

All Saints  
Church of England  
Primary  
School



#### Contact Us

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# EYFS Welcome booklet

## **Golden Rules**

**Do be gentle  
Do be kind  
Do be honest  
Do respect property  
Do work hard**



## **All Saints CE Mission Statement**

**All Saints endeavours to be a friendly and caring Church school, providing a secure learning environment for all.**

**We strive to work in partnership with Governors, Parents and the community, recognising the joint responsibility of home and school in a child's education.**

**We aim to stimulate and motivate pupils to become independent learners and thinkers, who are well balanced, globally and culturally respectful with firm Christian values.**

## Starting at All Saints

### Home visits

Each September the Nursery is closed for the first week of term. This enables Nursery staff to visit each new child in their home environment. A home visit close to the time your child starts at Nursery can help firm up that bond of trust between the children, parents/carers and the Nursery staff. Your child will be able to meet us in the home environment where they feel safe and secure. At the home visit the Nursery staff will ask you to fill in an information booklet about your child, this will help them prepare learning activities for each child and help with transition in to school. They will also remind parents of school procedures. There will be a sign up sheet for this visit at the New Entrance Meeting.

### Settling in Period

To encourage smoother transition into the Nursery, for the first week of entry, new entrants will come to school on a part time basis (9:00am to 12:30pm). The following week, they start their full-time school career (9:00am to 3:15pm). During the first week, parents are welcome to stay for an initial session but are asked to leave at 10:00am. This gives the children the opportunity to understand that school is a place for children not parents. The following week parents are asked to leave at 9:15 when the Nursery door is shut. Although parting may be hard, the children recover much quicker than you, and move on to enjoy the remainder of the school day. Should children remain distressed for a prolonged period of time, we will phone you. All children settle differently and we are happy to negotiate individual settling in plans as necessary.

## Tips for starting school

As parents you play a vital role in the education of your child. This process begins long before they come to school. As the time for school approaches, there are ways in which you can help prepare your child and make their entry to school a happy time.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Get to know other children that are starting at the same time
- Help your child to look after their own belongings, to be able to dress themselves, recognise their name on clothing, use the toilet and to eat with a knife and fork
- Be positive about starting school (hide any of your own worries or fears)
- Play games together eg eye spy, snakes and ladders, snap
- Help your child to realise how numbers occur in everyday life
- Inform the school of any health, social or emotional problems
- When practising spelling your child's name please encourage them to use lower case letters (except for the starting letter). Also teach the sound of letter as well as its name.

## Other useful Information

When children first start school they often don't want to discuss what they have done when they get home. Don't worry this is quite normal. Starting a new routine and coping in new situations and with new people can be quite tiring. You may find they even want to go to bed earlier.

We have permanent making area in the class and would greatly appreciate any 'junk' you can donate; from yogurt pots to cereal boxes. We also love imaginative items such as stamps and feathers etc. Plastic bags also come in very handy.

Siblings, of course are very welcome at drop-off and pick up but please keep an eye on them, we spend a great deal of time setting up the classes in a specific way.

Finally, if at anytime you wish to talk to us, please do so. We appreciate this is a big step in your child's life and your queries and concerns are important.

## School Times

### Start of day:

Reception door opens at 8:50 and parents/ carers can accompany children into the Reception classroom. The door will close at 9am and all parents must leave by then. If children arrive after this they must enter school through the main office and be signed in as late.

Nursery door opens at 9:00 and will close at 9:15, when all parents must leave. This gives children and parents a settling in time and a chance to talk to key person as required.

### End of day

Both the Reception and Nursery doors will open at 3:00, again giving parents/carers a chance to talk to staff. All children must be collected by 3:15. After 3:20 any children not collected will need to be collected from the main office.

All children will self register, with the help of parent/carer and then settle straight into an activity of their choice. Please bring and collect your child promptly, as punctuality aids the smooth running of classes. Children must be brought and collected from the school by a 'named adult'; older children may not collect their siblings.

Please let us know if someone different is collecting your child. Nursery and Reception classes have a communication book where information about your child's change of routine or other significant matters can be written down for staff to know.

## EYFS Curriculum

At first glance, it can appear that the children are 'only playing' whilst in the Foundation Stage. However, the best Early Years Education is based on the understanding that whilst children are playing, they are learning. During the day there will be a mixture of adult initiated, child initiated and adult led activities as well as whole class, small group and individual activities.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is based on four themes and six areas of learning.

These are:

The Unique Child

Positive Relationships

Enabling Environments

Learning and Development

Personal, Social and Emotional development

Communication, Language and Literacy

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Physical Development

Creative Development

Each learning area has a number of stages called 'Development Matters' which children work through; with the Early Learning Goals being the end of year assessment in Reception.

## Money

Money should be handed to teachers, please do not leave it in book bags. All money should be handed in, in a sealed envelope with the child's name and the reason written on the front.

## Absences

At this age, if your child is feeling unwell, or has suffered from sickness or diarrhoea, it is advisable to keep them at home for the next 48 hours. Encouraging them to come to school when they are unwell, can have the detrimental effect of making them hesitant if nervous about coming in the future. Please contact the office as soon as you are aware that your child will not be attending, so the absenteeism can be recorded in the register.

## Lunches

Our school dinners are of a high standard and we encourage children to have them. Should you wish your child to have a packed lunch, please bring it in a clearly named box. We are a healthy school, therefore no sweets, chocolates and fizzy drinks. Please remember we are a **no nut** borough.

Each day, fruit and milk are provided for the children.

## Clothing

The children need to wear full school uniform at all times; for Nursery children this is the school's PE kit. A list detailing what your child should wear is available at the office. The clothing/ footwear that your child wears to school should be clearly marked with your child's name and footwear should be simple enough for the child to manage independently. For the safety of every child at school, no watches or jewellery may be worn and long hair should preferably be tied up off children's faces.

Along with their school uniform, Reception children will also need a PE kit– green shorts, yellow t-shirt and plimsolls, this needs to be brought to school in a PE bag and kept on their peg. Nursery and Reception children need a complete spare set of clothes including socks and underwear in case of any accidents or messy activities, these should also be in PE bags on pegs.

Children also require a book bag, which they need to bring to school everyday. Please make sure it is clearly labelled. The children are encouraged to independently put their work in their bags; bags will also be used for library books and some notices.

## Learning Journals

During your child's time in EYFS he/she will have a Learning Journal which will contain observations, specific achievements and set class work. Samples of your child's work and photos are collected by their key person and will be annotated against the development matters to show the progress your child has made. This book is available for you to share with your child at any time.

Children learn best when there is a strong partnership between home and school and when parents and staff share their knowledge and skills. It is very important therefore for parents to contribute to their child's Learning Journal, about significant developments at home and there will be many opportunities for this.

### **Parent/ Carers**

Parents/carers are very welcome to spend time helping out in the Nursery and Reception classrooms. Please see the class teacher if you are available to help. One morning a week the EYFS is open till 10:15 am for 'Stay and Play'. This is a great opportunity to see the learning opportunities provided for the children and to play and learn alongside your child.

## **Free Flow**

Children in the EYFS need opportunities to play, explore, experiment and learn in both an indoor and outdoor environment. At All Saints we, whenever possible, operate a free flow environment where children can choose whether to be indoors or out and can move independently between both environments.

## **Open Doors**

Open doors, where children can move freely between the two classes will happen every afternoon in the Autumn Term, and two afternoons in the Spring and Summer terms. This provides an opportunity for children to explore both classes, play with a variety of children and work with all members of the EYFS team.

## **Library books**

Each week the children will be given an opportunity to choose two books from the school library to take home. These books are chosen by them and should be shared at home.

## **Key Person**

As per current government guidelines all children are assigned a key person on their arrival at All Saints Nursery. More information about this will be given to you at your Home Visit.

## **Special Educational Needs**

At various times during their school life, children may have special educational needs. We work with the School SENCo, Mrs Davis and strongly believe in early intervention. Parents are always consulted or informed if we have any concerns.