

St. Michael's School



**WELCOME TO
NURSERY & RECEPTION**

September 2009

Welcome to Nursery and Reception which form the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at St. Michael's School. This leaflet will give you some of the daily information that you need as your child starts in Nursery or Reception and an outline of the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Staff

Mrs Carol Werrett is the Nursery class teacher and she is assisted by two Nursery Nurses, Mrs Carla Estava and Mrs Leeanne Willows.

The two Reception classes are called RJ and RP. Mrs Clare Jenkinson is RJ's class teacher, assisted by Nursery Nurse Mrs Joanne Field. Mrs Kate Perry is RP's class teacher and she is assisted by Nursery Nurse Mrs Debbie Watts. Mrs Perry is the Foundation Stage Co-ordinator who oversees Nursery and Reception.

In Nursery and Reception each child is allocated one member of staff from their class to be their Key Worker.

If you have any concerns about your child in Nursery or Reception please speak to the class teacher or Nursery Nurse. It is often possible to see them very briefly at the end of the day but do make an appointment to be sure that they are available if you need more than a few minutes.

Home/School Link Book

All the children in Nursery and Reception have a small blue book called a Home/School Link Book. This is a way of communicating between home and school and it should be sent to and from home each day in the reading bag.

The School Day

Children in Nursery and Reception may enter by Nursery's gate which opens at 8.30am. If preferable they may enter by the main gate at the end of Chapel, which opens at 8.15am. Parents may go with them through the Nursery gate but not through the main gate. Either way, parents must wait with their child until the gate is opened. We would encourage all Reception children to start to use the main gate in the mornings by the Michaelmas half term.

For Nursery children who are only attending the morning session, they should be collected at the Nursery gate, which opens at 11.55am. For Nursery children who have attended the afternoon session they should be collected at 3pm from the Nursery gate.

All Reception children attend for the whole day and they finish at 3.15pm. Collection is from the

Nursery gate.

If children in Nursery or Reception have older siblings in school they may be collected at 3.30pm with their siblings from the Chapel playground, entry through the main gate. Please let your child's teacher know if you will be doing this on a regular basis.

It is important that you let the school know if there are any changes to your collection arrangements.

Assembly

Reception attend assembly in the Chapel on Friday mornings from 8.45am—9.00am All parents are welcome to attend and coffee is served afterwards in the Refectory.

Breaktime and Lunch

The children need to bring a small snack and a drink for morning break. Please make sure that this is clearly named. Please avoid chocolate or blackcurrant juice – cut up or dried fruit is ideal.

For Reception and children staying for the whole day in Nursery they also need to bring a packed lunch. Please make sure that children can manage anything that they bring and that any fruit that

needs cutting up is already cut up. Any uneaten food will be sent home so that you can see what your child has actually eaten. Please remember to provide another drink for lunchtime. There is a water fountain in the playground but your child may bring in a clear, plastic, named bottle of water to drink from during the day if they wish.

Uniform and Equipment

A complete list of uniform and equipment is available from the office or online at our website www.stmichaelsschool.com. Please make sure that everything is clearly named. The main change from Nursery to Reception is that children in Reception wear shirts and ties on elastic. Children in Nursery and Reception do not need a jogging suit. It is helpful to have a spare pair of underpants and socks in the P.E. bag, in case of accidents!

Nursery and Reception should all have a named book bag which is obtainable from school. All writing equipment is provided.

Homework

Although there is little formal homework at this stage, it is important that children get into the habit of taking a reading book home and daily reading, even though this may at first be a book without words. During the Summer term children

in Reception will start to bring home a few spellings to learn and possibly some number bonds. They will often be given some activities to do during the longer holidays.

Rewards and Sanctions

There is no formal reward and sanction system for Nursery and Reception but the children are given lots of praise and encouragement and motivational stickers or stamps may be used. The staff lay down clear boundaries regarding expectations of behaviour and they will discuss any concerns regarding behaviour with parents so that everyone can work together to promote good behaviour.

Expectations

By the end of the Nursery or Reception year at St. Michael's it is anticipated that most children will have achieved the following expectations in terms of independence, personal organisation and self-discipline:

By the end of Nursery

Independence

- Leave main carer happily
- Talk confidently to an adult and be able to express own needs
- Understand the need to wash hands
- Be able to undress and dress themselves be-

fore and after PE

Personal Organisation

- Know the daily routine
- Recognise their own name
- Help to tidy away resources

Self-discipline

- Sit on carpet and listen for short periods
- Start to know right from wrong e.g. kind hands
- Start to show care and consideration for peers
- Say please and thank you
- Be able to line up

By the end of Reception

Independence

- Have a developing awareness of the needs and feelings of others
- Be more aware of the need for hygiene and become more independent in caring for themselves
- Able to follow a verbal list of instructions

Personal Organisation

- Organise own belongings such as snack, book bag, hat, coat, lunchbox
- Tidy away resources

Self-discipline

- Sit for longer periods and respond appropriately
- Show growing understanding of right and wrong
- Have good manners
- Listen to each other and to adults
- Share, take turns and accept that they may not win

Extra-Curricular Activities

For Nursery and Reception the day can seem quite long and they are likely to be tired by home-time. Therefore, there is not a full programme of extra-curricular activities after school for Nursery and Reception. However, for Nursery children who are present on Friday afternoons a short “ballet” lesson forms part of their curriculum. Reception children have a two week taster session of ballet and they may then chose to undertake that activity on a Friday lunchtime.

There is a lunchtime Speech and Drama class for Reception but they are chosen to join this by their class teacher and the Drama teacher as there is a limited number of places available.

From the Summer Term, a Story Telling club for Reception will be held after school on Tuesdays from 3.15 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. A drink and biscuit will be provided at the beginning of this activity.

Priority will be given to those children who do not go to Speech and Drama.

Early Morning Care

Early Morning Care is available from 7.45am – 8.15am each morning held in the library. Parents need to bring children to the front door and wait until it is opened before leaving their child. There is a daily charge for Early Morning Care which will be added to your account at the end of each term.

After School Care

Children may be looked after at school until 4.45pm in After School Care, with a drink and biscuit served at 3.30pm. Children should be collected by 4.45pm from the Chapel playground, entry through the main gate. There is a daily charge for After School Care which will be added to your account at the end of each term. Please advise your child's teacher or the office if your child will be staying for After School Care.

Curriculum

The children in Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and work towards the six areas of Learning and Development. They also receive a weekly lesson from a specialist teacher in the following subjects: French, Music and Physical Education.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Children develop in confidence and learn to make effective relationships.
- They are encouraged to show care and respect for the needs and feelings of others.
- The importance of sharing and taking turns is emphasised.
- Responsible attitudes develop as independence is fostered.
- Play and talk are used as a media for learning.
- Children are given appropriate periods of time for learning through sustained involvement in concentrated activity.
- They feel valued and secure and develop a sense of achievement through learning.
- Children participate in assemblies and chapel services and respond to relevant cultural and religious events.
- They express their feelings in response to their experiences of the world.

Communication, Language and Literacy

1. Speaking and Listening

2. Reading and Writing

- Children talk about their experiences.
- They listen attentively to each other.
- Children recognise their name in various situations. They develop their phonic knowledge and learn that words and pictures convey meaning.
- Children visit the school library and handle books with care.
- They draw pictures, symbols, letters and words in the development of their writing.
- Attention is given to the hold and grip of the pencil as the alphabet letters are formed.
- Children are given the opportunity to hear and speak French.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Number rhymes, songs and counting games form an important part of daily activities.
- Children compare, sort, match, order, sequence and count using everyday objects.

- They recognise and use numbers to 10 and become familiar with larger numbers in their everyday lives.
- Children understand and record numbers and begin to show an awareness of number operations.
- They recognise and re-create patterns and learn to solve practical problems.
- Children use mathematical language and describe shape, position, size and quantity.
- Through participation in numerous practical activities the foundation for a secure understanding in numeracy is laid.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Children talk about their families and past and present events in their lives.
- They ask questions to gain information about why things happen and how things work.
- They explore and recognise features of living things.
- Visits are made to local places of interest to extend their knowledge and understanding.
- They are able to record their observations through a variety of forms.

- Children select materials and equipment and develop skills to include cutting, joining, building and folding for a variety of purposes.
- They develop computer skills to support their learning.
- Children experience through play the properties of sand and water. They discover why some objects sink and others float.

Creative Development

- Children respond in a variety of ways to what they see, hear, smell, touch and feel.
- They explore sound and colour, shape and form in two and three dimensions.
- Imaginative qualities develop through art, music, dance, stories and creative role play.

Physical Development

- Children move confidently and imaginatively with increasing control and co-ordination.
- Indoor and outdoor areas are used together with a range of large and small equipment to develop secure balance and awareness of space.
- They begin to handle appropriate tools, objects and malleable materials with safety and

increasing control.

- Children take part in an annual Sports' Afternoon to which parents are invited.



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