

Starting in Reception Class – Little Oaks

**St Mary's Church of England Primary School and  
Nursery, Writhlington**

- Be the best you can be -



# Welcome!

Welcome to Little Oaks Reception Class at St Mary's Church of England Primary School and Nursery! This is an exciting time for you and your child and we aim to make everyone joining our school (children and parents/carers included) an enjoyable and special time. We hope this booklet will answer some of the questions most frequently asked by parents/carers. If you would like to know anything that hasn't been covered here, please feel free to e-mail us at: [office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk) or contact the school office on 01761 434548.

**Class Teachers: Miss Hamblin – Monday and Tuesday**  
**Mrs Martin – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**

Mrs Gallimore is our Speech and Language and Nurture support Teaching Assistant and Miss Hamblin is the school SENDCo.

We believe that the teacher and parent/carer relationship is essential to your child's learning journey. Throughout the academic year (Covid-19 restrictions permitting!) we will be inviting you in to see what wonderful learning we get up to in school, so please look out for invitations throughout the reception year.

We aim to make our classroom learning environment a loving, fun, safe and inspiring place to be.

## **Usual Arrangements for the Start of Term**

*This is dependent on Government advice and any restrictions that may be in place in September*

We always have a phased start in September to aid transition into school.

### Week 1: week commencing Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 9:00-11:45 (morning only)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 09:00-11:45 (morning only)

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 09:00-1:15 (staying for lunch)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 09:00-1:15 (staying for lunch)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 09:00-1:15 (staying for lunch)

### Week 2: week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Children in Reception Little Oaks Class in full time.

08:45-3:15

Registration is at 8:55 and 1:00

If you feel that your child is not ready to start full days at school, please come and have a chat with us and it may be possible that we can make alternative arrangements. It is important to note that this 'phased' induction is crucial to ensuring the best start for your child at school.

## Daily Routines

8:45am – Doors Open  
8:55am - Register  
10:15am – Playtime/Snacktime  
12:00pm – Lunchtime  
1:00pm – Register  
2:15pm – Outside activity (bikes and trikes/conservation area/playtime)  
2:45pm – Collective Worship  
3:15pm – Home Time

Morning activities are Phonics, Literacy and Mathematics based and afternoons are topic based, although all the areas of learning overlap throughout the day.

Before morning break, the children have milk or water (depending on age), a healthy snack (fruit, which is provided by the school) and a short relaxation time. We run a 'rolling snack' in the afternoons where children can have a snack independently at the snack bar.

In the afternoons, the children also participate in a short physical activity.

A range of child-initiated play based activities are available throughout the day covering the different areas of learning.

Children have use of both the indoor and outdoor classroom, and where possible, other areas of our beautiful school grounds.

We are a Church of England school and teach Christian values as part of our learning ethos.



# Our Principles

We share and encourage these essential values with your child to give them a life-long love for learning...

## ***Playing and Exploring – Engagement***

Finding out and exploring  
Playing with what they know  
Being willing to 'have a go'!

## ***Active Learning - Motivation***

Being involved and concentrating  
Keeping trying  
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

## ***Creating and Thinking Critically – Thinking***

Having their own ideas  
Making links  
Choosing ways to do things

These principles are part of the foundations of our practice.

# The Curriculum

The Government have introduced a new statutory framework for September 2021.

Reception children are working within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), before they start the National Curriculum in Year 1. We firmly believe that young children learn best through play-based activities. These include focused activities with an adult (adult-directed), activities which the children choose themselves (child-initiated), and activities created by an adult that children engage with through our continuous provision (adult-framed). Children do a mixture of activities on a daily basis. They also spend a lot of time outdoors, with adult supervision.

In line with the new statutory framework, we have worked hard to develop a curriculum that seeks to ensure:

- Every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- A secure foundation in learning and development of each child
- Partnership with teachers and parents/carers
- Equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported

The Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of seven areas of Learning and Development. All areas of Learning and Development are connected to one another. All areas of learning and development are underpinned by the principles of the statutory EYFS framework. The curriculum is divided into Prime and Specific areas of learning and development.

## **PRIME**

### **Communication and Language**

- ***Listening, Attention and Understanding***
- ***Speaking***

Examples: Listening attentively; anticipate language patterns; responding appropriately to what they hear; able to follow instructions; talk about and connect experiences; communicate effectively; connecting ideas and expressing them appropriately; speaking clearly

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

- ***Self-Regulation***
- ***Managing Self***
- ***Building Relationships***

Examples: Taking turns; co-operation; listening to and understanding others; sensitivity to their own and other's needs; making positive relationships with adults and peers; confidence; communicating their feelings; understanding right from wrong; being able to adapt

### **Physical Development**

- ***Gross Motor Skills***
- ***Fine Motor Skills***

Examples: Moving confidently and safely; co-ordination; using tools appropriately; pencil control; understanding why we need a healthy balanced diet; understanding the importance of exercise; hygiene; using the toilet independently; undressing and dressing independently

## **SPECIFIC**

### **Literacy**

- *Comprehension*
- *Word Reading*
- *Writing*

Examples: Reading sentences independently; use skills to read unfamiliar words; remembering words; understanding texts they have read; writing familiar words; writing sentences.

### **Mathematics**

- *Number*
- *Numerical Patterns*

Examples: Using numbers up to 20; addition and subtraction; sharing, halving, doubling; problem solving; size; weight; capacity; time; money; patterns; 2D and 3D shape

### **Understanding the World**

- *Past and Present*
- *People, Culture and Communities*

Examples: Sharing important experiences; sensitivity to other's interests; understanding similarities and differences between different people, cultures, traditions, places and families; understanding of living things including plant and animals; notice patterns and changes; uses of technologies including telephones, computers and the internet

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

- *Creating with Materials*
- *Being Imaginative and Expressive*

Examples: Singing songs; enjoying music; dance; exploring colour, shape, texture, form and function; being expressive

# Reading

Learning to read is one of your child's biggest achievements during the first years of school. It is important not to rush them, but to make reading an enjoyable experience. Children will begin to read at varying paces. We are passionate about reading in our school, and children are given opportunities to read throughout the school day, across all aspects of the curriculum.

During the first few weeks of school, your child will be able to take home a book and reading record. This will usually be a picture book which you will be able to read and share with your child. Let them have a go at turning the pages and talk about what happens in the story.

When your child is ready, we will introduce books with text. These will be matched to your child's 'phonic' knowledge. We also issue a 'Reading for Pleasure' book, which your child chooses, to share with you at home.

**Please read with your child at home as much as possible.** Find somewhere quiet where you won't be disturbed and enjoy talking about the story as well as reading it.

Each child will have a reading record which acts as a contact book between teacher and parent/carer, and is a very useful means of communication. Write down whenever you hear your child read and feel free to ask questions or make comments – and we will do the same!

In school, we teach letter sounds (phonics) through a scheme called 'Letters and Sounds'. We teach letter sounds and introduce actions to help children remember them. We send home a 'Sound Book' so you can share these letters and sounds with your children. We also send home a 'Key Word Book' with words to remember and recognise instantly.

We also practise maths-based learning steps every week on a one-to-one basis with your child, to extend their learning and these should also be practised at home. These are always shared in the reading records.

## Other Information

- ❖ Uniform: purchased at the following website: <https://gooddies.co.uk/>
- ❖ Children will also need a pair of wellies that can be left at school.
- ❖ **Please make sure that all uniform, including wellies, are labelled with your child's name**
- ❖ Your child will have their own peg for coats and bags, and a drawer for personal belongings (**but please don't bring toys to school in case they get lost!**). We recommend a spare set of clothes being left on your child's peg – we have lots of outside, water and messy play and sometimes accidents happen!
- ❖ We encourage the children to drink lots of water during the day, so please make sure they bring a named water bottle each day – filled with water only please.
- ❖ Your child is entitled to free milk at school until his/her fifth birthday and we have this during snack time. If you would like to purchase milk after your child turns 5, please speak to the school office.
- ❖ We provide free fruit for a snack break every day.
- ❖ In the mornings, please don't leave your child unattended before 8:45am, as the staff have a daily meeting and are unable to supervise them before this time.
- ❖ At lunchtime, all children are entitled to a school dinner. They then have a long playtime, either in the playground or on the field.
- ❖ Our children will have a Year 6 'buddy' who will look after them throughout their reception year (if Covid-19 restrictions are lifted). The Year 6 children take their responsibilities very seriously!
- ❖ Please wait outside the classroom at home time. We will only let children go once we have seen who is collecting them. This also helps with parent and teacher communication and aids us with keeping you informed of what your child has been doing during the school day. This is also the best time for any queries you may have. If someone different is collecting your child, please let the teacher know.
- ❖ Your child needs to be able to use the toilet and wash their hands independently, unless they have a medical need.

## **Tapestry**

We use an online system called Tapestry for recording, tracking and sharing your child's learning. Tapestry is an online 'Learning Journal', which enables staff to add videos, photos, observations and assessments of activities your child participates in at school and enables you to view them too!

We are very enthusiastic about using this system at St Mary's, and hope you are as well, and that you will utilise it to share the learning you do at home too! Please take a look at this website to find out more information about Tapestry: <https://tapestry.info>.

We also capture your child's learning experiences in a folder called a learning diary. We add written observations and store some of your children's creations, so you can share your child's experiences – this is a document you'll want to keep forever!

## **Class Dojo**

This year, we are introducing Class Dojo. Class Dojo is an online platform that enables and 'connects teachers with parents to build an amazing classroom community'! This platform is fantastic. You can direct message the teachers and see what's going on in class as we will regularly post to the 'stories' page.

## And finally...

### Teddy Joe

Teddy Joe is the Little Oaks teddy bear. He lives in school during the week and sometimes gets up to mischief! He is a little bit shy and sometimes needs someone to look after him during the day.



### Star of the Week

Every week, the teachers need a special helper. We choose a star of the week to do very important jobs. The star also gets to sit on a special chair!



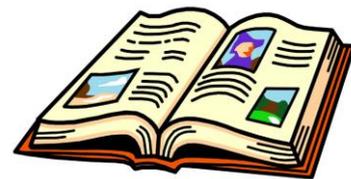
### Learning steps

We spend time on a one-to-one basis with your child every week to encourage and nurture their learning and confidence. These are usually maths-based. Please practise these at home too!



### Reading

We listen to your child read on a one-to-one basis, at least once, every week. We record this in their reading record and also practise letter sounds and key words. Please practise this at home too!



### Prizes

Your child is rewarded with 'team points' for achievements in class. When your child has 21 team points, they win a prize from our lucky dip prize bag! These prizes are usually bouncy balls, bubbles, writing pads and paper, toy cars and magnetic letters so you can continue learning together at home!



Thank you for taking the time to read this. You can find more information on our school website: <http://www.stmaryswrithlington.co.uk/> or on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/StMarysWrithlington/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWrithlington/)

If you have any further questions, please contact the school and someone will be happy to help!