

St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School & Kindergarten

WELCOME PACK



A family united in God's love,
learning in faith together for a
compassionate tomorrow

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learning in faith together for a compassionate tomorrow***

Welcome to St Catherine's. We sincerely hope that the time you spend with us will be happy and fulfilling.

Our aim at St Catherine's is to provide your child with a broad and balanced curriculum, which is rooted in the ethos of our Catholic faith.

St Catherine's is a community based on love and care for the individual, providing a unique environment in which each child can grow as a whole person and strive to develop their potential to the full.

We hope that you find the information in the welcome pack helpful so that you and your child soon feel part of the loving family that is St Catherine's.

If you have any concerns or queries between now and when your child starts school in September, please contact either Mrs Beale or Mrs Williams your child's teacher or Mrs. Melanie Dare, Deputy Head, or Mrs. Sarah Sparks, Headteacher,

CONTACT INFORMATION

School telephone and fax number: 01202 883763

Email address:

office@stcatherinescolehill.dorset.sch.uk

Website: www.stcatherinescolehill.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Sparks

Chair of Governors: Mrs Pauline Baldwin

Our local churches

St Catherine's Church, Wimborne 01202 883312

St Anthony's Church, West Moors 01202 874811

Our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecilia, Blandford
01747 852125

St Anthony's Church, Broadstone 01202 693336

Worship

As a catholic community we live out the mission of the church in all we do and say. We gather together many times throughout the week to worship. Every Monday we begin our school week in prayer and in consideration of God's word, with a whole school liturgy.

Prayer is an essential part of the school day. Please help your child to learn these prayers with you, at home.

Morning Prayer

*O my God you love me,
You're with me night and day.
I want to love you always in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you, Father
Bless me through this day
Amen*

Grace before meals

*Bless us, O lord as we sit together
Bless the food we eat today
Bless the hands that made the food
Bless us, O Lord
Amen*

Evening Prayer

*God our Father, I come to say
Thank you for your love today,
Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your
light
Amen*

Each term we celebrate Mass here in school, to which you are all very warmly invited. Dates and times are published in the newsletter.

Mission Statement adapted by our children

- To build a school community where we all believe in God and respect everyone by living in the Christian way
- To accept that everyone is different but that we are all as important as each other and are all special in our own way
- To make sure that every child has the opportunity to reach their true potential. This will be achieved by giving everyone the support they need and opportunities to succeed
- To help each child to learn and therefore be prepared for the future. To develop their confidence and help them to live as good Christians
- To treat everyone, children and adults, with respect and in a way that they would like to be treated themselves
- To help children understand that they have rights but that with those rights come responsibilities
- To be thankful to God for creating us and all the wonderful things around us. He did this because he loves us unconditionally
- Respect and accept other cultures and faiths. Treat everyone with kindness and compassion, understanding that we are all entitled to our own beliefs



General Outline of the Day

8:30am **Registration and prayers.**

8:40am **Learning**

10.15 am **Morning play**

During which the KS1 and EYFS children are given a healthy snack usually fruit or vegetables. Parents in KS2 are encouraged to provide a healthy snack for their child. You can choose for your child to have milk at this time. Please see the leaflet in the pack for more details. Parents should also provide fresh water, daily in a named water bottle. These can be purchased via the school office and cost £1:25

10:30 am **Learning**

11:45am **Lunch** for EYFS & Key Stage 1

12:00 pm **Lunch** for our Key Stage 2

12:45pm **Learning** for EYFS & Key Stage 1

1:00pm **Learning** for Key Stage 2

1:45 pm **Afternoon play** for EYFS & Key Stage 1

3:00pm **Prayers and dismissal**

The school day ends at 3:00pm



Dropping off and collecting your child

We accept responsibility for supervising the children from 8:20am when the internal gates open. However, we have an early morning club run by Energy Kidz from 7:30am for those families who need to drop off early. Please check the school website for details.

At the beginning of the day, children assemble on the top playground before entering the building. The school day starts at 8:30am with registration and prayers.

The school day ends at 3pm. Children in Reception class and Year 1 are collected from the courtyard in the centre of the Early Years building. The rest of the school, travelling home on foot or in a car, are escorted to the school hall and discharged when the person collecting them is seen by the member of staff on duty. Those children not collected by 3:10pm are returned to the red chairs to await collection via the front entrance.

Children travelling home on buses or taxis are checked off on the register before being escorted to their vehicles.

Please inform us in writing the names of those who will collect your child from school on a regular basis. If, on any occasion this changes, we request that you notify us in writing or by telephoning the school office. As you will appreciate, this is a strict safety procedure to protect your child and we cannot accept verbal instructions via a child or an adult other than the child's parents or legal guardians.

We offer a variety of after school clubs. Please ask in the office for details.



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We plan the children's curriculum to enable your child to learn through play, following the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework

During the day children will have opportunities to develop in all of the following areas:

Prime areas of Learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) which includes Religious Education (RE) based on the Catholic scheme God Matters.
- Physical Development (PD)
- Communication, Language (CAL)

Specific areas of Learning:

- Mathematical Development
- Literacy (Reading and Writing)
- Understanding of the World (UW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)



During the early days of school you may find that your child is very tired at the end of the day. It is essential that they go to bed at a reasonable time and get plenty of rest.

You can help your child get ready for school in the following ways, by encouraging them to:

use the toilet and wash their hands independently;



dress and undress themselves including putting on and taking off their shoes. You may wish to consider Velcro or similar aids to putting on footwear rather than laces at this early stage;

put on and take off their own coats;



open their lunchbox or use a knife and fork correctly;

share a wide variety of books;



count and hunt for numbers in their local environment



find letter sounds such as 'a' for apple, 'b' for bat. We follow the Letters and Sounds programme as a starting point. You can find some excellent resources to support your child at W H Smith and at the Early Learning Centre, e.g. Jolly Phonics.



All of these have a considerable effect on how confident your child feels and will help to ensure a smooth transition from home to school.

Lunchtimes

All EYFS & Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free, healthy, hot lunch. These need to be ordered and you will be able to access menus and make your order online using our website. Older children can also have a healthy hot lunch, which needs to be ordered online. Some children are entitled to a free school meal if their parents are in receipt of certain benefits; please ask at the school office.

If children do not wish to have a hot dinner, we recommend a healthy lunchbox. For health and safety reasons, we do not allow glass bottles, cans or fizzy drinks in school. We understand that you may be concerned that your child will be hungry being away from home all day, but we suggest not overloading lunchboxes.



The following should be sufficient:

- 2 – 4 small sandwiches (one round)
- a piece of fruit
- a biscuit or cake
- a drink

We do try to encourage the children to eat everything in their lunchboxes.

Contacting Your Child's Class Teacher

Your child's teacher is available before and after school for a short time. If you require a longer appointment, please put a note in your child's book bag and we will contact you.

Early in the term there will be a meet & greet session in the morning for parents to come into class and meet the teachers, who will give you an outline of what will be happening during the school year.

You will be invited to a 'formal' parent teacher meeting in the Autumn and the Spring Term. In the summer term you will receive a written report about all your child's achievements throughout the year and you have the opportunity to respond.

General information from the School comes via a regular newsletter by email.

Absence from School

Please ring or email the school on the morning of a sickness absence before 9am – thank you. Please also **inform us in writing** if your child is unable to attend school for any other reason, to allow us to fill in the legal register documenting absences.

Medication

If your child returns to school after an illness and is required to complete a course of antibiotics three times a day these should be administered at home. However, if they are required four times a day they should be sent to school office in the prescribed bottle so that the first aider can administer the medication.

Class teachers are not allowed to administer any form of medication. If you have any particular worries about any medical problem please note them on the medical form and these can be discussed with the class teacher.

Home Learning

Children receive increasing amounts of Home Learning as they progress through the school. Your child's teacher will share our expectations with you. However, all children benefit enormously from regular reading at home - even once they can read independently.

Reading

Reading is an essential life skill and we recommend reading with your child for 10 minutes (or more) everyday, in a quiet relaxed atmosphere.

When your child brings home his/her reading book it will be accompanied by a reading record book (home learning diary in Key Stage 2) which forms a vital communication link between the home and school and helps your child to feel reassured.

Please complete the reading record so we can accurately chart your child's successes.

For example:

Date	Book & comment	Signed
17.9.16	Floppy, Floppy. We read the whole book together and talked about the pictures. He (or She) really enjoyed finding his (her) key words in the text. We are looking forward to finding out what Floppy will get up to next.	S. Sparks

School uniform

The children at St Catherine's wear their school uniform with pride.

- Pale blue shirt
- School tie
- Navy blue jumper / cardigan or pale blue sweatshirt
- Navy trousers (boys)
- Navy tunic /skirt (girls)
- Navy socks
- Black shoes (not trainers)
- Sandals are permitted at parents' discretion on hot days

Summer Term - girls can wear the regulation summer dress and boys may wear school shorts if they wish.

The children also need a named sunhat in either red or navy blue.

Hair must be reasonably conventional in style and not dyed. Please consult with the Head teacher if you are unsure.

PE /Games Kit

Pale blue school t-shirt with school badge

Navy shorts

Black plimsolls / trainers

School sweatshirt

Navy blue jogging bottoms

Navy socks



No jewellery, other than ear studs, is permitted. All ear studs **must** be removed for PE.

All items of uniform, including PE kit, must be clearly labelled and contained in a labelled PE bag to avoid loss. PE bags will be sent home for washing on a half-termly basis or occasionally more regularly. You can purchase these through our uniform suppliers.

Please purchase a St Catherine's **blue book bag** for your child. This book bag ensures that you receive any letters or school correspondence and is necessary for your child to bring home reading material. The bag should last throughout the school. Please check the bag for any school correspondence.

School uniform can be purchased from either:

The School Shop

139 Station Road
West Moors
BH22 0HT
Tel: 01202 893049

Bartletts Schoolwear

52 King Street
Wimborne
BH21 1EB
Tel: 01202 856205

We also have regular uniform sales run by our Parent Council; please keep a look out for dates and times in the newsletter.

Events during the year

We have many events going on throughout the year which include:

Book Character Day where the children are asked to dress up as their favourite book character.

Muffi days when the children can wear their own clothes for a day with a small donation to charity.

Nativity play (KS1) which happens towards the end of the autumn term. You may be asked to provide a simple costume.

A Christmas party when the parents are asked to provide food for the celebration. A letter will be sent home nearer to the time so please check the book bags.

School trips during the year.

Sports day in the summer term.

Special themed weeks/ days

So, as you can see, it is important to read the diary dates and keep an eye on the newsletters and the website.

We hope this pack has been helpful and has supplied you with all the necessary information so that you feel confident that you and your child will become part of our happy, loving and caring environment here at St Catherine's.

Please feel free to ask the class teachers, Deputy Head or Head teacher if you have any further queries.

2018/19

Term Dates

Autumn Term

Monday 3rd September - Friday 21st December

Half term: 22nd - 26th October

Spring Term

Monday 7th January – Friday 5th April

Half term: Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February

Summer Term

Tuesday 23rd April - Wednesday 25th July

Half term: Monday 27th - Friday 31st May

Summer holiday

Wednesday 24th July - Friday 30th August 2019

Staff Training Days (Children not in school) :

Monday 3rd September

Monday 29th October

Monday 25th February

Monday 3rd June

Monday 1st July