peg labelled with their name and a picture. They will also have a name card with the same picture to support them for self-registration. Children are placed in small key groups with a key worker during registration. This is to help them feel safe and develop friendships. At St Anne's we believe the key to effective early years practice is knowing your child really well. Teachers acquire deep knowledge and understanding of individual children through spending time in key groups. This allows all staff to observe children at play and discover their interests.

Attendance at St Anne's

Staff welcome children into school every day, we are here to help you and your child. Please ensure your child arrives on time for every session, as it is important that your child arrives with their friends to help them feel more secure. Any latecomers must enter through the main school entrance and this will be recorded as a late mark on the school register.

100% attendance at school helps to give your child a secure everyday routine and enables them to obtain maximum benefit from school. Please ensure that you contact the school office before 9:00am on the first day of absence and inform us of the reason your child will not be attending school.

Once your child is in school safely and the teacher on the door is no longer welcoming the children - please do not hesitate to ask our advice or discuss any concerns you may have. If you need to make an appointment to see the class teacher, this can be arranged via the school office for after 3pm.

Collecting your Child

Always collect your child promptly at the end of the session as young children can become very upset if they are not collected at the same time as their friends. When your child starts Foundation Stage 1, we ask for the names of three contact people who may collect your child. If someone different needs to come, you must inform the school either by telling a member of staff or by contacting the school office. These people must be known to the child and over 16 years of age.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR FOUNDATION STAGE 1

Ways in which you can help

Starting school is an important step so make it a positive one. Look at photographs on the school website (stannesrcprimary.org.uk) and on twitter (@stannesrcp). Take some time to look at the photographs in this booklet with your child and talk about all the exciting activities they will engage in during their time at St Anne's Early Years Foundation Stage.

Develop independence



Children come to school on their allocated PE day in their PE Kit (all purchased from Little Gems.)

Please make sure all clothing and shoes are marked with their name on to avoid any confusion. There are several weeks left for you to help your child practice the skills needed in managing clothes independently.

Using the Toilet

Your child should be able to go to the toilet independently and cope with trousers or tights.

Children need to have the confidence and the ability to manage themselves, and they can become anxious about using toilet facilities other than those in their own home. You can help by teaching them to manage their own needs, to be able to flush the toilet and wash their hands afterwards.

If your child is not toilet trained, you can contact school for details of the school nursing team who will provide additional help and advice. If your child is not toilet trained by the start date, please inform a member of staff so that we can discuss it further.

LEARNING IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE

During the early years children learn through play. Throughout the Foundation Stage, emphasis is on learning through purposeful play activities rather than whole class teaching.

Foundation Stage provision is based on prime and specific areas of learning and development.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



One of the most important aspects of a child's development is how they interact and relate with those around them, both adults and children. We try to foster and promote an atmosphere of caring, self-control and co-operation. Children are encouraged to talk about their problems and find solutions together. We understand the importance of a child's self-esteem in the learning process and we work with each child to promote the development of their self-esteem. Children are encouraged to manage their personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet & understanding the importance of healthy food choices.

Physical Development



Children are given frequent opportunities to develop their co-ordination, control and movement.

Children can choose to play with large and small scale construction toys. As they get older, children begin to have a PE session in the school hall. We also place great importance on our sand, water and play-dough areas. These areas provide excellent opportunities for children to increase their skills. These areas change their role to follow the child's interests. The water tray may be a fancy tea party one week and a jungle swamp the next. The sand can be transformed into the '3 Little Pigs' building site. All these activities fire children's imaginations and they love working together in these areas.

As an extension to indoor physical activities, children have access to a well-equipped outdoor area where bicycles, carts, wheelbarrows and scooters help promote confidence and awareness of space.

Literacy, Communication and Language



Children enjoy a range of rhyme, rhythm and other sound awareness activities. A quiet reading area is provided and children are encouraged to look at books, tell stories to each other, recite nursery rhymes and handle and care for books correctly. Speaking and listening skills are encouraged and developed throughout Foundation Stage. Talk which arises during play develops appropriate vocabulary and language. Children are always encouraged to talk about their experiences and interests. Mark making occurs in many different areas of the room. For example: shopping lists in the home corner, recipes in the kitchen and labels for models in the construction area. There is also a writing area equipped with a variety of tools and materials to develop their drawing and writing skills. Children are encouraged to write their name using correct letter formation. From the simplest of line or circle to a more detailed and recognisable picture, each child's efforts is recognised and encouraged.

Mathematics



A lot of early counting skills are gained through singing number songs and rhymes. These skills are supplemented in our maths area with a selection of games and activities. These explore areas such as matching and sorting, ordering, shape recognition, counting and number sequencing and pattern recognition.

Most mathematical activities occur naturally throughout the room. We count pieces of fruit and cups at snack time, cut cakes and pizzas into halves and quarters, match cups and plates in the kitchen, complete tricky jigsaws and make our own pictures from a variety of shapes. By relating these simple activities to our everyday life, children come naturally to an understanding of early maths concepts.

Understanding the World



We love to go outside whatever the weather! Our own outdoor play area is used in a variety of ways for digging, planting, watering and watching things grow. We encourage children to make observations about the world around them and to be aware of the changing seasons and weather. We often explore further afield taking advantage of the nearby seaside and farms to develop children's geographical knowledge. Visits from the local police, fire-fighters, dentists and nurses also extend the children's knowledge. Areas for sand and water allow children to explore the properties of wet and dry sand, water and ice. They handle natural materials such as dough, clay, stones, and shells. Children are encouraged to construct models using a variety of wooden and plastic blocks.

Every child has the opportunity to use ICT equipment, including I Pads, digital cameras and simple computer games to promote mouse control and support learning. Everyone enjoys baking and tasting different types of food.

Expressive Arts & Design



Most children love role play. We have a range of exciting and changing role play areas for the children to explore, for example a building site, jungle, beach or fairytale castle. These areas reflect the children's interests. All children are encouraged to use a variety of materials and tools to create and represent what they see, hear and feel. Music is an important part of our daily sessions. Children are encouraged to develop a love of simple songs and nursery rhymes and are able to accompany themselves on a range of percussion instruments.

Outdoor Play



Our outside area is planned to be an extension of the classroom. Opportunities are provided to promote stimulating learning and develop lifelong skills including team work and communication.

Various skills including teamwork, problem solving and communication are nurtured in our outdoor environment. Writing, reading and number skills are encouraged and well planned for through our outdoor provision.

Children are naturally active. To keep fit and healthy they need plenty of fresh air and active play.

When children play outside they:

- Enjoy using their seemingly inexhaustible reserves of energy
- Develop muscle control and co-ordination
- Learn to negotiate obstacles and become aware of space
- Practice skills such as skipping, throwing and catching
- Use all their senses to enjoy different seasons
- Experience playing with larger toys and materials
- Find out about their environment by exploring, observing and recording what they discover.

You can help prepare your child for outdoor play by making sure they can put their wellies on and manage some of the fastenings on their outdoor coat. In hot weather, please don't forget to apply your child's sun cream before they come into school and sun hats will be provided by school.



Point out numbers and words in the environment - in shops, on buses etc.

Teach them to put on and take off coat, socks, shoes and other clothes

Encourage them to draw, colour, write and use scissors.

Ways in which you can support your child's learning

Share music and songs with your child.

Sing nursery rhymes and number songs

Talk together and share conversations. Encourage your child to ask questions and talk about what they are doing.

Read favourite books and enjoy talking about them with your child. Make up stories together.

Teach them to use the toilet properly and to wash their hands afterwards.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Uniform

There is a uniform for all Foundation Stage children. Wearing the uniform gives the children a sense of belonging to the school community. School uniforms can be purchased from Little Gems in High Street, Sunderland or via their website www.theschooloutfit.com

Please support your child in becoming independent. Few children will be able to manage fastening shoelaces, so **please find shoes with easy fastenings and no laces** - this will be a great help.

Jewellery

Please could you remember for their own safety that children are not allowed to wear jewellery of any kind for school, including earrings. Please help us by adhering to all school rules.

Snack



The children have access to drinking water throughout the day and they are provided with a healthy snack. Foundation Stage children receive free fruit from the Governments School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. We offer a Breakfast Club which begins each day at 8am. Please ask at the school office if there are any available places.

**IT IS VITAL THAT YOU INFORM US
VERBALLY AND ON THE ADMISSION FORM OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES.**

Dinner



Currently, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a free school lunch irrespective of parental income. However if you are currently in receipt of any benefits, please contact the school office as this could result in extra funding for your child's school. Our cook provides excellent nutritious lunches, menus can be found on the Sunderland City Council website. If you have any dietary requirements please contact school as soon as possible so we can support your child's needs.

Educational Visits

From time to time, educational visits are organised for which you are asked to pay a contribution. A letter will always be sent home and please remember to complete the consent section and return it to school as soon as possible.

Holidays

Holiday forms are available from the school office but again we would ask you to encourage good attendance habits and suggest children are not taken out of school for holidays or any other reason, unless it cannot be avoided. No holiday will be authorised by school. Please remember that every school day matters.

Children's Behaviour

At St Anne's we aim to support our children achieve good standards of behaviour as well as learning. We positively encourage children to share and take turns with each other. We aim to develop each child's ability to consider others, and through discussion make them aware of their actions. Details of this are outlined in our Behaviour Policy, which can be found on the school website - www.stannesrcprimary.org.uk. We ask for your help in supporting our work with children's behaviour.

Illness

If your child is ill, the best place for them is at home. The Early Year's Foundation Stage can be very demanding and young children who are ill may not enjoy it even though they ask to come. Please telephone school before 9am to let us know if your child is ill and will not be attending school. If your child becomes ill at school you will be notified immediately, so please make sure we have your up to date telephone number.

Class Dojo

We use Class Dojo to share important messages, set homework tasks and award dojo points for positive behaviour and effort. You can also share your child's most important learning moments at home by sharing photos, videos and messages with your child's class teacher. Login details will be provided when your child starts school.

ESSENTIAL LETTERS & SOUNDS (ELS)

Information for Parents

Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is our chosen phonics programme. It teaches children to read by identify the phonemes (smallest unit of sound) and graphemes (written version of the sound) within words and using these to read words. Children experience the joy of books and language whilst rapidly acquiring the skills they need to become fluent independent readers and writers.

At St. Anne's we create a language rich environment that encourages a love of songs, rhymes and word play which is a vital part of developing your child's phonological awareness. In FS1 the children will develop their pre-reading skills by engaging in a range of fun, practical activities to develop their ability to hear, identify and play with sounds in spoken language.

Your child will learn to:

- Develop awareness environmental sounds, instrumental sounds and voice sounds.
- Identify words that rhyme.
- Count the number of syllables in a word or in familiar names.
- Recognise alliteration (words with the same beginning sound).
- Blend (combine) and segment (break) sounds in spoken words.

From the beginning of FS2 your child will participate daily phonics sessions. The sounds will be introduced in the following order:

Autumn Term

s, a, t, p
i, n, m, d
g, o, c, k
-ck, e, u, r, ss
h, b, f, ff, ll
j, v, w, x
y, zz, qu, ch
sh, th, ng, nk
ai, ee, igh, oa

Spring Term

oo (book)
ar, ur, oo (food), or
ow, oi, ear, air
ure, er, ow

Summer Term

ay, ou, ie, ea, -le
oy, ir, ue, aw
wh, ph, ew, oe
au, ey, a-e, e-e
i-e, o-e, u-e

Reading and Home Help

When your child starts St. Anne's Primary school they will need a book bag which they need to bring to school every day. We ask parents to check the bag each night, when they read with their child, for any letters, information or home tasks and activities.

Helping your Child to Read

Your child will bring home a 'real' reading book to share with you every Tuesday and Thursday. Your child is not expected to read this book by themselves. The aim of this book is for you as parents to read and enjoy the book together.



Helping your Child to Read in FS2

To best support us in teaching your child how to read we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school 4 times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. We will be changing children's books once a week on Fridays; this allows your child to re-read each text several times building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways. Please ensure that your child's reading record and book are brought to school daily.



You can further support your child to read at home by developing their ability recognise words. Harder to read and spell words will be introduced in this order.

Autumn Term

I, the, no
put, of, is
to, go, into
pull
as, his
he, she, buses
we, me, be
push
was, her
My, you

Spring Term

they, all, are
ball, tall
when, what
said, so, have
were, out, like
some, come, there
little, one, do
children, love

Summer Term

oh, their
people, Mr, Mrs
your, ask, should
would, could, asked
house, mouse, water
want, very

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

SET ASIDE SOME SPECIAL TIME
The best time is when your child wants to read to you, but some children find it helpful to have a daily routine.

GIVE LOTS OF PRAISE

FIND A QUIET PLACE
Find somewhere quiet without distractions, turn off the TV/Radio/Computer.

SIT CLOSER TOGETHER
Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages

Helping your child to read and increase their vocabulary

MAKE IT FUN
It doesn't matter how you read with a child as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices - children love this.

POINT TO THE PICTURES
Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you a story by looking at the pictures.

LITTLE AND OFTEN
Frequent, short sessions are better than one long one. Ten minutes is probably about right, but there is no reason why you should not carry on longer if your child wants to.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO TALK ABOUT THE BOOK
Ask them what will happen next, how a character might feel or how a book makes them feel.

PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD SPELL THEIR NAME USING THE CORRECT LETTER FORMATION

a b c d e

f g h i j k

l m n o p

q r s t u

v w x y z

