



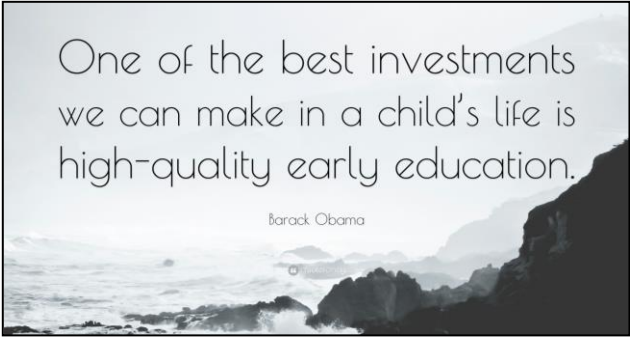
# Welcome to Reception!



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted that you and your child have joined our school and it gives us great pleasure to welcome you to our family community at St. Joseph's.

To ensure this is an enjoyable and positive year, we have compiled this guide to inform you of the curriculum and themes we will be covering, homework requirements and other important organisational information relating to Reception. We are looking forward to working with you and your child; together, we can make a real difference and give your child the best start to their education, preparing them for the rest of their school life, as well as for their future learning and successes.



One of the best investments  
we can make in a child's life is  
high-quality early education.

Barack Obama

## Curriculum and Themes

Throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage we strive to ensure each child has daily opportunities to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments that encourage their engagement and recognise their individual strengths. We aim to provide learning experiences which are active, exciting and fun, and which support and enhance their development and well-being.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Three areas are particularly important in building a foundation for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving. These are the **prime areas**:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow and develop, they will be supported in four **specific areas**, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

To ensure the children are engaged in and excited by the curriculum, their learning will be centred around a number of different themes over the course of the year. Our first theme is called 'Marvellous Me' and will focus on the children investigating and celebrating what makes them and their families special and unique.

As part of this we will work hard at:

- \* becoming kind, caring, confident and independent members of our new class
- \* making new friends and learning to cooperate, share and take turns
- \* following the rules and routines of our classrooms

It would be lovely if you could email us a family photograph and a photograph of your child as a baby to use during this theme.

## Reading Books

Teaching and encouraging reading from a young age is so important in helping children succeed not only in school but in later life. We want our children to read books of their choice for pleasure and develop a positive attitude towards reading. Regular reading of a range of quality books is the key to building enjoyment, fluency, comprehension and confidence and can foster a lifelong love of reading.

Once initial baseline assessments have been completed, the children will begin their phonics learning in school and will then receive reading books to share at home. Further guidance and information will be sent out about this in the next few weeks.

## PE

Each week, the children will complete an indoor PE lesson to support their daily outdoor physical activity. This will take place on a Wednesday morning. Please ensure your child attends school in their PE kit and trainers each Wednesday.

In addition to curriculum PE lessons, the children will use the running track on a daily basis as well as the facilities in our outdoor areas. It is useful for the children in Reception to keep a pair of wellies in school to use in the outdoor area or on the field on wet/snowy days.

## Uniform

The children are all looking very smart in their new school uniforms. However, we have noticed that quite a few jumpers, cardigans, ties and coats do not have the children's name inside. Could we please ask that all items of uniform are named to avoid them getting lost.

## School Planners

Over the next few weeks, each child will receive a planner which will act as a home reading record; a diary of dates and other important events; a communication book for home and school and will also contain key information for parents and children about homework, school routines etc. We are very keen that the

children get into good habits with their planners right from the start and with this in mind, we are asking parents to ensure that they come into school every day in book bags.

In KS1 and Reception, reading books are changed twice each week on a Monday and Thursday but we ask parents to sign and comment each day on the children's reading at home in their planner. Let us know how the children have read, whether they enjoyed their book and any specific observations you made. Staff will sign daily against each parental comment.

The journals are also a great way for parents to share other information with us and likewise for school to send messages home.

### Celebrating Success and Achievements

We always love to hear about any achievements the children have outside of school so if your child learns a new skill, receives an award at a club or does something they are particularly proud of, please let us know. Any certificates, medals or trophies can be brought into school and shared in our whole school Celebration Assembly on a Friday afternoon.

During this assembly, there will also be certificates awarded for effort and achievements in a range of curriculum areas and for living out our school values. Photographs of the weekly certificate winners will be shared on our Twitter page.

### Keeping in Touch

The children have already made a wonderful start to the year and seem to be settling quickly into their new classroom and routine. If you do ever have any problems, queries or concerns about any aspect of your child's wellbeing, learning or homework, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the gate or contact us by emailing [cyfs@st-josephs-anderton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:cyfs@st-josephs-anderton.lancs.sch.uk)

We will also make regular Twitter posts to provide you with an insight into our daily life in Reception and the fun we have. Please follow us and like our posts on <https://twitter.com/EYFSwithMissS> to keep up to date with all our learning, achievements and adventures.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance this year,  
Miss Singleton, Mrs Trott and Mrs Entwistle

We promise to ...  
Let them be little  
Fill their hearts with laughter  
Help them to grow their wings  
Nurture their sense of awe and wonder  
Inspire them to believe  
Teach them to be kind  
Care for them like they are our own!

