All Saints' Church of England Primary School

A guide to starting in Reception
2020-2021

Welcome to All Saints' Primary School

On behalf of the children and staff here at All Saints', I would like to welcome you and your child to our school.

We are delighted that you have chosen our school for this crucial stage of your child's education and we look forward to working with you over the next few years!

We feel very much that school and home are a partnership and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible when your child starts school.

Starting School – what will happen?

- You will by now have received your offer of a place at our school for September 2021 and must confirm that you accept this place as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

- Your child will start school in September on a part time basis.

- Please remember we are here to help –so if you have any questions, concerns or comments before your child starts school please get in touch with us via email on eyfs2021@allsaints.peterborough.sch.uk

- After your child has joined us in September, please speak directly to your child's class teacher or teaching assistant who will be happy to answer your questions or discuss any concerns.

Is my child ready to start school?

Is my child ready to start school?

Four year olds are as different from each other as adults are and not every four-year-old will be ready to go to school. This should not be viewed as a reflection on your child or yourself. There is no such thing as a 'typical' four-year-old – they are all at different stages of development.

Why all the fuss? They're only starting school.

By the age of four, those children who have been attending preschool or nursery may be bursting with confidence. They will have learned many important social, manipulative, language and matching skills and will be well equipped to start their reception year at primary school. However, if the transfer to school is not handled carefully and sensitively, this confidence may disappear and the child might suffer a set back in what should have been natural and positive progress. It is very important to each child that we, as parents and teachers, make their start to school a smooth and happy one.

We want each child to come willingly and happily to school. They will be unable to do this if too much pressure is put upon them before they start. It is important to avoid saying things like "You'll be able to read and write soon now you're starting school" as this can make them feel anxious. It is very easy for young children to acquire fears and misconceptions. Some children can start school expecting to be able to read after their first day, while others worry about what will happen if they can't learn to read.

Does my child have to begin full time?

All of the children begin school on a part time basis at first and further information about the transitional period is included later in this guide. Some of you may have doubts as to whether your child should begin school on a full time basis after this or whether mornings only would be more appropriate. The change from three or four preschool sessions to five full days at school is a big step for any four-year-old. All children start full time on 20th September.

How can I prepare my child for school?

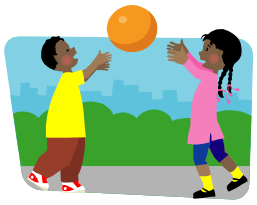
How can we as parents help our child settle into school?

- Try to be your usual self and to conceal any anxieties you may have about them starting school.
- Keep your child to their usual bedtime routine the night before starting school.

Our aim is to help each child to be as independent as possible.
You, as a parent, can help enormously.

You will help your child to be ready if they can start school with confidence and be able to mix socially with friends. If your child is emotionally settled and calm they will be more able to cope with a long and sometimes tiring day.

There are many skills that will help your child to settle well in school.
Ask yourself a few questions:



- Can your child manage the toilet by themselves?
- Are they able to wash their hands?
- Will your child follow instructions?
- Do they play alongside or with other children?
- Can they share toys with a friend?
- Does your child leave you happily when they go to preschool?
- Is your child able to say 'please' and 'thank you'?
- Does your child say and sing songs and nursery rhymes?
- Can your child count a small number of objects?
- Does your child like to use pencils and crayons to make marks?
- Can your child trace a simple picture and use scissors?
- Is your child able to put some of their own clothes on? Can they put on their coat and do zips? Can they put on their shoes?

As laces are too difficult for reception aged children to manage independently, Velcro fastenings would be much better to begin with.

Don't worry if your child cannot do all these things yet, but perhaps you can work on them with your child before they start school.
Please remember all children are different. No two children are the same and they all learn at different rates.

Is there anything else I can do?

- Visit a library regularly and allow your child to choose a book to share.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and answer them fully.
- Share nursery rhymes and songs with your child.
- Give your child plenty of experience with a variety of materials, such as pencils, crayons, felt tips, paint, finger paint, glue etc. Encourage their free use to gain confidence with the materials.
- Help them to recognise colours and shapes.
- Help your child to count and recognise numbers up to 20.
- Help your child to practise writing their name, or some of the letters in their name, remembering to only use a capital for the initial letter.
- Encourage your child to get changed independently and zip up their own coat.
- Upload observations over the summer holidays onto tapestry.

What time will my child start and finish school?

The school day starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.25pm. It is very important that your child arrives at school no later than 9.00 am; the gates will be opened at 8.45am so that everyone can come into school feeling relaxed. In the afternoons, the gates will be opened at 3.20pm. On a Friday we have an earlier finish time of 2:30pm.

Where do I drop off and pick up my child?

Arrival at the beginning of the day

You will need to bring your child into our outdoor learning garden.

Departure at the end of the day

You will need to collect your child directly from the Reception Unit. Please be aware that the teacher will only release your child to their own parent or a responsible adult who you have already given written permission for us to allow your child to leave school with.

Arrival and departure at lunch times or other times

If you need to bring your child to school or collect your child at a different time of day, when the gates are closed, you will need to come to the main school office, not directly to the Reception Unit. We also ask that you let us know in advance about appointments or other circumstances that will require you to collect your child outside the normal arrival and departure times. Whenever possible, please avoid booking any appointments during the school day.

Safety

It is important that everyone always uses the pedestrian gate and never the vehicle entrance when arriving and leaving. There is no

parking for parents in the school grounds, other than for disabled parents.

What does my child need to wear?

Please help us to help your child settle into school by making sure that they come to school in the correct school uniform and colours when they start school in September.

Our school uniform is:

- Amber polo shirt
- Grey trousers (boys)
- Navy blue trousers/skirt (girls)
- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Navy blue reversible shower-proof jacket with logo
- Blue checked summer dress

Clothes for indoor PE:

- Gold T-shirt
- Navy blue shorts

Clothes for playing and learning in the outdoor areas:

- Waterproof outdoor clothing
- Wellington boots
- Coats or raincoats
- Scarf, hat and gloves during the winter months
- Baseball cap or sun hat during the summer months

Spare clothes to keep in school:

- Underwear (socks and pants)
- Spare t-shirt(s)
- Spare shorts, trousers, skirt(s) or dress(es)
- Spare jumper(s)
- Spare shoes, trainers or plimsolls

Please remember that ALL items of clothing including coats, shoes and wellington boots should be clearly labelled with your child's name

Please see our school website for information about where you can purchase our school uniform online (PMG).

Does my child need to bring any other equipment to school?

Your child will need a **book bag** to carry reading books and other home/school contact information. They will also need a **PE bag** to contain their PE kit

which should be kept at school during the week. These bags, with the school name and logo, can be purchased from Uniforms 4 All. Your child will also need a clearly named **water bottle** so that they have access to fresh water in school everyday. Again, please make sure it is all named.

Absence and Leave of Absence

Please telephone the school on the first day of absence before 9.15 a.m. if your child is unable to attend school.

Parents must apply for permission to take their child away from school during term time. Only in exceptional circumstances will the school authorise a Leave of Absence. Application forms are available from the school office and it is necessary to discuss all applications for Leave of Absence with the Headteacher.

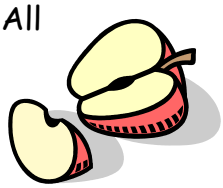
Failure to obtain the Headteacher's permission prior to the absence could result in the child's name being removed from the school roll. The same could happen if the absence exceeds the period of leave that has been granted.

Medicines

Only medicine prescribed by a doctor that has to be administered four times a day may be brought into school but only if there is no alternative. The medicine must be in the original container with the child's name, contents and dosage instructions clearly labelled. Parents will be asked to complete a medication permission form **before** staff can administer it. Other medicines, tablets, throat sweets etc are **not** allowed. Special arrangements are made for children who use inhalers and for other medical conditions. We expect parents to help us to keep an up-to-date asthma register in school

Milk & Fruit

Children of parents who register with "Cool Milk for Schools" will receive free milk in school up until their 5th birthday. After that date, parents can pay direct to Cool Milk for Schools for their child to continue to receive milk in school. All Reception children will receive a free piece of fruit each day.



Lunch times

Your child is entitled to a **free school dinner every day at school**. All children across the country receive a free school dinner in EYFS, year 1 and year 2. A menu is produced that

you will receive when your child starts in reception. This will enable you to pick what you would like your child to have on a daily basis. The reception teachers help the children pick their meal in the first half term and slowly they become more independent. Some children have pack lunch and a few go home for their dinner.
Our lunchtime is from 12:00-1:00.

Who will work with my child at school?

Your child will come into contact with a number of adults whilst they are at school –their own teachers and teaching assistants, other teachers and teaching assistants, the Headteacher, the office staff, the lunchtime supervisors, cleaning staff, school nurse etc. However, the main people in a Reception child's day at school are their teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisors.

Teacher

Each child will have a class teacher who will be responsible for that class. The teacher will plan activities, prepare resources, assess and monitor your child's progress and development, report to you at Parents' Evenings, write school reports, be responsible for your child's welfare and nurture your child whilst they are in their Reception class. As well as their own teacher, the children will work closely with all the other staff in the reception unit. The class teachers in September 2021 will be Miss Carter and Miss Ellis.

Teaching Assistant (TA)

Each class will have a teaching assistant (TA) who works alongside the teacher and children in every aspect of the school day from preparing learning resources to contributing to assessments, from meeting and greeting parents to working with groups of children. TAs will also be responsible for your child's welfare, and nurture your child whilst they are in their reception class.

Lunchtime Supervisors

Lunchtime Supervisors will care for your child at lunchtime. Their duties include looking after the children in the school hall or classroom; helping children to cut up their food or open any packets in their lunchboxes; administering First Aid, supervising and interacting with children during lunchtimes and liaising closely with the Reception staff if any lunchtime issues arise.

How will I know how my child is progressing?

Observations

Whilst the children are playing and learning the teachers and TA's will be observing the children and recording their observations in different ways. These observations are used to plan appropriate activities for the children and also feed into the teachers' ongoing assessment of each child. You will be able to see all of these on Tapestry.

Meetings

During the autumn term, when the children have settled and are attending school full time, there will be planned opportunities for parents to come into school to discuss their child's progress with the adults who work with them through a parents evening.

Open Door policy

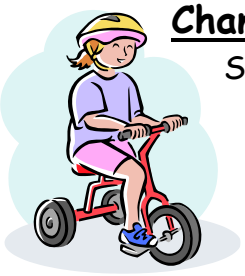
At All Saints' Primary School we operate an 'Open Door' policy which encourages parents to come into the classroom to speak to their child's teacher or TA at the beginning or end of every school day. As the beginning of the day can be very busy, we ask that you raise issues which may require longer discussion at the end of the day. And an appointment can be made if we feel it is necessary

What will my child's daily routine be like?

For much of the day the children will be able to choose from a large range of activities within the Reception area. Some activities are adult-led, which means that they are planned and led by a teacher. At other times children choose more freely from a range of opportunities that will always be available to them and we refer to these as child-initiated activities.

At all times the children will be supervised by the Reception staff but the level of adult involvement in their playing and learning will vary from day to day and activity to activity.

The children will develop learning skills and knowledge through outdoor and indoor learning environments which support and engage children's individual learning styles and interests. Through both child initiated and adult led activities children's learning will be facilitated and enhanced by teachers and teaching assistants throughout the day, enabling children to access and develop in all aspects of the EYFS.



Changes to routine

Some aspects of the school day will take place away from the Reception Unit.

- **Lunchtimes** – If children choose to have hot school meals or packed lunches, they will eat in the school hall, supervised at all times by the lunchtime supervisors.
- **Assemblies** – as the children become more settled they will sometimes be taken to the school hall for worship. At first they will go to the hall as a class or year group before later joining with older children for occasions such as celebration of achievements.

All Saints' Church of England Primary School
Dogsthorpe Road
Peterborough
PE1 3PW

Tel: 01733 563688

Email: office@allsaints.peterborough.sch.uk
Email: Eyfs2021@allsaints.peterborough.sch.uk