



# St Martins School

## New Reception Parents

### Meeting

### July 2020



**St Martins School**

*Selfless ❖ Self-assured ❖ Successful*

A little bit about our school:

As Shropshire's first all through school we are at the heart of our community, delivering child centred education, individually tailored because of our small size and unique position in the community.

We value, foster and ensure academic progress and social development.

**Our children are individuals, respected for their differences and celebrated for their strengths.**



# Attendance & Punctuality

It is important that your child attends school regularly and arrives on time.

If your child is ill you must ring Reception desk by 8.30 to let us know they won't be in. A phone call is required for each day of absence.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have passed.

Any child with a temperature of 37.8 or above should not come to school and if symptoms of Covid 19 are suspected they should self-isolate for at least 7 days and a test should be done as soon as possible.

Please also ring if a different person is collecting your child and you have not let your child's classteacher know.



# Holidays in term time

- Unfortunately we are unable to give permission for children to be taken out of school for holidays during term-time.
- The children would miss out on vital work – particularly with phonics in the Early Years and would have to spend time catching up on their return.
- There are some exceptional circumstances where the Head may give permission but these would be considered on an individual basis.



## Uniform

- We expect all our children from Reception upwards to wear a school uniform.
- All children should have a jumper/cardigan with our school logo on.
- Trousers, skirts and dresses should be grey. Purple checked dresses can be worn in the summer.
- Black school shoes please – no trainers.

### **July 2020 UPDATE**

**Our uniform supplier will be open from Wednesday 1 July - it will be via appointment only**

**Use this link to make your appointment.**

**<https://ourschoolwear.co.uk/pages/appointment-booking>**



## Breakfast & After-School Club

This is held in the room next to the Nursery Classroom and is open to all children from Nursery to Year 6..

Our Breakfast/After School Club Leader is Sarah Barnett

If you would like to use this facility or to find out any other information such as timings/costing etc please contact Sarah by email: [afterschoolclub@stmartins3-16.org](mailto:afterschoolclub@stmartins3-16.org)

Places are limited and you will need to book spaces by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Entrance to breakfast club and collection from After School Club will be through the Nursery gate.

At the end of the school day, pupils will be taken to After School Club by a Learning Support Assistant.

From September we will be unable to provide food and drinks so if you would like your son/daughter to have a breakfast or a snack at after school club, please provide this for them. This will need to be a drink and snack they can manage themselves without any adult involvement.

We also run a Sibling Club will run from 2.40pm.  
This is where the children wait until their older brother or sister from the Secondary Phase come to collect them.  
This is the same room as After School Club.  
Pupils using this will be taken to the club by a Learning Support Assistant.  
Places for this facility will also need to be booked with Sarah Barnett using the email address given earlier. There is a cost for this facility which Sarah will be able to tell you



# Staff who make up our Early Years Team



This is Mrs Samantha Newland.  
She is our Reception Class teacher  
and will teach your child from  
Monday-Thursday



This is Miss Julie Faulks.  
She is our Early Years Lead teacher  
and Assistant Head of Activate Phase  
which runs from Nursery - Year 2  
Miss Faulks will teach your child on a  
Friday.

We also have Jackie Moore, Jo Fallon, Jo Clancy and our Apprentice TA Bethany who help to support all children in the EYFS.

# **This is what we aim to do when your child joins our St Martins School EYFS department:**

- Make all children feel welcome, safe and secure.
- Build upon what the children already know and can do.
- Encourage the children to initiate their own activities knowing that there are adults there to support them.
- Plan stimulating & enjoyable activities that incorporate the 7 areas of learning within the EYFS.





- Both the Nursery & Reception class form our Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The staff plan and work closely together to ensure that the children have good quality experiences that will help them to learn.
- The children will undertake activities which are either adult-led or child-initiated and will take place both inside and outside.
- They will be encouraged to work independently, solve their own problems and manage themselves as well as working alongside the teachers and other members of the EYFS team.



## Our Early Years Curriculum:

- Our Early Years curriculum is organised into 7 different areas of learning and development.
  1. Personal, Social & Emotional Development
  2. Communication & Language
  3. Physical Development
  4. Literacy
  5. Mathematics
  6. Understanding the World
  7. Expressive Arts & Design
- These 7 areas are split into Prime Areas and Specific Areas.



The Prime areas are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These areas continue to be important throughout the EYFS

A yellow star outline with a purple fill, containing the text 'Communication & language'.

Communication  
&  
language

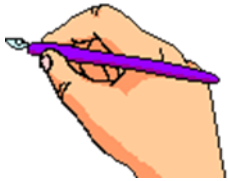
A green star outline with a purple fill, containing the text 'Personal, Social & Emotional Development'.

Personal, Social  
& Emotional  
Development

A red star outline with a purple fill, containing the text 'Physical Development'.

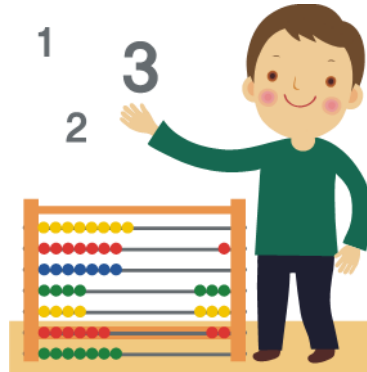
Physical  
Development

The Specific areas of learning include essential skills that your child needs to have in order for them to participate successfully in society.



### Literacy

Children will be supported to link sounds to letters and begin to read and write



### Mathematics

Children will be supported to develop counting, understanding and using number and simple adding & subtracting, learning about shapes &



### Understanding the World

Children will be given opportunities to explore and find out about their world, people, technology and the environment.



### Expressive Arts & Design

Children will be encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design & technology.



# Play in the EYFS

You may find that when you ask your child what they have done at school they may say ‘We just played!’ When your child says this they have actually been:

- exploring, developing and representing learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world;
- practicing and building up ideas, concepts and skills;
- learning how to understand the need for rules;
- Taking risks and making mistakes;
- Thinking creatively and imaginatively;
- Communicating with others as they investigate or solve problems.

**Play, with effective adult support, forms a huge part of our curriculum and is the best way for our young children to learn.**

**Your child will have a balance of adult-led and child-initiated sessions throughout the day**



To enable us to keep track of your child's development we use Tapestry. Many of you will already be familiar with it but for some of you it may be very new.

It is an online learning journal where we keep observations and photographs of your child. It helps us to build up a picture of what they can do, their interests and helps us to work out what where we need to take them next in their learning.

There is a consent form that we ask you to sign to say that you are happy for us to create a journal for your child. We also ask that you are happy for your child's image to be on another child's profile - we will respect any decision that you make on this.

It is a very secure site and only you and designated staff working in the EYFS will have access to your child's profile.

You can also upload photographs and notes about things that your child has done at home and we actively encourage this.

What will a  
typical day look  
like for my child  
in Reception?





When your child first comes into the classroom they will:

- Find their name and put it on either the hot school dinner or sandwiches picture. We call this self-registration.
- Then they will go to an activity that has been set up for them for around 10-15 mins. This activity will usually be a fine-motor, reading, writing or maths one and will change daily.
- After this they will move into a child-initiated session where they select what they would like to do.
- During all of these activities the children will be supported by the class-teacher & teaching assistant.



- There will be some adult led sessions throughout the day.
- Every day your child will have a phonics session – where they will learn a new letter sound each day as well as recapping on previously taught letters.
- This year the phonics session will initially concentrate on ensuring the children can hear and say the sounds in words before moving onto learning the specific letters.
- This will be done through a range of practical activities and is known as oral blending and segmenting.
- We will be holding a Phonics Parent Workshop



- As well as this your child will also have a daily Maths and English session.
- These will be short sessions initially building up in length as the children move through the year and we aim to make these as practical as possible to engage the children.

*A typical day in Reception will have a mixture of adult led activities and child initiated activities.*

- Child initiated – where they choose the activity they want to do. Adults will join in their activities and extend their thinking through questioning and discussion and facilitate new learning.

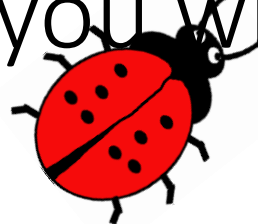
Other activities:

- Your child will have a weekly Physical Development session – the children will initially practice taking their shoes and socks off and will do a movement activity building up to changing into their P.E kit for a more specific physical activity either inside or out



# Forest School

- There will be a weekly Forest School session in our dedicated Forest area on the school field.
- This is where the children spend time outdoors and are encouraged to explore, create, imagine and be active.
- We will let you know when Forest School is starting and what you will need to send with your child.





## Snack time & Playtime

- The children will have a dedicated snack time where they can have a drink of milk or water.
- We have our milk supplied by Cool-milk and all children receive a free 1/3 pint milk daily until they reach the age of 5.
- Once they have turned five Cool-milk will contact you to see if you want to pay for your child to continue to receive milk.
- Water is available at all times.
- The children do not have a dedicated playtime. Instead they have access to the outdoors throughout the day.

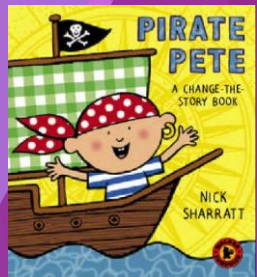
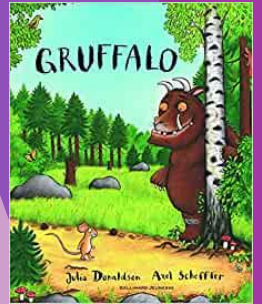
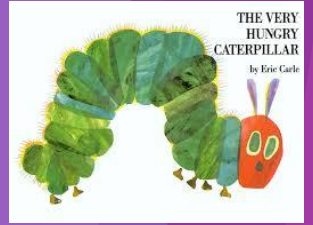
# Maths in our EYFS



- Maths – as a school we follow the mastery approach to maths. The core principle behind this approach is the expectation that all pupils will gain a deeper **understanding** of the **maths** they are learning. ... A **mastery** approach to the curriculum means pupils spend far longer on fewer key **mathematical** concepts whilst working at greater depth.
- We will be holding a Maths Parents Workshop in the Autumn Term to show you our way of working and how to support your child at home.

# Reading in our EYFS

- We want our children to become not only confident readers but develop a love of reading.
- We will be sharing stories daily with the children and encouraging them to talk about the stories they have heard.
- Once your child has learnt a set amount of letter sounds and are able to hear and say sounds within simple words they will bring home a reading book.
- The books they bring home will be matched carefully to their phonic level so they are successful and see themselves as readers.





## Lunchtime

- The children will have lunch in the School diner which is situated at the opposite end of the school.
- The Teaching Assistant will stay with the children whilst they are in the diner – helping them to cut their food or open packets.
- All children in Reception – Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal known Universal Free School Meals.
- To view lunch menu visit - <https://www.aspens-services.co.uk/schools/st-martins-primary-school/>
- Once they have had their lunch they will be taken to the playground and supervised by our Lunchtime Supervisors.



We do ask that the children have:

- A book bag – please check them daily for letters – also children will be able to choose a “book to share” from our class library. Eventually home reading books and a reading diary will be sent home too.
- P.E kit – black or blue shorts, a plain white or purple T-shirt and trainers/plimsolls. Send in every week.
- Water bottle labelled with your child’s name



- Appropriate clothing for the weather – the children will have access to outside in all weathers and will be encouraged to be outside as much as possible. A warm and waterproof coat is essential.
- A change of clothing – including pants and socks.
- Forest school clothes – these need to be warm and waterproof- a set of wellies that can be left in school would be great.
- **PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING YOU POSSIBLY CAN!!**

## How can I help my child?

### 10 things to do to help your child be ready for school...

**1. To be able to sit still and listen for a short period of time.**

The ability to sit still and listen to a story, join in with counting songs or a phonics session is a skill that will be needed from the very beginning of school life. You can help your child by expecting them to listen to a story you read or complete a short activity with you i.e. build something, play a game outside etc.



**2. To be aware of other children, share toys and take turns.**

A big part of starting school is about getting along well with others, completing a task through teamwork, and treating others with respect. You could help your child by playing games together, taking turns to do things as well as working on activities together. Encourage older siblings to teach their brother or sister how to take turns when using a popular toy or during a board game.



**3. To be able to use a knife and fork.**

The majority of children will be having hot school meals so help your child by ensuring they know how to use a knife and fork to independently feed themselves.



**4. To understand what rules are and why they are important.**

Within the school environment there will be some rules for the children to follow to ensure that everyone is safe and ready for learning, as well as ensuring that we are looking after each other and the resources. Talk to your child about why we might need some rules and discuss simple rules that you may have at home and why.



**5. To be able to use the toilet independently.**

The ability to use a toilet and wipe their own bottom is a vital skill for when children start at school. We appreciate that it is sometimes difficult but even attempting to do it themselves will help your child.



**6. To recognise their own name when it is written down.**

If your child cannot write their name when they begin school then do not worry - we can help to teach them this. However, it would be of great benefit to them if they can recognise their name so that they can easily find their peg, drawer and see a label in their clothing. You could write several names out and ask them to find theirs or make a name puzzle with all the correct letters for them to match to their name.



**7. To speak to an adult to ask for help.**

If your child needs help with something then they will need to ask an adult. Encourage your child to speak in full sentences to communicate their needs to you, rather than pointing or by you guessing.

**8. To be able to get dressed and undressed for PE.**

This is an important skill to help your child (and the teacher!). Find times before your child begins school to practise this so that you aren't trying to do it when you have 2 minutes to get out the door! You may also consider putting your child who normally wears tights in trousers for PE days.



**9. To open and enjoy a book.**

When the majority of children begin school they will not be able to read books but if they can enjoy a book, know how to hold it and know how to turn the pages this helps with some of the foundations for learning to read.

**10. To be able to put on and take off their coat independently.**

Zips and buttons can be tricky but if the children can put their coat on then this helps their independence and thus their self-confidence when they are choosing to go outside.



*Have fun and we look forward to your child starting school in September!*





# What will September look like for my child?

Our Senior Leadership Team are currently planning for what will happen in September following closely the Government guidance.

You can expect it to look and feel very different but please rest assured our main aim is to make your child feel safe, secure and happy in school.

Information about September will be sent out to all parents next week.

Thank you for  
listening.