

Information for Reception Class parents

Welcome to St Edmund's Catholic Primary School and to Reception Class. Your child has now started the final year of the Foundation Stage. My main aim this term is to ensure that your child has a smooth transition from nursery into school, and after a week of school I am happy to report that they are settling in nicely and quickly getting to grips with the routines. I am really enjoying getting to know you and your child.

Thank you for attending the 'Meet the Teacher' session today; I know that there is a lot to take in, so I hope that this information letter will be useful.

Reception Class Staff

Mrs S Watson – Classteacher

Mrs C Patrick – Classteacher (Wednesday); she is also our SENCO

Mrs N Millis – Teaching Assistant

Miss A Bickmore – Teaching Assistant (Wednesdays and Thursdays pm)

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Learning through play is a very important part of your child's development. We ensure that there is a balance of creative adult-initiated activities and opportunities and resources for your child to initiate their own learning both indoors and outdoors. This inspires them to gain a curiosity of the world around them, develop their social skills and be motivated to try new activities.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language development
- Physical development
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design

Information about each area can be found on the school website.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Assessments

In Reception Class we will continually assess your child's development against the criteria set out in the EYFS early learning goals. The aim of assessing your child is to gain reliable information of their progress and next stages of development. It helps us to plan a personalised curriculum for your child's needs. At the end of the year this information will be shared with you and with their next Classteacher to ensure a smooth transition to Year 1.

Religious Education (RE)

'Come and See' is the Catholic RE curriculum. You will be given a 'talk about' activity for homework, linked to the themes we will be covering.

Communication, Language and Literacy

We follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme to introduce new phonic sounds. We also use Phonics Bug and Jolly Phonics schemes. At St Edmund's we are lucky to have a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books for the children to read. They are levelled using a national scheme called 'book banding'. Your child will move through different stages starting from Lilac through to Ruby. They will start with a picture book for the children to develop new vocabulary and will be encouraged to retell stories. Once your child is able to recognise some sounds and is beginning to blend them together they will bring home books with words. It is important to make reading time a positive and fun experience for your child. Further information will be given at a reading workshop later on this term. Your child will get the opportunity to take a library book home on Friday: please return their library folder to enable them to choose a new book.

Writing

To encourage correct pencil grip and control we carry out a series of fine motor exercises and pencil control activities in the first term. You can support them by carrying out some fun activities at home such as using pegs, tweezers, play dough and making bread. We learn how to write letters at the same time as introducing a new sound. We use the letter formation enclosed in this pack.

Mathematics

We will focus on number recognition, ordering and writing. The children will develop mathematical vocabulary and use it in a range of practical activities. They will name 2D and 3D shapes and learn about mass, capacity and length.

Physical Education (PE)

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit in school at all times. All items must be named! No earrings or jewellery must be worn. PE days are Tuesdays and Friday.

Snacks

You can provide your child with a small snack for morning play (15 minutes). Please ensure that the snack box is clearly named. Snacks must not be sweets, chocolate or crisps. In the afternoon snacks are provided by the Surrey Fruit Scheme. Children may also bring a labelled bottle of water.

Show & Tell

Show & Tell takes place on Thursday. Your child can bring in a small toy or object which is relevant to the current topic.

Trips

We have two class trips each year, one to Dapdune Wharf in the summer, and a possible farm trip yet to be confirmed.

Reward System

Each day a child is awarded 'Star of the Day'. Each half-term there is a Golden / Celebration Assembly and every fortnight a Foundation Stage (FS) and Key Stage one (KS1) assembly takes place during which children are given an award for progress, effort, doing something new or being helpful.

Houses

There are four Houses at St Edmund's: Matthew (green), Mark (blue), Luke (red) and John (yellow). Your child will be allocated to a House when they first start. We always make sure that siblings are placed in the same house. House points are given for a range of successes.

School Website: www.stedmundsschool.co.uk

The school website has some excellent information for new parents. Please look at the section 'School Information' in particular the prospectus and information for new parents, the curriculum and the Frequently Asked Questions section.

if you would like to talk to me at any time, please do so by contacting the school office. If you need to send me an email then please use the info@stedmunds.surrey.sch.uk email address, marking it for my attention.

Mrs Watson
Classteacher