

Starting in Reception Class - Little Oaks

**St Mary's Church of England Primary
School and Nursery, Writlington**

- Be the best you can be -



Welcome!

Welcome to Little Oaks Reception Class at St Mary's Church of England Primary School and Nursery! This is an exciting time for you and your child and we aim to make everyone joining our school (children and parents/carers included) an enjoyable and special time. We hope this booklet will answer some of the questions most frequently asked by parents/carers. If you would like to know anything that hasn't been covered here, please feel free to e-mail us at: office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk or contact the school office on 01761 434548.

Class Teachers: Miss Hamblin - Monday and Tuesday
Mrs Martin - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Mrs Gallimore is our Speech and Language and Nurture support TA and Mrs Dart is our school SENCO.

We believe that the teacher and parent/carer relationship is essential to your child's learning journey. We will be inviting you in to see what wonderful learning we get up to in school, look out for invitations throughout the reception year.

We aim to make our classroom learning environment a loving, fun, safe and inspiring place to be.

Usual Arrangements for the Start of Term

This is dependent on Government advice and the re-opening of schools

Your child will attend for half a day only for the first three weeks of term. This will ensure that your child can gradually get used to school routines without becoming too tired, as the day can be very long for younger children.

Week 1 (week commencing Tuesday 1st September 2020) - **MORNING**

Monday (Bank Holiday), Tuesday (INSET), Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:45 - 12.15

Week 2 (week commencing Monday 7th September 2020) - **MORNING AND LUNCH**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:45 - 13.15

Week 3 (week commencing Monday 14th September 2020) - **MORNING AND LUNCH**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:45 - 13.15

Week 4 (week commencing Monday 21st September 2020) - **FULL TIME**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:45 - 15.15

Children will be in school full-time from **Monday 21st September**. If you feel that your child is not ready to start full days at school, please come and have a chat with us and it may be possible that we can make alternative arrangements. It is important to note that this 'phased' induction is crucial to ensuring the best start for your child at school.

Daily Routines

8:45am - Doors Open
8:55am - Register
10:15am - Playtime/Snacktime
12:00pm - Lunchtime
1:00pm - Register
2:15pm - Outside activity (bikes and trikes/conservation area/playtime)
2:45pm - Assembly
3:15pm - Home Time

Morning activities are Phonics, Literacy and Mathematics based and afternoons are topic based, although all the areas of learning overlap throughout the day.

Before morning break, the children have milk or water (depending on age), a healthy snack (fruit, which is provided by the school) and a short relaxation time. We run a 'rolling snack' in the afternoons where children can have a snack independently at the snack bar.

In the afternoons, the children also participate in a short physical activity.

A range of child-initiated play based activities are available throughout the day covering the different areas of learning.

Children have use of both the indoor and outdoor classroom, and where possible, other areas of our beautiful school grounds.

We are a Church of England school and teach Christian values as part of our learning ethos.



Our Principles
Characteristics of Effective Learning

We aim to share and encourage these essential values with your child to give them a life long love for learning

Playing and Exploring - Engagement

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'!

Active Learning - Motivation

Being involved and concentrating
Keeping trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking

Having their own ideas
Making links
Choosing ways to do things

These principles are part of the foundations of our practice.

The Curriculum

Reception children are working within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), before they start the National Curriculum in Year 1. We firmly believe that young children learn best through play-based activities. These include focused activities with an adult (adult-directed), activities which the children choose themselves (child-initiated), and activities created by an adult that children engage with through our continuous provision (adult-framed). Children do a mixture of activities on a daily basis. They also spend a lot of time outdoors, with adult supervision.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of seven areas of Learning and Development. All areas of Learning and Development are connected to one another. All areas of Learning and Development are underpinned by the principles of the EYFS. The curriculum is divided into Prime and Specific areas of Learning and Development.

PRIME

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Making relationships
- Self-confidence and Self-Awareness
- Managing feelings and behaviour

Examples of PSED: Taking turns; co-operation; listening to and understanding others; sensitivity to their own and other's needs; making positive relationships with adults and peers; confidence; communicating their feelings; understanding right from wrong; being able to adapt

Communication and Language

- Listening and attention
- Understanding
- Speaking

Examples of C&L: Listening attentively; anticipate language patterns; responding appropriately to what they hear; able to follow instructions; talk about and connect experiences; communicate effectively; connecting ideas and expressing them appropriately; speaking clearly

Physical Development

- Moving and handling
- Health and self-care

Examples of PD: Moving confidently and safely; co-ordination; using tools appropriately; pencil control; understanding why we need a healthy balanced diet; understanding the importance of exercise; hygiene; using the toilet independently; undressing and dressing independently

SPECIFIC

Literacy

- Reading
- Writing

Examples of L: Reading sentences independently; use skills to read unfamiliar words; remembering words; understanding texts they have read; writing familiar words; writing sentences.

Mathematics

- Numbers
- Shape, space and measures

Examples of M: Using numbers up to 20; addition and subtraction; sharing, halving, doubling; problem solving; size; weight; capacity; time; money; patterns; 2D and 3D shapes

Understanding the World

- People and communities
- The world
- Technology

Examples of UW: Sharing important experiences; sensitivity to other's interests; understanding similarities and differences between different people, cultures, traditions, places and families; understanding of living things including plants and animals; notice patterns and changes; uses of technologies including telephones, computers and the internet

Expressive arts and designs

- Exploring and using media and materials
- Being imaginative

Examples of EAD: Singing songs; enjoying music; dance; exploring colour, shape, texture, form and function; being expressive

Reading

Learning to read is one of your child's biggest achievements during the first years of school. It is important not to rush them, but to make reading an enjoyable experience. Children will begin to read at varying paces.

During the first few weeks of school, your child will be able to take home a book and reading record. This will usually be a picture book which you will be able to read and share with your child. Let them have a go at turning the pages and talk about what happens in the story.

When your child is ready, we will introduce books with text.

Please read with your child at home as much as possible. Find somewhere quiet where you won't be disturbed and enjoy talking about the story as well as reading it.

Each child will have a reading record book which acts as a contact book between teacher and parent and is a very useful means of communication. Write down whenever you hear your child read and feel free to ask questions or make comments.

In school, we teach letter sounds with actions and we also send home a 'Sound Book' so you can share these with your children. We also send home a 'Key Word Book' with words to remember and recognise instantly.

We also practise learning steps every week on a one-to-one basis with your child, to extend their learning and these should also be practised at home. These are always shared in the reading records.

Other Information

- ❖ Please make sure that all uniform and PE kit is labelled with your child's name. PE kit needs to be in school at all times.
- ❖ Children will also need a pair of wellies that can be left at school.
- ❖ Your child will have their own peg for coats and bags, and a drawer for personal belongings (**but please don't bring toys to school in case they get lost!**).
- ❖ We encourage the children to drink lots of water during the day, so please make sure they bring a named water bottle each day - filled with water only please!
- ❖ Your child is entitled to free milk at school until his/her fifth birthday and we have this during snack time. If you would like to purchase milk after your child turns 5, please speak to the school office.
- ❖ We provide free fruit for a snack break every day.
- ❖ In the mornings, please don't leave your child unattended before 8:45am, as the staff have a daily meeting and are unable to supervise them before this time.
- ❖ At lunchtime, all children are entitled to a school dinner. They then have a long playtime, either in the playground or on the field.
- ❖ Our children will have a Year 6 'buddy' who will look after them throughout their reception year. This buddy will stay the same for the whole year and the Year 6 children take their responsibilities very seriously!
- ❖ Please wait outside the classroom at home time. We will only let children go once we have seen who is collecting them. This also helps with parent and teacher communication and aids us with keeping you informed of what your child has been doing during the school day. This is also the best time for any queries you may have. If someone different is collecting your child, please let the teacher know.

❖ Your child needs to be able to use the toilet and wash their hands independently, unless they have a medical need.

❖ Learning Diaries

We use an online system called Tapestry for recording, tracking and sharing your child's learning. Tapestry is an online 'Learning Journal', which enables staff to add videos, photos, observations and assessments of activities your child participates in at school and enables you to view them too!

We are very enthusiastic about using this system at St Mary's, and hope you are as well, and that you will utilise it to share the learning you do at home too! Please take a look at this website to find out more information about Tapestry: <https://tapestry.info>.

We also capture your child's learning experiences in a folder called a learning diary. We add written observations and store some of your children's creations, so you can share your child's experiences - this is a document you'll want to keep forever!

❖ Uniform

This can be purchased at the following website: <https://gooddies.co.uk/>

And finally...

Teddy Joe

Teddy Joe is the Little Oaks teddy bear. He lives in school during the week and sometimes gets up to mischief! He is a little bit shy and sometimes needs someone to look after him during the day.



Star of the Week

Every week, the teachers need a special helper. We choose a star of the week to do very important jobs, and the star gets to sit on a special chair!



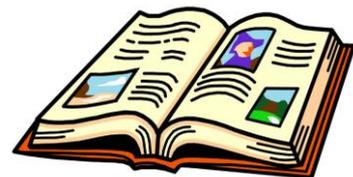
Learning steps

We spend time on a one-to-one basis with your child every week to encourage and nurture their learning and confidence. These are usually maths based.



Reading

We listen to your child read on a one-to-one basis, at least once, every week. We record this in their reading record and also practise letter sounds and key words.



Prizes

Your child is rewarded with 'team points' for achievements in class. When your child has 21 team points, they win a prize from our lucky dip prize bag! These prizes are usually bouncy balls, bubbles, writing pads and paper, toy cars and magnetic letters so you can continue learning together at home!



Thank you for taking the time to read this. You can find more information on our school website: <http://www.stmaryswrithlington.co.uk/> or on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/StMarysWrithlington/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWrithlington/)
If you have any further questions, please contact the school and someone will be happy to help!