

3rd September 2025

Welcome To Reception!

Dear Parents,

You are all very welcome to Reception! It is wonderful to welcome back those of you who are already parents here in our school, and it is a pleasure to welcome all our new families too.

Please find below key information which we hope you will find useful.

School Day

8.45am - 3.20pm

(***Please note: This is different to the rest of the school which is
 8:55am - 3:30pm***)

In the mornings, you are warmly invited to come into the Reception cloakrooms located outside the Reception classrooms. We encourage the children to put their coat and bag on their peg and get their water bottle ready to put in the designated water bottle trays, before saying goodbye to you at their classroom door. We would really appreciate your support with this morning routine to ensure a calm, positive start to the day, and to promote independence when your child is entering the classroom. In the afternoons, please wait outside the external door leading to your child's cloakroom and we will send your child to you.

Reception Staff

Reception Oak Teacher	Miss Ging
Reception Oak Teaching Assistant	Miss Meeley
Reception Ash Teachers	Mrs Lucas (On Fridays, Mrs Byrne will cover the class in the morning and Mr Lucas will cover the class in the afternoon.)
Reception Ash Teaching Assistant	Miss Mannion



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Learning

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception) we have seven areas of learning and we also teach Religious Education as part of our curriculum as a Catholic school. Each half term, we study a different topic. Our current topic is 'Getting To Know You', as well as the current season, Autumn.

Your child will be taught through a mixture of teacher-led and child-led learning.

The seven areas of learning are:

- communication and language;
- physical development;
- personal, social and emotional development;
- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world;
- expressive arts and design.

If you would like more information about this, please see the link below:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007446/6.7534_DfE_Development_Matters_Report_and_illustrations_web_2.pdf

Term	Topic	EY2P Book
Autumn 1	Getting To Know You! (All About Me)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Friendship Bench • Here We Are
Autumn 2	Dark Days, Cosy Nights! (Homes & Celebrations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mouse House • The Jolly Christmas Postman
Spring 1	Deep Down In The Ocean! (Under the Sea - Links to recycling - Laudato Si')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Storm Whale In Winter • Fantastic Fish

Spring 2	Up Up and Away! (Space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys In Space
Summer 1	Our Wonderful World! (Minibeasts/The Farm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher's Caterpillars • Things With Wings
Summer 2	Escape Into The Fantasy Land! (Dinosaurs/Dragons and Knights)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How To Grow A Dinosaur • There's No Dragon In This Story

(Please note, some of the books we use for our planning may change.)

Sport and Music

Every week, your child will receive a sports session with our very experienced sports coach, Mr Lucas. Also, your child will receive a music session with our very experienced music teacher, Mr Morris ('Sam The Music Man!').

Communication

St. John's is a fun, busy school and we always have lots of important information to share with you! The office staff will help you to set up your online 'SchoolsBuddy' account, so that you can access all relevant correspondence from school. 'SchoolsBuddy' is our main online platform for communication. To stay updated on what is happening across the school - including Collective Worship, lessons and activities - be sure to check Mrs O'Donoghue's weekly newsletter and you can also follow us on Instagram.

Snacks & Milk

Your child will receive a healthy snack each day. If your child does not like the snack provided, you are more than welcome to send in a piece of fruit. If your child is attending an Enrichment Club after school, you might want to send a snack in with them for this time. However, if you book your child into an Aftercare session, they will automatically be provided with a snack. If you would like your child to receive milk during our morning snack time, please contact the school office to arrange this.



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School Dinners

If you would like your child to receive a school dinner, please contact the school office to arrange this. You will be given information of how to set up your online 'School Grid' account which will allow you to order school dinners for your child from the menu.

Physical Education

WEDNESDAYS: Dance

THURSDAYS: Fundamental Movement Skills

This will start from Wednesday 17th September. Please send your child to school dressed in their school P.E. kit on **Wednesdays and Thursdays** and they will wear their kit all day. Please do not worry if they do not have a school P.E. kit yet, your child can wear their uniform until next half-term. The school P.E. kit consists of a navy St. John's t-shirt, navy shorts (or navy jogging bottoms) and trainers.

Spare Clothes

Please ensure that your child has a set of spare uniform in their school bag. This is in case they have an accident. (If you have any unwanted uniform/socks/tights/knickers/underpants, we are always appreciative of any spares, if you would like to donate them!)

Tapestry

We use an online learning journal called 'Tapestry' to record the children's learning observations. If your child is new to St. John's, you will receive a link via email soon. When you receive this link, please activate your child's Tapestry profile. If your child attended St. John's Nursery, you do not need to do anything, as your Tapestry account will remain the same. In line with Reception guidance in recent years, we will not be uploading as many Tapestry learning observations as we used to in previous years.

Reading Books

In the next few weeks, we will be sending home a reading book with your child. Please ensure that you bring your child's reading book bag into school every TUESDAY (we will provide more detailed information about Reading Books when we send the books home).



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We advise you to support your child to read their book for 10 minutes every day. Although, we do understand that you all have busy home lives, so this is just a guideline.

Mass

At St. John's Church there is a Mass at 6pm on a Saturday evening and at 9am and 12noon on a Sunday - everyone is very welcome!

P.T.A. (Parent & Teacher Association)

Our P.T.A. is a warm and welcoming group and we would love for you to get involved! Please look out for further details about upcoming P.T.A. meetings and events in Mrs O'Donoghue's weekly newsletter.

Water Bottles

Your child will need a water bottle each day labelled with their name. It can go home each night to be washed and refilled.

Coats

Your child will need to bring a coat to school every day, even if it is sunny in the morning. Please label all clothing.

Wellies

Please send in a pair of wellies in a separate bag for your child to permanently keep on their peg in school for when the weather is rainy. Please make sure they are clearly labelled with your child's name. We would be most grateful if you could send your child's wellies into school by Monday 29th September, if possible.

Early Years Fund

We would appreciate a weekly contribution of £1 towards our Early Years Fund which is used for play dough, cooking ingredients etc. This can be paid for the whole year, termly or weekly. Please put the cash in an envelope with your child's name on and hand it in to your child's teacher. Alternatively, you can contribute via 'SchoolsBuddy'.



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Golden T-shirt

On Thursdays, the children will have a celebration 'Golden Assembly' (**Please note: This is different to the rest of the school, which takes place on Fridays.***) During this assembly, a golden t-shirt is awarded to two children from each class. This may be for outstanding behaviour, effort, work, manners, kindness etc. The children can wear the t-shirt for a week and bring it back freshly washed on the following Thursday.

Class Dojos

As part of our 'Golden Assembly' on Thursdays, we will celebrate who has been awarded the most 'Class Dojos' in each class during the week. Teaching staff award Class Dojo points for good behaviour, playing fairly, putting lots of effort into work, showing kindness to others, obeying school rules... and lots more!

Show and Tell

On a Friday, we will do 'Show and Tell'. This is an optional activity. The children can bring something into school and tell the class about it. For example, a train ticket, a photo, a leaflet, a picture they have drawn, or something they have made, to show their class.

Morning Care/Aftercare & Enrichment Clubs

Please contact the office if you would like any more information about Morning Care/Aftercare, or Enrichment Club sessions.

Lost Property

Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name - this makes it much easier for us to return lost items. Lost property will be available to collect every Friday from 3:15-3:35pm at the DT room door. Please enter via the Cow Gate and a member of staff will direct you.

Birthdays

We kindly ask that sweets, chocolates, or cakes, are not brought into school for birthdays. Instead, we love it when children bring a book to share with the class and donate it to the class library, as this is a lovely way to celebrate together!

Trips

We have booked two trips for the children this year! (Further details will be provided nearer the time.)

- Friday 6th February 2026 - Blue Planet Aquarium Trip
- Friday 8th May 2026 - Smithills Farm Trip

Christmas Nativity Performance

This will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 9:30am in the Key Stage One Hall.

Class Topic Assemblies

These will take place on the following dates at 9:30am in the Key Stage One Hall, based on our topic, 'Deep Down In The Ocean!':

- Reception Ash (Mrs Lucas's Class): Tuesday 10th February 2026
- Reception Oak (Miss Ging's Class): Wednesday 11th February 2026

Parents' Evenings

These will take place on the following dates from 3:30pm - 7:00pm:

- Wednesday 22nd October 2025
- Wednesday 29th April 2026

If you have any queries about any of the above information, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff at morning drop-off, or afternoon pick-up. Alternatively, if you would like to send us an email, please send it to info@stjohnsrc.net and put the teacher's name (Miss Ging or Mrs Lucas) in the subject box. We are always happy to help!

We are very much looking forward to a fantastic year with your little superstars!

Many thanks,

The Reception Team