



All about Reception

(Early Years Foundation Stage 2)



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Welcome to Reception at St John's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the entire team I wish you and your child a very warm welcome as you join us at St John's Church of England Primary School and Nursery.

We are really looking forward to being able to meet with you all on the transition morning. You will be able to meet your child's class teacher and have the opportunity to see the environment your child will enjoy in the year ahead.

I hope this booklet will provide you with lots of key information about Reception and that it will answer any questions you may have before joining us in September.

This is an incredibly important milestone for you and your child so don't forget to take photographs of their first day of school in their uniform so you can hold on to these special memories.

Don't forget to keep looking on our school website where you will find our dedicated Reception class page and where we will keep you updated throughout the year – <http://www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk>.

Finally, I wish you all a fabulous experience in Reception this year and remember that our door is always open if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Jo Richardson
EYFS 2 Teacher & EYFS Team Leader



Starting at St John's

Starting Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage 2 – EYFS 2) is an exciting and incredibly important time for your child's life and development as it helps to provide secure foundations that prepares them for future learning and successes.

At St John's we embrace Christian values and work hard to ensure that children feel safe and happy. This is achieved with dedicated and passionate staff within an environment that inspires, motivates and supports children's individual and unique needs providing life skills and good moral values.

Key to our vision is that every child deserves the best start in life and through a positive and caring environment we provide the opportunity for every child to thrive.

The professionals teaching and supporting your child at St John's will make sure that the activities are suited to their unique needs. The curriculum is designed to be flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

We work hard to ensure that each child learns in a happy, stimulating and secure environment, where they are given generous care and attention and where learning is fun!



Once your child starts with us, please don't hesitate to contact their teacher through the school office should you have any questions or need to make them aware of any concerns.

Meet our Senior Leadership Team

Mr Averis
Headteacher



Mrs Carvell
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Astell
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Millington
Business Manager



Meet our Leadership Team

Mrs Richardson
EYFS Lead



Mrs Heer
Key Stage 1 Lead



Mrs Newton
Lower KS2 Lead



Miss Cooper
Upper Key Stage 2 Lead



Meet our Reception (EYFS 2) Team

Mrs Richardson
EYFS Lead & EYFS 2 Teacher



Miss Bridges
EYFS 2 Teacher



Mrs Fox
EYFS 2 Higher Level Teaching Assistant



Other staff you also need to know

Mrs Cooper
Welfare & Medical
Assistant



Mrs Allwood
School Business
Assistant



Mrs Howis
School Business
Assistant



The Curriculum

Children will learn skills, acquire knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

The **3 prime areas** develop curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, encourage forming relationships and help them to thrive:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

These prime areas are recognised as essential for a child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the three prime areas are strengthened, developed and applied in the **4 specific areas**:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

All of this is underpinned by the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five.



Each session of the day is carefully planned to give children the opportunity to take part in a range of play based activities with exciting projects which encourage the development of skills, knowledge and understanding in all seven areas of learning.



Children will learn and develop in enabling environments with teaching responding to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. This is strengthened by a strong partnership between school and home.

All statutory documents can be found on our website.

Indoor and Outdoor Learning

Opportunities include:

- Sand and water play
- Using construction toys
- Creative activities
- Role play
- Listening to music, songs and rhymes
- Using a range of everyday technology
- Playing with small world animals, vehicles or people
- Completing puzzles and games
- Tactile play with materials such as jelly, pasta and play dough
- Physical/active opportunities
- Books and language
- Discovery/sensory play
- Calm/cosy areas
- Science and nature experiences



At St John's we are firm believers in outside learning and the huge benefits it gives our children. We have an enclosed outdoor learning area, as well as having the opportunity to use the whole school playground space. Within the outside area the children take part in many different activities covering the seven areas of learning with a focus on physical skills and co-ordination.



Our outdoor environment is an extension of the indoor classroom and is available for the children to use every day in all weathers so please make sure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing such as a coat and a sun hat!

Top Tips to be School Ready

Here are some top tips to make sure that your child is school ready.



➤ **Label everything.** Your child *will* lose their jumper on more than one occasion, so name labels ensure we can return the jumper to the right child.

➤ **Allow your child to get dressed by themselves.** Not only does it give them good practise, but it also helps you to recognise those items which cause difficulties for them and could be avoided at school - tights, pinafore dresses and belts are particularly tricky.

➤ **Encourage independence in self-care.** Ensure your child can wipe their own bottom at home so they can do it by themselves at school.



➤ **PE kit** – practise taking PE kits on and off, and putting their uniform into the PE bag.

➤ **Shoes and coats** need to be easy for your child to put on themselves. Trainers with laces are discouraged unless your child can tie them. Practise doing up the coat at home and a strong hanging loop helps them stay on their pegs.

➤ **Lunchtime** - All infant aged children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) currently have the option of receiving their midday school meal free of charge. You will find the school dinner menu using the following web page:
<https://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/derbyshire/primary-schools/about-us/menu/>

➤ If your child prefers a packed lunch, the children take the contents out of their lunch box and at the end everything goes back in so that you can see what they have eaten. It would be helpful if you could practise this at home.



➤ **Encourage your child to carry their own book bags and lunch boxes.** Not only does this support their independence, but also helps them remember whether they have got a packed lunch or need a hot school meal. Book bags should be the flat type and not be too large as space is limited.

Partnership with Parents

We believe that our children's best interests will be met when we work in close partnership with parents.

- We keep parents involved and informed with a half termly EYFS 2 newsletter which provides information about what projects we are learning, suggestions on how you can help at home, forthcoming events and any other news.
- We look forward to having opportunities throughout the year, when parents and carers will be invited to come and spend time with their child in school to explore what we are learning.
- Parents' evening will be offered during the academic year and you will receive a detailed written report on their child's achievements in their final term in Reception.
- During the year, each child will have an electronic learning journey which will include photographs and observations made by staff and work completed by the children. It would be much appreciated if parents could also contribute to this by sharing what their child has achieved at home.
- We have an 'open door' policy at St John's so parents are able to talk to staff when they drop off and pick their children up. If you need to talk with staff for longer periods or in private, please arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher. We encourage parents to share any concerns with us as early as possible so we can work to resolve matters and offer support.

Rewards and Sanctions

The school's emphasis is on rewarding positive behaviour. Our school rules are displayed in every class and these are explained to the children. In Reception, we follow the school behaviour policy where children are encouraged to earn credits which can lead to receiving a bronze, silver, gold or platinum certificate.

We also celebrate stars of the week and Hero and Heroine work!



Assessments

Once your child starts in reception a baseline assessment (RBA) is completed. This is statutory for all schools and is a short, task-based assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematical skills.

The assessment can take place at any point in the first 6 weeks of your child starting reception and will inform how we will help your child to progress between reception and year 6. There is no need to prepare and there is no pass mark or score and your child should not realise that they are doing an assessment.

At the end of their reception year, the EYFS Profile will be completed for each child. This provides parents, carers and teachers with a well rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their attainment against expected levels and their readiness for year 1.

Your child's level of development will be assessed against the early learning goals and they will be awarded one of the following:

Expected: your child is working at the level expected for his age

Emerging: your child is working below the expected level

On leaving Reception, a child is considered to have a 'good level of development' if they have achieved at least the expected level in the Early Learning Goals:

- Personal, Social & Emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and language
- Literacy
- Mathematics.

Ongoing assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and teachers to recognise children's progress, understand their needs and to plan activities and support. We use Tapestry (a secure online Learning Journal) to record photos, observations and comments and to celebrate significant developmental milestones with you.

At the end of the year you will receive your child's report which will provide you with information about your child's attainment, progress and development.