



Welcome to Reception!



Hello and welcome to our Reception class,

My name is Mrs Saysell and I am your child's class teacher. I will be working alongside Mrs McNally our Reception class teaching assistant. Mrs McNally will be available to pass messages on to in the morning as you drop your children at the gate and I will be available at hometime when you collect your child. If you would like a more lengthy discussion, feel free to contact me before or after school, either by arriving at the school office early or making a phone call. We are always happy to help and no query is too silly or too small.

Home time

In order to ensure your child's safety we only let the children out as we see the parent/carer who is collecting them at the end of the day. As we are still getting to know you, this may take a little time at the beginning of the term so please bear with us. We would also ask that if they are being collected by somebody please come in to tell us. We are unable to send a child home with another parent in the class unless you have notified us about it first.

Water bottles

Now your child is in reception, please **do not** send in a water bottle. In our class we have a water cooler so there are cups of fresh water available throughout the day. Once the children are settled, we will be teaching the children to get a cup, pour themselves a drink and then wash their cup - a fab opportunity to develop independence.

Seesaw

We will be continuing the use of our learning platform seesaw. This is where we will share photos of your children in class, letters and in time, homework. We will be setting up a new class page and profile for all the reception children and we will send home their new QR code and password as soon as this has been done. We can't wait to share some photos of the children in their new class with you!

Our day

Not only will we be doing literacy, maths and phonics we have role play, sand, water, painting, construction and creative activities will be on offer daily and we will strive to offer free flow play when we can which will extend and develop their learning through indoor and outdoor activities. For this reason we would ask that they bring in their **coats every day** to enable access to outdoor areas. We also ask that the children bring in a pair of **wellies** to stay in school as some of our playground can get quite muddy and this will prevent children being restricted in where or what they can play with.

Reading

We strive to develop a love of reading at St. Andrew's. We read every day together, as a whole class in group or individually. We encourage reading to happen at home too! We will initially encourage them to choose their own books from our book box to take home and share with you. We call this our class library. We would encourage you to continue the good practice you will already have been doing of sharing the books with your child and asking them questions to predict what might happen and then discuss what has happened, taking time to look at the pictures and describe characters or settings.

Once the children have settled and we have firmly established our phonics groups the children will take their own reading book home for them to have a go and read with you. These books will always include sound the children have learnt in their reception phonics and we ask you encourage them to sound out the words and support them to blend them.

PE

All children are required to have a PE kit in school by the time they are in full time attendance. This consists of a white tshirt, navy shorts, black pumps in a small bag. We will (once organised and settled!) have indoor PE sessions on Thursday. We do tend to suggest that their PE kits come into school and stay in school for the half term as this reduces any chances of children becoming upset when they do not have their kit following a weekend. This has always worked well as they do not get very dirty. Obviously, if there are any accidents or unforeseen circumstances we will send it home prior to the half term holiday.

Superstars!

Once the children are settled we will be recognising good behaviour, kind helpers, excellent effort with star raffle tickets. The children have the chance to earn raffle tickets throughout each week. On Friday we will have a star raffle. We will choose five names, at random, out of the box and these children will be able to take home a prize! We will also have star of the day and lots of other rewards throughout each week.

Hope this helps in getting to know a little more about our class and we look forward to getting to know you and your child/children.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Saysell 😊
Reception Class Teacher

