



St Anne's Catholic Primary School
Christ at the heart of all we do

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3

Welcome to Reception Class!

What an exciting and busy week we have had! The newest members of our school have settled so well, it is hard to believe this is week one of the new school year. The new learning environment has been explored with enthusiasm and confidence – I predict a fun filled year of learning and fun.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

It is our statutory duty to complete Baseline Assessments within the first six weeks of the new school year. We plan to spend the first couple of weeks getting to know your children and finding out about their interests and abilities before starting the assessments. The assessments are short activities, and the children are not made aware that they are being assessed. Results are recorded digitally via the DfE; I have attached an information leaflet for further information. Results are also used, along with other information gathered over the first few weeks, to help plan for next steps. I will share this information with you during a 10 minute meeting. These meetings will take place on Thursday 16th October. You will receive further information about how to book appointments soon.

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Continuous assessment strategies are used by all members of the Reception Class team to ensure teaching and learning is always relevant and suitably challenging.

Snap-shot [summative] assessments are made three times a year in December, March and June. These assessments are used to monitor progress and attainment and to highlight any possible need for additional support. These assessments will be shared with you; should the need for discussion regarding progress and attainment be identified between these dates, I will always facilitate additional sharing of information with you.

OUR LEARNING

Learning for the year is mapped out on our long-term plan; this can be viewed on our class page on the school website. Progression through small steps of learning is planned for with great care and is reflected within the plan. However, we are committed to making learning opportunities relevant and engaging for the children and will, when interest levels demand, adapt the plan to follow the children's interests. All changes are carefully considered and implemented to ensure all areas of the statutory curriculum are delivered.

RE

During this half term, we will be celebrating God's wonderful world; we will discover how God made the world and learn about what we can do look after our world.

MATHS

In Maths, we will focus on pre-number skills before working with numbers to 3. We will develop skills of pattern building and shape recognition before developing subitising skills and exploring composition of numbers to 3.

Homework tasks will be set via Mathshed, this online maths learning platform that we use in school to support learning at home. I will set up an account for your child week beginning 22nd September and login details will be sent via your child's Reading Diary.

READING/PHONICS

Daily phonic sessions support the early reading and writing journey. Once initial assessments have been completed, your child's Reading Diary will be sent home along with books to share. Initially, picture books without words are used before children progress onto reading books that match phonic ability.

You are invited to a Reading Workshop, in school, on Thursday 25th September at 5.30pm. We will share with you St Anne's approach to reading and phonics and outline how you can support your child through this exciting learning journey.

P.E

Mrs Mooney delivers our weekly PE sessions each Friday; **we ask that the children come to school wearing their PE kit.** Our first session will take place on Friday 18th September.

FOREST SCHOOL

We enjoy being outside and will often utilise our school grounds to support our learning – as well as during our OPAL play sessions at lunchtimes. We request that every child has a pair of wellies in school at all times; these are stored in our class welly shed – if you have not yet done so, could you please send a pair of wellies into school as soon as possible.

Our forest school sessions will take place each Tuesday – starting 23rd September. **Please send your child into school in clothing suitable for learning in the forest** – long trousers/leggings and long sleeve tops are needed to protect against scratches from the shrubbery. Warm / waterproof clothing is also necessary based on weather conditions.

A GENTLE REMINDER! To help us to help you, please ensure that all clothes and belongings are clearly labelled. We do all that we can to ensure that lost property is kept to a minimum; this is easier when items are clearly labelled.

HOME-SCHOOL LINKS

Our aim is to provide the best possible provision for all children, working to achieve best outcomes for all. To this end, we recognise the importance of strong links between home and school. This year, we will utilise Classdojo, a web-based means of communication; this will enable you to view snippets of your child's time in Reception Class through individual and group postings. Further information is attached and consent forms will be sent separately; please return them promptly so that we can start sharing life in Reception Class with you.

The class email [Reception20@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk] remains the best form of digital communication; the chat functions within Dojo will not be monitored.

SNACKS

All children in Reception and Key Stage One are entitled to a daily free school meal. If you decide to send your child into school with a packed lunch, please let us know so that we do not order unwanted food. An afternoon snack of fruit is also provided each day; afternoon snack is strictly fruit only, we do not allow the children to eat snacks from home at this point.

We request that you provide a small morning snack for your child; this can be sent in from home or, purchased from Mrs Burd via the 'schoolmoney' app. Given that we have morning snack at around 10am with lunch at 11.45am, we ask that the morning snack is one small, healthy one.

Children's water bottles are stored in their lockers and the children are encouraged to access them as much as they wish. Please ensure that bottles are sent in fresh each day.

COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

If you wish to provide consent for additional adults to collect your child, it is vital that you complete our permission form. This provides us with consent to allow your child to leave with your nominated person/people. If your nominated person is not known to us, please also provide us with a password.

For one off/irregular arrangements, just let me know what is planned in advance and I will record the arrangements. Again, a password may be needed.

Please ensure that we have all the necessary information to make pick-up a smooth transition. To maintain the highest standards of safeguarding, we will always work to gain clear consent; this often takes time which can lead to upset children.

We recognise that starting school is an exciting time which brings lots of new routines. All that we do is in the best interest of your children and we are here to support you throughout. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

We look forward to the year ahead,

Mrs Kelly.

Reception20@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk