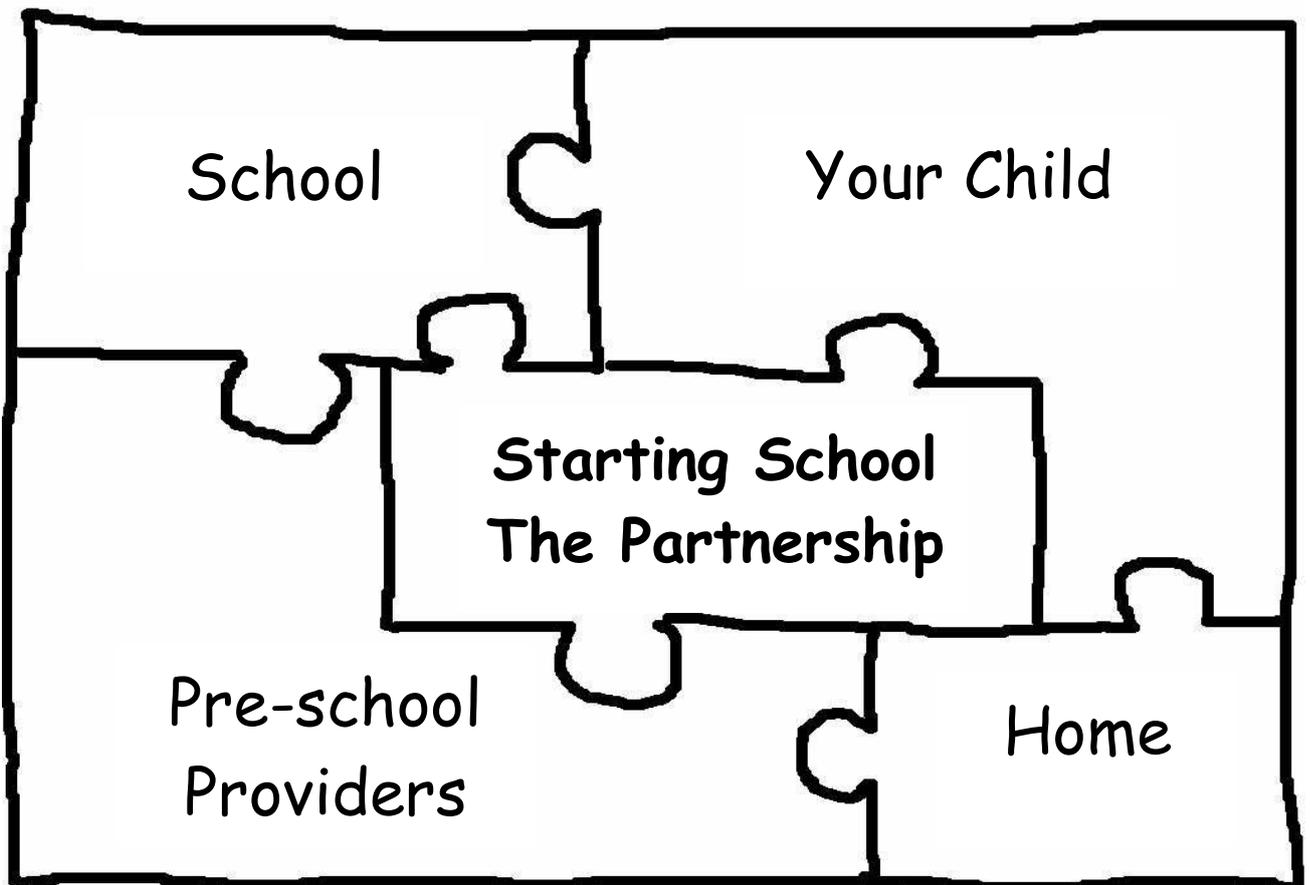
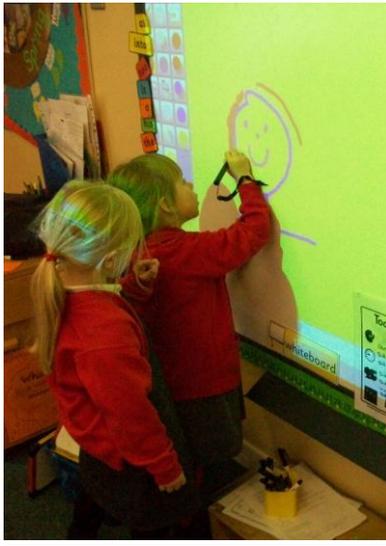




Welcome to Holy Trinity School



Welcome to the Early Years at Holy Trinity School



Starting school is another step in your child's life-long learning journey. Every day is full of opportunities to explore, discover and learn. Our aim is to work in partnership with you so that your child can achieve their full potential.



Early Years Aims and Objectives

Aims:

The principle aim of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is to enable all children to achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes-

- staying safe
- being healthy
- enjoying and achieving
- making a positive contribution
- achieving economic well-being

We also aim to:

- ❖ promote an inclusive ethos which ensures that all children feel valued and respected
- ❖ develop a positive attitude towards learning and a confidence in their abilities as successful learners
- ❖ provide children with opportunities to listen, co-operate and work harmoniously with each other
- ❖ nurture children's spiritual, moral and cultural development
- ❖ develop their ability to concentrate and persist at an activity
- ❖ provide opportunities for children to communicate with their peers and adults
- ❖ promote the exciting world of books and words
- ❖ enable all children to develop their mathematical understanding
- ❖ provide opportunities for all children to explore the world around them
- ❖ offer a range of ICT opportunities
- ❖ develop children's gross and fine motor abilities
- ❖ offer all children the opportunities to explore and express themselves creatively

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

At Holy Trinity we follow the EYFS, which is the national framework for children from birth to five. The EYFS curriculum is play-based, focusing on the children's interests and is organised into seven areas of learning which are:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal Social & Emotional Development 2. Communication & Language 3. Physical Development 4. Literacy 5. Maths 6. Understanding the World 7. Expressive arts and design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ The classrooms and the outside area are set out to reflect the seven areas of learning. The activities are carefully planned around themes and topics in response to the children's interests. ★ Play is facilitated by teaching staff using questions and prompts so that children learn effectively as they play. ★ Children are regularly observed, to monitor their progress and individually plan for their development.
---	---

You are warmly invited to come and visit the children in the Early Year's environment when they have settled or even help out on a regular basis.

Starting dates

All children are offered a place to start at our school in the Autumn Term (September). We are flexible about your child starting full-time or part-time. It may even be appropriate to do full-time at the beginning of the week and part-time at the end.

	Start Time:	Finish Time:
Part time children	8:45-8:55 am	12:00pm (noon)/1:15pm
Full time children	8:45-8:55 am	3:15 pm

Your children will be organised into two classes: Ash and Beech and will work with two Class Teachers and a dedicated team of Teaching Assistants in an exciting and safe learning environment.

The first day

The children are dropped off and picked up from the outside door of your child's classroom (if they are going home at lunchtime you collect them from the office). On the first day, please bring your child in to help them settle. *You are then invited by the PTA to have a cup of tea or coffee in school. Younger siblings are also welcome.* Each day when the children arrive, they self-register, put their belongings away and take part in activities.

Toys and personal possessions

These can be a source of comfort for children in their early days at school. If you think that your child will find something like this helpful, please try to make sure it is not too precious and will fit in their tray.

Communication between school and parents

We provide a weekly letter and overview, which lets you know what we will be doing. This usually provides a prompt for questions you can ask at home, particularly if your child is too tired to discuss their busy day in great depth.

Occasionally, your child may be upset at leaving you; this is nearly always resolved moments after you have gone. We will contact you if any difficulties continue, or you can contact the office during the day if you are concerned (01444 454295). The Early Years team is always available to help put your mind at rest.

Childhood illness and medication

If your child is unwell please phone the office (01444 454295) explaining why your child is absent, on the first day and subsequent days of their absence. We recommend that you keep your child at home for a clear 48 hours after a tummy upset or similarly contagious ailment. Please ensure their medical form is completed and updated as necessary. If your child is asthmatic, they must have an inhaler at school.

Lunchtime

This begins at 12:00 noon and continues until 1:00pm. The children have the option to bring their own packed lunch, or have hot dinners, both of which are eaten in the hall. Meals can be ordered online in advance at www.mealselector.co.uk

Parents who are in receipt of benefits may be entitled to free school meals. Please contact the office for a form. Afterwards, all the children go out to play either on the field or playground, depending on the weather. Initially the Early Years children play in a separate area of the playground, with the option of joining the other children when they feel confident.

Fruit, milk and water

The children have the opportunity to have fruit throughout the morning at our fruit table. The school provides a piece of fruit, but the children can also bring in fruit of their own. If you would like your child to have milk, this must be ordered before the beginning of term and paid for in advance. A form is available at the school office but the milk is ordered by you online. We also ask that you provide your child with a filled bottle of water, which can be topped up by the school if necessary. A water bottle can be purchased from the school office.

Uniform

All children are required to wear school uniform. They should wear a white shirt or white/red polo shirt with grey trousers/shorts or a skirt/dress/pinafore. In the warmer weather, the girls have the option of wearing a red and white summer dress. Shoes should be suitable for school and easy for the children to put on. A school jumper or cardigan can be purchased from the school office on the transition days or during the term, or alternatively a plain red cardigan or sweatshirt could be worn.

PE Kit

The children wear a white T-shirt, red shorts and plimsolls. The shorts can be purchased from the school office. We have two sessions of PE a week. (We will let you know which days they will take place)

Transition visits

The transition visits will help your child to get to know us, their new Early Years environment and the resources we have. It makes the prospect of starting school less daunting for all involved.

School Website

The school website is well worth a visit. It holds a wealth of information about the school, its policies, newsletters and other useful information.

www.holytrinity-cuckfield.w-sussex.sch.uk

Here are some ideas that will help you to prepare your child for school

The development and use of communication and language are essential elements in a child's learning. The more fluency they can achieve in spoken language the more they will understand. Listening and speaking provide a good foundation for reading.

Reading to your child, visiting the library, sharing the pictures in a book, talking about the stories, spotting road signs, clapping syllables, listening out for rhyming words and playing matching games, are all important pre-reading skills that will help your child.

Play games that involve sharing and turn taking to raise your child's awareness of the needs and feelings of others.

Encourage your child to be as independent as possible i.e. getting dressed especially shoes and socks, as well as doing up buttons).

Personal hygiene (talking through how to blow their nose or wipe their bottom etc.)

Try to promote self-confidence in your child by using praise and encouragement to make them feel good about themselves

Cutting a range of different papers and materials really helps to develop your child's fine motor skills.

Jigsaw puzzles are very good for helping children to develop good co-ordination and concentration.

If they show an interest, do some writing with your child. Upper case letters should only be used for the first sound in their names.

Counting can be done anywhere and everywhere- count stairs, buttons, sweets, foot-steps. Talk about quantities- more/ less/ same. Also looking for shapes, counting the number for sides, corners etc.

Explanation of school terms

These terms might come up in the weekly school newsletters:

Reception/Early Years- your child's first year at school

Early Years Team-staff including teachers and Teaching Assistants working in Early Years

TA-Teaching assistant who help to support your child at school

Key Stage 1 (KS1)- children aged between 5 and 7, in Year 1 or 2 at school

Key Stage 2 (KS2)- children aged between 7 and 11, in Year 3,4,5 or 6 at school

PTA- Parent Teacher Association

SENCO- Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

PSHE+C- Personal Social Health Education and Citizenship

ICT- information computer technology

IWB- interactive whiteboard

BEAM- balance education and movement

School Check List

Jumper/ cardigan	
Coat/ sun-hat (we go out in all weathers!)	
Water bottle	
Packed lunch	
Book-bag (with home/school diary + reading books)	
PE kit	
Wellington boots (to be kept in school)	

Please ensure all items are clearly named