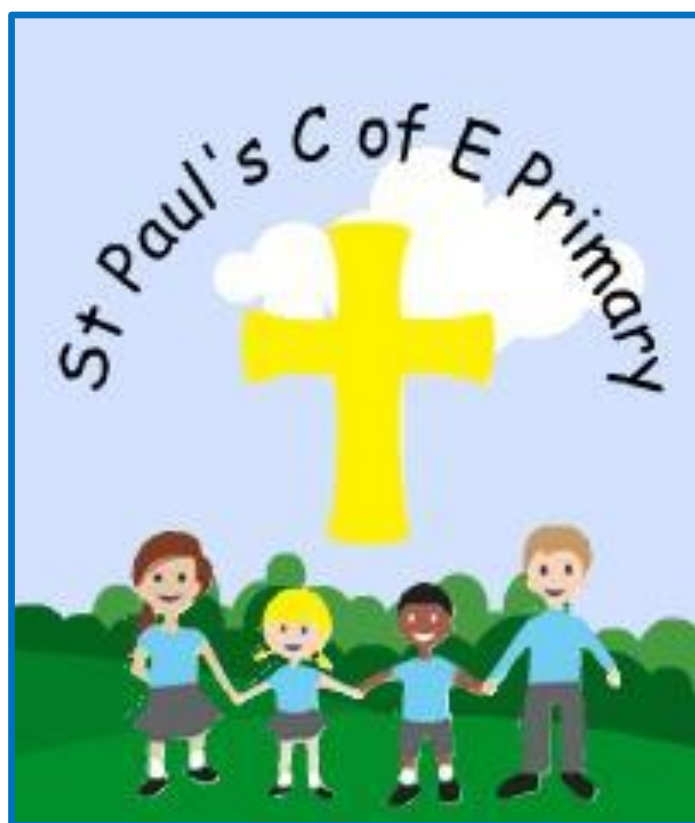


Welcome to St Paul's C of E Primary School
Reception Class
2024 - 2025



Information Booklet for Parents and Carers

St Paul's C of E Primary School Vision Statement

Jesus offers life in all its fullness, and so we inspire our children to flourish and grow in school, the community and the wider world.

Our school is a safe and caring environment, with Christian values at its heart. Our school respects and welcomes all faiths, cultures and communities.

We ensure every child is valued, encouraging them to discover their gifts and potential.

Welcome to St Paul's C of E Reception Classes

Bringing your child to school for the first time can be daunting. There are lots of new things happening and many questions to ask. We hope this booklet will answer some of your questions and help you and your child to prepare, but if there is anything more you need to know, please feel free to talk to any member of the Reception Team.

We will always be happy to help you.

Meet the Team



Mrs Halligan

Class Teacher

Early Years Leader



Ms Blair

Management Cover



Mrs Babcock

Speech and Language Support

St Paul's C of E Primary School

Early Years Foundation Stage

We believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage is an important and valued stage in a child's education, which underpins all future learning by supporting and fostering a child's personal, social and emotional well-being, encouraging positive attitudes and dispositions towards learning and preparing them for continuing education.

Our aims:

- To provide high quality teaching and learning by ensuring high quality provision for all children irrespective of gender, culture, religion, race, special educational needs, disability or social background
- To support and challenge all children to reach their own potential, regarding each child as an individual with specific needs to be met in different ways
- To provide children the time and experiences to grow and develop according to their individual needs and learning styles
- To encourage children to become independent, self-disciplined and self-motivated
- To develop an effective partnership with parents and carers and build upon the invaluable foundation of teaching and learning already taking place at home
- To help each child feel happy, confident, accepted and included, enabling him/her to form good relationships with adults and children
- To provide a happy, well-planned, organised and secure environment which will stimulate the child's natural curiosity and enthusiasm to play and explore, have a go, be involved, enjoy and achieve and make decisions for themselves.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and professionals working with young children describe the important stage in a child's life between birth and age 5.

The most recent version of the EYFS came into force on 1 September 2021.

Nurseries, pre-schools, and childminders (early years providers) registered with Ofsted or a Childminder agency, must follow the EYFS framework. They are registered and inspected by Ofsted to ensure the quality and standards of their

provision. Because the EYFS goes up to age 5, this includes Reception classes in school too.

Why do we have the EYFS?

Children learn and develop rapidly from the moment they are born.

The home is the first environment where play and learning take place, supported by parents and other family members. Babies learn to crawl, walk, and talk, they begin to interact with people and the environment around them.

Their brains develop rapidly in the early years and create vital foundations for learning throughout life.

Research confirms that the experiences that a child has in the early years has a significant impact on their future life chances and that high quality early years care and education makes the biggest difference to every child.

The EYFS provides a framework that sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good progress through school and life. (EYFS 2021)

What is in the EYFS?

The EYFS has three sections:

Section 1 Learning and development describes what early years providers must do to promote the learning and development of all children in their care in seven areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

The first three areas listed are described as the prime areas of learning and development because they are closely linked to a child's brain development in the first three years of life.

The following four areas are described as specific areas of learning that develop when parents and early years educators know what they want children to learn and create the right opportunities for learning to take place.

The activities and experiences (educational programmes), that early years settings provide are based on a child's individual needs and interests.

The emphasis is on learning through play because 'play' is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. (EYFS 2021).

Section 2 Assessment describes how children's progress is recognised.

There is additional guidance that supports the EYFS to help educators to recognise and interpret where a child is in their learning journey. The additional guidance is not intended to be a checklist that educators use to track a child's development by ticking off one stage after another.

Learning does not progress in a set sequence of events which is why educators observe children constantly and use their professional knowledge to identify the areas of learning that a child is secure in, what they need to know next, and any areas where they may need additional support.

Assessment is not all about paperwork and written reports, but the EYFS expects that 'parents and/or carers should be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development' and discuss any additional needs with you and any relevant professionals. For example, if your child appears to be struggling with their speech and language, your child's key person may suggest that they would benefit from being referred to a Speech and Language Therapist.

There are three formal assessment points in the EYFS:

- the progress check at age 2 when you will receive a short, written summary of your child's development in the prime areas
-
- the Reception Baseline Assessment completed by your child's school within the first six weeks of them starting reception, and...
- assessment at the end of the EYFS - the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) which is completed in the final term of the year your child turns five. The profile is assessed against a set of **early learning goals** for the seven areas of learning and development that the early years educators have been supporting them towards.

Lunch Time

All Reception children are entitled to a free school meal, but if you prefer you can bring in a healthy packed lunch from home. The menu changes termly and can be found on the school website and on Parent Apps. Children eat their dinner in the main school hall and are supervised by their class teaching assistants, who are also midday assistants.

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please apply via Stockport Councils website <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/start/free-school-meals-application-form> as this will provide additional funding for the school.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS ALLERGIC TO ANY PARTICULAR FOOD PRODUCTS OR HAS ANY SPECIFIC DIETARY NEEDS

Water

Your child should bring a **water** bottle every day. It is important that children always have access to water. We are a healthy school and do not allow juice or flavoured water in water bottles. Water bottle can be purchased from the school office via ParentPay.



Fruit



All Reception children are entitled to a piece of fruit every day. We usually have fruit in the afternoon.

Home time

Reception classes finish at 3:15pm. Please wait outside the classroom doors for your child. The children will stay in the classroom until we can see you and we will hand them over to you directly.

Please bear with us at the beginning of term if this handover takes some time. We have lots of new faces to get used to and the safety of the children is our utmost priority.

Please let us know in the morning, or by phoning school during the day, if the usual person is not collecting in the afternoon. We will not release a child to someone without parents'/carers' permission.

If you are late to collect (3:20pm onwards), a member of the Reception team will walk your child over to the main building to be picked up. An adult will wait with them until you arrive.

School Uniform

School uniform enables children to feel a sense of pride and belonging to our school community. Please support school and ensure your child wears the correct school uniform every day. School uniform can be purchased from our local supplier, Bonny Bouncer 246 Stockport Road West, Bredbury. All uniform at Bonny Bouncer includes the school logo. However, it is absolutely fine if you prefer to buy elsewhere without the logo, but we do ask you to adhere to our school colours (see below). Please order/purchase your uniform in good time for the beginning of the Autumn Term.

School Uniform:

Grey or navy blue trousers, skirts or pinafores

Sky blue short sleeved polo shirt or blouse

Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan

Plain white, grey or navy blue socks or grey tights

Black flat shoes or school sandals (Velcro fastenings are best for Nursery and Reception unless your child can tie up their own laces)

Wellington boots for outdoor learning

Navy blue Book Bag (no rucksacks - we don't have enough room to accommodate these in drawers or on pegs)



Summer Uniform

Blue checked summer dress

Grey or navy-blue school shorts

(Please note that many of the activities in Reception involve the use of sand, water, dough, paint and glue! Aprons are provided but it is inevitable that sometimes clothes will get dirty. Please be understanding with your child when accidents happen; we always reassure them that clothes can be washed)

PE Kit

Navy blue shorts

Plain sky-blue cotton T-shirt (no football shirts)

Black pumps

Drawstring pump bag



Outdoor Games

Navy blue jogging pants

Navy blue long sleeved top

Trainers

(Please put your child's name in all items of clothing, in wellies, book bags, on water bottles, in pumps, in shoes and coats! It makes it much easier for us to find lost items. The development of independence is very important for the children, with this in mind clothes and shoes which are easily fastened are of great help to us all, Velcro fastenings on pumps, shoes and trainers are the most practical for Reception children.)

PE

Reception classes take part in a formal PE lesson once a week. Long hair should be tied back and ear-rings removed by the parent before arriving at school (staff are not allowed to remove piercings). The PE Kit should remain in school for the whole half-term as we can use them for children requiring a change of clothes following an accident; we will send the PE kit home for the half-term holidays for a wash!

Jewellery

Children are allowed to wear one stud in each ear and a watch. Bracelets, necklaces, hoops and badges are not allowed for health and safety reasons. Staff are not allowed to remove piercings.

Parent Partnership

At St Paul's CE Primary School all parents are equally valued as part of our school community. We know that parents' interests and involvement in their child's learning is associated with securing positive experiences and outcomes for children, helping children to reach their full potential. Strong partnerships with parents are pivotal to school life and we are committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between home and school.

Good home/school communication is very important to us at St Paul's. Our Early Years Team are all very approachable and friendly and happy to help with any queries or concerns you may have.

Phonics and Reading



Phonics lessons take place for 30 minutes every day. We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics and reading scheme.

Children read the same reading book in a group 3 times a week. A different reading book, matched to their ability, will be sent for reading practise at home once a week. Your child will also take home a 'sharing book'. This will be a book chosen from the library for you to read 'to' your child for pleasure. A **Reading Meeting** for parents and carers will be held in September when we will explain in detail how you can help with reading at home and



how the **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Phonics and Reading** programme works.

Book Bags, Reading Books and Reading Record Books should be in school every day. If a book is lost or damaged a charge of £4.50 will be made for its replacement.

Please do not put water bottles inside book bags

Good News Bear



Every Friday a child who has displayed excellent behaviour and kindness to others is chosen to receive a certificate and to take home the class teddy. The child keeps the teddy over the weekend and records their time together, through photographs, drawings and annotations, in the Good News Bear Book. When returned on Monday, the children then share their experiences with the Bear with the class

Wow Awards

Wow awards give parents and carers the opportunity to share their child's achievements at home with school. For example, your children may have got dressed by themselves, slept in their own bed through the night or eaten all their vegetables at tea time. The children are always proud when the teachers read out their wow notes to their friends. The wow notes are then displayed in on the Wow Wall in the classroom.



Knowledge Organisers

Every half-term you will receive a Knowledge Organiser, outlining the learning and skills development for the following weeks, linked to a main theme or topic. It will also note any additional ways you may be able to support learning at home.

Learning with Parents

Learning with Parents is an online resource where you will be able to access activities to support your child with learning at home on a weekly basis. The activities provided are all practical (no on-screen learning) and use resources that will be readily available in your own home. Children earn rewards to dress up their own Mascot on the programme and receive certificates for completing activities regularly. More details will follow at the beginning of the academic year.



Activity Days

Parents and Carers will be invited in to school to take part in craft days with their children. These are always lovely, happy events that provide the opportunity to look around the classroom, chat to other parents and teachers and the children always love working with you!

Parent Meetings

Soon after your child has started in Reception, we will hold our first of two Parent Meetings to share your child's learning journey so far, to discuss how they have settled into school, their progress, targets and how you can support at home. It will also provide the opportunity for you to raise any questions or concerns you may have. A second Parent Meeting will be held in the Spring Term.

School Reports

In the Summer Term all parents will be sent a written report of their children's achievements that year.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am Monday to Friday in the school hall at a cost of £1 per day via ParentPay. The club is supervised by familiar staff, and children in Reception are escorted to their classrooms at 8.45am. Please make staff aware of any food allergies and/or medical needs. .

After School Club

St Paul's does not have its own After School Club. However, if you would like your child to attend **Brinnington Out of School Club**, this runs from 3.15pm - 6.00pm. Activities include, arts and crafts, outdoor play, cooking, games, face painting and much more!

A school holiday club is also available at Westmorland School which runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm.

All staff are fully qualified, DBS checked and paediatric first aid trained.

For more information, please call Andrea or Lindsey on 07534 890771 or email at brinnington@yahoo.com . Facebook page: Brinnington Out of School Club.

School Website

All up-to-date school information, including class pages can be viewed by visiting our school website www.stpaulsstockport.co.uk

ParentApps



You will receive regular communications via ParentApps. The App is free to download and is available to both Apple and Android devices. It will provide you with instant access to our term dates, event information, class information and much more. The App is fully secure and GDPR compliant. Please look out for the email invitation from ParentApps with further instructions on downloading and accessing the App. To ensure you receive all relevant information from school, it is important that the school office has your correct and up-to-date email address and mobile number. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the school office team.

ParentPay



We are endeavouring to become a 'cashless' school and therefore we accept payments online for items such as tuck, school trips, etc by using a secure website called **ParentPay**. Payments can be made online using your credit/debit card. You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password; you will be prompted to change these, and to keep them safe and secure. If you have more than one child at our school, or children at other ParentPay schools, you can create a single account login for all your children, or add your child to your existing account.

Making payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Please look out for an account activation email from platform@parentpay.com

Photographs

During your child's time in Reception, we use photographs and first names for children's peg and drawer labels, learning journeys, displays and on our class school webpages.

Please do let us know if you have any concerns in this regard.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is very important that you ensure your child attends school and arrives on time. Any child arriving after 9.00am needs to be signed in at the main office. Attendance is monitored by the Educational Welfare Services and by our Pastoral Lead, Mrs Nairn. School operates a first day absence call system whereby if a child is not present, a telephone call is made to ascertain the reason why.

Leaving School during the day

Occasionally children need to leave the school during the day to attend medical appointments. Parents taking their child out during the school day must sign their child out at the main office.

Sickness

Please telephone or provide a written note for our registration records if your child is going to be absent. The school telephone number is 0161 480 5403. If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, they must be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

If your child needs to have any medications administered during the school day, you will have to complete and sign a consent form.

Term Time Leave of Absence

Taking your child on holiday during term time will have a negative impact on their learning. If you choose to do so you must state this to the Headteacher in writing providing four weeks' notice. We do not authorise holidays during school time except in special circumstances. If your child misses a total of 5 consecutive days or more, an Education Policy Notice (fine) may be issued by the Local Authority

Safety

Your child's safety is of great importance to us. All children must be brought to and collected from Reception by a responsible adult over 16 years of age. We need to be informed if someone other than yourself will be bringing or collecting your child and it would be helpful if you could introduce us to friends and relatives who may do this for you. Please try and collect your child promptly and telephone the school office if you are going to be delayed picking up so we can reassure your child that you will be here soon.

Emergencies

We may need to contact you whilst your child is in school. Please ensure you complete and return the Emergency Contact Form before your child starts in September. Please remember to inform the school office of any change of telephone number, contact names or email addresses during the school year.

And finally,

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. We hope it has provided you with all the information you need to prepare you and your child for the Reception Class.

We are sure your child will settle quickly and happily into their new class. The Reception team all look forward to meeting and supporting you, working with you in partnership as your child continues their learning journey at St Paul's C of E Primary School.

Working together we will ensure your child will always

"BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE!"