



ST CLEMENT'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EYFS WELCOME BOOKLET





GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE

TOGETHER WE WELCOME AND RESPECT OTHERS

LOVING, SHARING, CELEBRATING

LEARNING TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

We want the St Clement's family to have the opportunity to feel valued, achieve their best and develop their spirituality and faith in a safe, secure and nurturing community with high expectations and a strong ethos. We aim to encourage a love of learning, promote opportunities to build self-confidence and respect for others, creating a firm foundation for a successful and a vibrant future.

WELCOME TO RECEPTION CLASS

A very warm welcome to you and your child from the Reception team and everyone at St. Clement's Catholic Primary School!

Starting in the Reception Class is an exciting time and we hope that this will be the beginning of a long and happy association with St Clement's Catholic Primary School.

Included in this booklet is some information about starting at St. Clement's in Reception, some guidance on how to be ready for school and information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We hope that you will find it useful. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the school staff or visit our website: www.stclements.surrey.sch.uk



STARTING AT ST CLEMENT'S

Settling in period

During the first week, parents are welcome to accompany their child to class. (We will inform you before your child starts if we are unable to allow you to do this due to social distancing measures)

We ask that you allow your child to be independent in hanging up their coat and putting their snack and water bottle away; please do not do this for them!

The following week (or sooner if your child has settled) parents are asked to say goodbye to their children at The Courtyard door. This gives children the opportunity to demonstrate their independence.

Although parting may be hard, the children recover much quicker than you and move on to enjoy the school day! Should children remain distressed for a long period of time, we will phone you. Remember, all children settle differently.

What should my child bring to school?

- A named book bag purchased from the school supplier (please name clearly on the front flap with a permanent marker)
- A water bottle clearly labelled with your child's name
- A morning snack (in a labelled pot/name on banana). An afternoon snack is supplied by the school
- A P.E. draw string bag purchased from the school supplier with black plimsolls (Velcro please!)
- A raincoat if the weather is wet
- A sun hat (clearly named) for outdoor learning
- Sun cream must be applied before arriving at school as staff are unable to apply
- Any medication must be left at the school office where there is a form to complete

HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

There are many ways that you can prepare your child for school. Everything you do together will help your child learn, develop and grow as an individual.

Getting into a routine

It can be hard for you and your child to suddenly follow a new routine, especially if you haven't had to before. To make things easier for you both, it can help to start getting into the routine a few weeks ahead. Start with your child having a regular bedtime, so they get used to it. Your child will be more willing to get up and dressed in the morning if they have a good night's sleep.

The journey to school

Think about your journey to school. Can you walk, scoot or cycle? Practising the journey at the time you will be going helps you plan what time to leave home to get to school on time.

Arriving in plenty of time helps your child to meet friends and go in together, rather than arriving after everyone is already settled which can be difficult.

Remember they are likely to be tired at the end of the school day, so a healthy snack can boost energy levels.



HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

As your child grows, they will want to become more independent in their self-care skills. It may be faster and less messy to do things for your child but they learn so much more from being able to do things for themselves.

Independent dressing

You can help by:

- Choosing clothes that are easy to get on and off, such as elasticated waist trousers and skirts.
- Buying shoes with Velcro fastenings.
- Teaching your child how to fold their clothes, so that when they change for PE they won't get mixed up with other children's clothes.
- Ensuring all items of clothing are clearly labelled with their name and that your child can recognise their own name.

Eating

In Reception, all children have a school meal (all children up to and including Year 2 are offered free school meals), so it is important that you encourage your child to practise feeding themselves as soon as they are ready and to be confident using cutlery by the time they start school. If you have a fussy eater at home, don't panic. It has been shown that children who refuse to eat certain foods at home are more likely to try them when at the school dinner table with their friends.

Toileting

Encouraging children to take care of everyday hygiene routines and to use the toilet independently helps them to become more independent and self-sufficient. The expectation is that all children are toilet trained by the time they start school. Also, encourage your child to always wash their hands after using the toilet.

HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

Building confidence

Confident children make positive learners and we build their confidence through our relationship with them. Children love to be praised as it gives them the confidence and courage to explore and try new things.

- Teach them to feel confident enough to ask the teacher if they want to go to the toilet or if they need help.
- Teach them to undress and dress themselves.
- Make sure they can use the toilet and are able to clean themselves and wash their hands after.
- Show them how to feed themselves.

Learning through play and positive play opportunities

Most children have had lots of positive play opportunities at nursery, the child minders and/or home. It is through play that children learn best. By having a wide variety of play activities, children will be able to develop their language, thinking and understanding of the world. They need to experience playing on their own and with other children, playing inside and outside, with toys and also playing imaginatively. You can support your child by having play dates before they start school in order for them to build their skills and to experience sharing.

Looking at books and singing together

Before children begin to read and write, they need lots of experience of talking and looking at the print around them. Enjoying books is a good start for learning to read. At school, children listen to stories being read to a group or to the whole class. They also look at books quietly on their own or with a friend. At home, you can encourage them to look at books on their own.

Sing along to favourite songs and number rhymes so that your child can use finger actions. Most of all praise, praise, praise your child's mark making (writing or drawing) and listening skills.

HOW TO BE READY FOR SCHOOL

Making goodbyes easier

Here are some tips to try and make the experience easier for both of you.

- If your child is having trouble settling in, arrive early and factor in time to comfort and reassure them before you leave.
- Make the actual 'goodbye' quick, firm and reassuring with no long drawn out returns for "just one more kiss or cuddle". Once you have said goodbye, you really need to leave.
- Always say goodbye and reiterate that you will see them later after school, then leave.
- Children need the reassurance of a familiar, consistent goodbye routine whether that is a kiss or a wave through the window. This signal will help them to cope with the transition of being in your care to being in school care.

Prepare them and you!

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.

It's good to get into a routine of early bedtimes and wake ups well in advance. Even children who are used to nursery will get tired after school.

If your child needs food often, then bring a snack when you collect them.

Borrow a book from the library about going to school and read it together.

Let them practise putting on their uniform and wearing it around the house. Finally, once they have started school, remember that they are going to be very tired so be prepared for this!

EYFS CURRICULUM

A common misconception is 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. Formal Phonics (Reading), Literacy and Maths sessions take place throughout the week.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is based on four themes and seven areas of learning. The four themes are **The Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Enabling Environments and Learning and Development.**

The seven areas of learning are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Communication and Language**
- **Mathematics**
- **Literacy**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Physical Development**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

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 of Reception.

Continuous Provision

Children in the EYFS need opportunities to play, explore, experiment and learn in both an indoor and outdoor environment. At St Clement's we, whenever possible, operate a free flow environment of Continuous Provision where children can choose whether to be indoors or outdoors and can move independently between both environments.

ASSESSMENT

Throughout the Reception year, staff will record observations, take photographs and collect samples of work for each child across all the different areas of learning. These will enable staff to develop a full picture of your child and their achievements for their Early Years Profile at the end of the Reception year.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

P.E. kit

- Children are placed into a colour group (red, blue, green or yellow) to follow our school houses. Children will be placed in the same colour group as their older siblings.
- P.E. tops and shorts are supplied by the school and purchased through Parentmail. The P.E. top will be the same colour as their house colour group.
- Parents only need to purchase the P.E. bag and black plimsolls in advance.
- P.E. kits are kept in the classroom and are sent home each school holidays for washing.

Uniform

Please ensure that **ALL** items of clothing and equipment are labelled with your child's name.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Reception Weekly Newsletter

A weekly newsletter is sent out by the Reception Teachers each Friday with information for the following week.



Under 5's are entitled to free milk until the Friday before their 5th birthday.

Your child will receive a 189ml (1/3rd of a pint) carton of semi-skimmed milk every day.

We register all of our new reception pupils with the Cool Milk scheme.

If you would prefer your child to **not** receive this milk, please let us know as soon as possible and we will remove them from the scheme.

After your child's 5th Birthday, if you wish for your child to continue receiving school milk, you will need to contact Cool Milk directly, register yourself and your child and set up payment.

If you would like to find out more about the scheme please visit www.coolmilk.com or contact Cool Milk directly on 0844 854 291



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