

Holy Family Catholic Primary School



Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception Parent Meeting 2021 - 2022



Together with Jesus, we grow in love



Welcome to Holy Family

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Holy Family Catholic Primary School's Early Years Unit.

Unfortunately, we are still introducing ourselves to you all in exceptional circumstances, nevertheless, we are delighted to welcome you to our school.

Whilst the information shared reflects our usual working practices, in the light of the current pandemic, there will be operational differences moving forwards. We aim to keep you abreast of these changes, as necessary.

Your child will begin school on **Monday 6th September 2021**. Our doors will be open from **8.30 to start at 8.55am** until **3.00 pm** as a staggered finish. We ask that you kindly observe social distancing guidelines.

We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure a positive and easy transition into school.

Thank You for your co-operation.

EYFS Staff.

The Journey Begins...

Starting school should be a happy and exciting experience for you and your child. Some children find it easier to adapt to the school routine than others, so to help children to settle in quickly and with ease, we invite new children to visit school.

Children will be in a larger group than they are used to and have a smaller number of adults associated with that group. For this reason, your child can really benefit from having some skills before they begin school in September. We have found these children feel much more independent, secure and confident in their new environment.

You can help by encouraging your child's independence to:

- Put on and take off their own coats, hats, gloves and cope with buttons and zips.
- Dress and undress themselves for P.E
- Use the toilet independently including flushing and washing and drying their hands afterwards.
- Use a knife and fork and be able to cut their own food.
- Share toys and be willing to take turns.
- Tidy up toys and resources when they are finished with them.

Parents as Partners

As parents/carers you are your child's first teacher. There are ways in which you will encourage their development as part of their everyday lives. When parents and staff work closely together, the results have a positive impact on the child's development and learning. We want you to feel welcome, comfortable and valued in the Foundation Stage Unit. If you have any worries, concerns or if you want to share any achievements your child has made at home please speak to a member of staff as this can help continuity between the child's home and school life. When beginning school your child's behaviour may change a little for a while as they are getting used to a new routine. Your child will not be used to full time schooling and will be busy all day and therefore may be very tired when they come home. Please make sure your child goes to bed early.

Ways to help your child

Language Development

- Talk and listen to your child all the time about everything
- Ask them questions that encourage more than one word answers
- Give your child time to reply to questions
- When your child pronounces something incorrectly or uses simple grammar incorrectly, say it back to them the correct way but be positive, they are learning.

Reading

- Read to your child as often as you can, everyday if possible. Discuss the story before you read it, look at the cover, title, author and illustrator.
- Make sure the child can see the pictures and the words. Point to each word as you read.
- Read the story together by discussing it throughout "what may happen next?"
- At the end look back through the book showing the pictures and asking your child to tell it back to you.
- Nursery rhymes are very useful in helping your child to recognise rhythm and rhyme so sing these as often as you can with your child.
- Other games that can help include 'I Spy', jigsaws, pairs and memory games, snap, lotto.
- Through the Read, Write Inc scheme, your child will learn sounds to the letters of the alphabet and other sounds, each will have an action for you to help them pronounce each sound.

Writing

- Drawing, painting, colouring, tracing to encourage pencil skills and development of these muscles using a range of pens, pencils, brushes etc
- Playing with dough, clay and other malleable materials
- Cutting and sticking activities
- Avoid teaching your child capital letters as it is important children learn the correct formation for letters and numbers.

Number Development

- Talk about everyday shapes and sizes of objects in their own environment.
- Use counting at every opportunity counting items in a shopping basket, stairs, cutlery when setting the table and counting games.
- Sort items into different groups
- Compare weights of different things to guess which is heavier or lighter, this can be done through baking, shopping, in the sand and water.
- Use different directions and positional words to encourage children to use the language.

Other Tips

- Give your child praise for their achievements and encouragement
- Use the opportunities when your child shows interest in something to help them know more about it.
- Remember your child will learn at a different rate to children in their class.
- Encourage your child to share their learning with you.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years foundation Stage is the first curriculum the children are taught from when they start school from Nursery through to Reception. It has a very creative approach to teaching and ensures that children learn from their own interests at a pace that is suitable to them. They further their understanding by playing, talking, observing, planning, questioning, experimenting, testing, repeating, reflecting and responding to adults and each other. Children work towards the Early Learning Goals and are expected to achieve them by the end of reception before beginning the National Curriculum in Year 1. This is known as a 'Good Level of Development'.



The Early Years Foundation stage is taught through child initiated activities that are set up for a purpose by the teacher, and also through adult led learning activities. It is taught through seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Expressive arts and design

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Personal social and emotional development focuses on children learning how to work and play together, co-operating. There are three early learning goals: **Self-regulation, Managing Self and Building Relationships**.

This area will develop the children's knowledge of their own feelings and rights and also those of others, encouraging them to be confident in all they do.

Part of this area of development is the child independently caring for their own needs, such as toileting and helping themselves to snack and resources in the classroom.

We aim to ensure every child in the class is confident and independent by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Communication and Language



Communication and language involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. There are two early learning goals: **Listening, Attention and Understanding and Speaking**.

This is taught through role-play, learning new vocabulary and speaking and listening activities.

Literacy



Literacy is about linking letters and sounds. This is taught through rhymes, poems songs and phonics games and activities. There are three early learning goals: **Comprehension, Word Reading and Writing.**

Comprehension focuses on an understanding of what has been read to them, to be able to retell stories and anticipate what might happen. Understanding vocabulary is key.

Reading is developed through getting children interested in fiction, non-fiction

and poetry and understanding print.

When a child is ready to write we encourage writing in all activities including role-play, labels, captions and when children become more developed writing full sentences.

Mathematics



Children are taught Numeracy skills in very practical ways using counters, scales, large shapes, water, sand, and through games and activities. There are two early learning goals: **Number and Numerical Patterns.**

Number expects a deep understanding of number to 10, including number bonds, subtraction facts and double facts.

Numerical patterns explores verbally counting beyond 20, the concepts of greater than and less than, odds, evens and double facts.

Understanding of the World



Children have the opportunity to explore and investigate the world around them, they are encouraged to notice change, ask questions and consider possible answers. There are three early learning goals: *Past and Present*, *People, Culture and Communities* and *The Natural World*.

Children are expected to know some differences and similarities between things in the past and now as well as life in this country and life in other countries. They will need to understand processes and changes in the natural world, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Physical Development



As part of a child's physical development they will develop skills involving co-ordination, balance and spatial awareness. This comprises of two early learning goals, **Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills**.

They will also have access to continuous outdoor physical development equipment that will enhance their balance and strength. The children will have Physical activities lessons each week and sometimes have extra training from outside sports agencies.

They will learn how to use a range of equipment safely and with control, including threading beads, using paintbrush and cutting out using scissors for fine motor skills to develop.

At the expected level of development the children need to hold a pencil effectively (predominantly a tripod grip) and use cutlery.

Expressive Arts and Design



Children will be encouraged to be creative in all that they do in school. There are two early learning goals: **Creating With Materials and Being Imaginative and Expressive**.

They will have opportunities to paint, draw, chalk, construct, make 3d models, collage, mix paints and explain their own inventions and ideas.

Children will learn songs, dances and explore a range of instruments and use them creatively in their play.

They will be encouraged to role-play stories, perform songs, rhyme, poems and stories with others and try, when appropriate, to move in time with music.

The School Day

Reception: Doors open 8.30 for 8.55 am start, to 3.00 pm (staggered finish time)

Your child will complete phonic based and mathematical activities daily. Phonics is taught through our whole school scheme 'Read Write Inc'. They will have the opportunity to learn through a range of carefully structured play activities throughout the day.

Absence/ Illness

- Emergency contact forms need to be updated regularly if anything changes so that the school can always contact you.
- If your child is ill in school you will be contacted immediately and will be asked to collect them.
- Attendance is vital to a child's learning and confidence; please do not keep children off unless they are unwell. Unless you contact the school to inform us the child will be off the school will contact you.
- Inform office or Foundation Unit Staff of doctors/dentist appointments.
- If you have to take the child out of school for a trip away that is during term-time complete a holiday request form (attendance is checked before leave is allowed)
- Please ensure your child is punctual each morning and that they are collected on time as this can upset them.
- All medications must be given in to the main office and a form must be signed before the school are able to administer any medication.

Safeguarding

- We are highly committed to ensuring the safety of the children in the school. Please see our Safeguarding Policy.
- If someone different is collecting your child please tell the staff.
- People younger than 17 years old **cannot** collect the children from school.

School Dinners

Your child will receive a school dinner.

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive dinners free of charge so no payment will have to be made.

Snack

To encourage independence in the unit children have access to cereal, toast, and fruit daily. They are encouraged to make their own snacks and clean up after themselves. Parents have also found this useful when rushing in the morning if their child has missed breakfast. The continuous snack also allows children to taste a variety of foods as we have other snacks that change according to the theme of the term or week. **To continue with this we ask all parents for a donation of £1 per child per week, to help towards the costs.**

Personal Hygiene

We kindly request that all Reception aged children are toilet trained. We understand that 'accidents' do happen and we are fully equipped to deal with this. However, one of the requirements of achieving a 'Good Level of Development' at the end of Reception, is that the children are able to take care of their own hygiene needs.

Staff in the Foundation Unit

Miss McGhee Nursery Teacher / Early Years Lead
Miss Fallon Reception Teacher
Miss Simms Nursery nurse
Miss Bradley Teaching Assistant
Mrs Najem Teaching Assistant

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

We primarily use an online profile called 'Tapestry' - please complete a form to enable you to access this from your own PC, phone etc.

- **Observations** - Children's activities both child initiated and adult led activities will be regularly observed and these will be linked to the learning that is taking place and how the staff can build on and develop the learning.
- **Profile Folders** - The observations, children's work and any reports, photographic evidence of learning or assessments will be kept in a folder which parents can access on request.

Please ask us at any time if you would like to see your child's profile, share their achievements from home or discuss their progression.

Every Child Matters

To ensure that every child is cared for and educated properly Holy Family ensure that 'Every Child Matters' and its outcomes are the foundation of educating the children in our care.

The outcomes are:

Be Healthy: We aim to ensure your child understands how they can be healthy and the implications of a healthy lifestyle including eating healthy, exercising, hygiene, dental hygiene, sleep routines and a positive mind.

Stay Safe: We ensure that children are kept safe in the school, making sure visitors go through procedures to have access to the school, all staff are suitable and qualified to

work in the school, children's safety and possible risks are considered and catered for at all times.

Enjoy and Achieve:

Each child learns in a different way, at a different pace and with different interests to other children. We are committed to ensuring that every child makes good progress and does this by enjoying their education and learning in a way that is suitable to their needs.

Making a positive contribution:

We encourage all children to contribute to the school and wider community. Children have roles and responsibilities; they join in with whole school activities and events and contribute to the positive ethos in the school.

Achieving economic well-being:

At Holy Family we ensure that every child leaves with the skills and the knowledge to provide for their own economic well being.