

Welcome

We would like to welcome you and your child to St Martins 3-16 Community School. This is a very important step for all children and we aim to make your child's introduction into the Reception class and school life as happy and as smooth as possible.

Our dedicated staff are committed to developing a learning environment which is happy, safe, caring, exciting and full of opportunities.

The information in this booklet is designed to help you understand what happens in Reception, how we intend to help your child develop to their full potential, become an independent individual and how you can help and be involved in the process. We hope you find the information useful and informative.

Our Staff Team



Mrs Newland – Class Teacher



Miss Faulks – Early Years
Lead + Class Teacher



Mr Riley – Class Teacher



Miss Satoor
Reception Class LSA

Partnerships with Parents/Carers

We want to work closely with you. Good communication between parents and staff is vital and this enables us to inform each other of relevant matters concerning your child. We appreciate being informed of any change at home (no matter how small this might be) which might affect your child and will treat anything you tell us in strictest confidence.

The class teacher will be available to chat at drop off and pick up time. You can also request a specific appointment by calling the school if this is more convenient.



The school day in Reception

We will open the gate to the Reception Outdoor Area at 8.50 am and all children need to be at school by 9.00 am. The children enter the classroom through the outside door (inside the fenced area). We encourage your child to put their belongings away for themselves in order to develop independence. Your child will have their own clearly labelled peg our cloakroom area and a tray for keeping their belongings in.

The day ends at 3.25 pm. Please wait in the class outdoor area and we will send your child out to you. Please be patient in the first few weeks as we learn all of your faces. If there is a change to your normal picking up arrangements, then please telephone the school or let us know in the morning.

Lunch time

At lunchtime Reception Class Pupils are the first to the dining room so that the children have time to get their school dinners or start their packed lunches before the older children arrive. We ensure that the children sit together as going to the dining room can be a bit daunting for the them at first.

An example of the lunch menu can be found on our school website - <https://www.stmartins3-16.org/school-information/the-diner/> - primary lunch time menu (at the bottom of the page)

Children are able to have a school dinner prepared in our school kitchen or bring a packed lunch from home. As part of a government initiative all school age children under the age of 7 are entitled to a free school meal, and we hope that all children will take up this offer. However, it is very important that if you think you may be eligible for free school meals that you still apply. This is because school may get extra money known as 'Pupil Premium' which is used to improve the children's education. The school office can advise you in this case or visit the Shropshire council website - <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Snack time

Our school is part of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS). This entitles all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children to a piece of fruit every day. We are also registered with Cool Milk. This means that children under 5 are entitled to a drink of milk every day. Once they have had their 5th you can opt to pay for this provision at <https://www.coolmilk.com/parents/> at a subsidised rate. We ask that all children come to school with water in a bottle every day.



Our Reception Curriculum

The children in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and work towards the seven areas of Learning and Development. It is a very holistic approach to learning and places a strong emphasis on the individual child. It is a continuation of the active learning the children have been involved in at Nursery/Pre-School and culminates in the Foundation Stage Profile which assesses all areas of learning for your child. At the end of the year we will provide you with a written report based around the Foundation Stage Profile.

Play and Exploration is a fundamental within our Reception classes. It means children are able to choose activities where they can engage with other children or adults or sometimes play alone. During these activities the children will learn by first-hand experiences; by actively 'doing' as well as through scaffolding and modelling by adults. We will provide them with sufficient space, both indoors and outdoors, time and choice with a range of activities. There will be a good variety of planned and prepared activities by the teachers, as well as allowing time for the children to initiate their own learning. Activities will be planned through discussion with the children around their current interests, as well as taking into account their learning styles and stages of development. Our environment will enable children to try things out and make sense of relationships, allowing all children to fulfil their potential.

There are 7 areas of the EYFS curriculum

Personal, Social & Emotional Development (self-confidence, managing feelings & behaviour, making relationships)

Communication & Language (listening & attention, understanding, speaking)

Physical Development (moving & handling, health & self-care)

Literacy (reading & writing)

Mathematics (numbers, shape, space & measures)

Understanding the World (people & communities, the world, technology)

Expressive Arts & Design (exploring & using media and materials, being imaginative)

The children will have specific Phonics sessions everyday once they start in Reception. Phonics is the system of teaching the children a letter and the sound that it makes. This eventually allows them to become confident readers and writers. We will hold a phonics workshop/information event in the Autumn term to explain fully what Phonics is and how you can support reading and writing at home.

As a school we follow the Maths Mastery approach to the teaching of Maths. A mastery approach keeps the whole class learning and moving on together, by supporting children who are struggling to keep up with the class and encouraging those who are ready to explore concepts more deeply, rather than moving on to a different topic.

The aim is to equip all children with a deep, secure and adaptable understanding of mathematical concepts.

So, for example, they do not simply memorise the fact that $2 + 3 = 5$, but rather come to understand *how* and *why* that is the case, laying the foundations for being able to apply this understanding to more complex maths later on. We will also hold an information event about how we teach Maths in the Autumn term.



What will your child need?

Uniform

In Reception the children are expected to wear:

- Grey skirt or pinafore
 - Grey shorts or trousers
 - White or Purple polo shirt
 - Purple jumper or cardigan
 - Black school shoes (not trainers)
 - In the Summer, girls may wear a blue gingham dress.
- Jumpers, cardigans and Polo shirts with the school logo can be ordered from RAM Leisure in Wrexham - <http://www.ourschoolwear.co.uk/>

It is useful to have a spare change of clothes sent in with your child. You are welcome to leave these clothes on your child's peg. We engage in activities where the children may get wet or muddy and unfortunately we don't have a huge supply of spare clothes so it does help if they have their own.

PE Kit (in named PE bag)

- Navy or black shorts
- White T- shirt
- Black pumps/trainers

PLEASE WRITE NAMES IN ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING AND OTHER BELONGINGS THAT ARE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL (IT REALLY DOES HELP WHEN SORTING MIXED UP CLOTHES AFTER A PE OR FOREST SCHOOL SESSION)

Forest School

The children will have a forest school session once a week. Once the children have started school in September we will inform you of the dates of when this will start.

- Old clothes (they may get muddy)
- Waterproofs (if you have them)
- Wellies

Other items

- Hats and gloves (in winter)
- Sun hat (in summer)
- Book bag - available to order from RAM Leisure. The children will be able to choose a book to bring home from our class library. They will also be given a reading book and reading diary later in the term.
- Water bottle

We do go out in all weathers so it is essential that your child is dressed appropriately for the day. If they have a pair of wellies that they could leave at school that would be brilliant but please don't feel you have to do this.



Tapestry

We use an online system called Tapestry to record your child's learning and development during their time with us in Reception. This is a useful way to share what your child has been doing in class. We may share observations and photographs of the activities your child has engaged in, milestone moments, things that may make you smile and so on.

We also encourage parents to get involved with Tapestry. You can 'like' posts that have been posted as well as adding photos and observations of things your child does at home.

You will be sent a consent form to fill in which will allow us to set up a Tapestry account in your child's name. Only you and the Reception and Nursery staff will be able to access your child's account. Please be aware that we need permission for your child's image to be shared on other children's observations (this happens when we have taken a group photograph) If you are not happy for this to happen then please let us know.

Attendance

If, for any reason, your child is not going to be in school on a particular day please let us know. This should be a telephone call to the main school office on 01691776500.

Our school office will send out an absence email if your child is not in class and we have not been informed prior to this.

Please be aware that if your child is unwell with sickness and diarrhoea they should be kept off school for at least 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped. This is to avoid spreading it to others in the class.

Emergency Contact

It is really important that we have accurate and up-to-date information for your child. You will be asked to fill out a registration form prior to your child starting school and on this you can indicate up to 3 emergency contacts. This is so we have additional people to contact should we be unable to reach you.

If you change address or contact number, please make sure you give your new details to us as soon as possible.

Medication/Allergies

If your child has any allergies, please can you let us know on the registration form that was sent out in your pack. This is so we can make any necessary adjustments to our practice.

If your child suffers from asthma and is likely to need an inhaler, then we ask that you fill in an asthma form. Please speak to a member of the Reception class team if you require one of these.



If your child has been prescribed medication by a doctor for a period of time and needs to be given it during school hours you will need to fill in a consent form at the school reception. This also applies to over the counter medicines such as Calpol or Piriton.

Staff will administer the medication at the times stated on the form and all medicines will be stored out of reach of the children.

Thank you for choosing St Martins 3-16 School for your child. We want all of our children to be happy and to do as well as they are able. If at any time you are concerned about your child, or unsure about how to support your child's learning please speak to your child's class teacher. The sooner problems are shared the better for all concerned. We look forward to a long and happy partnership with you and your children.

Contact details: julie.faulks@stmartins3-16.org - Activate Phase and Early Years Leader

sam.newland@stmartins3-16.org - Reception Class Teacher

reception@stmartins3-16.org – Admin office contact

“Good teaching, combined with strong pastoral support for both children and families, in the Nursery and Reception classes are getting the youngest children off to a good start. The staff have a good understanding of this phase of education and have built strong working relationships with children and their families. “

***“Good teaching and support in both the Nursery and Reception class helps children reach a good level of development by the time they start Year 1. This lays good foundations for their learning”
OFSTED May 2019***

