

Reception handbook for parents and carers.



St Ann's CE Primary School

Welcome to St Ann's CE Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you and your child to St Ann's CE Primary School.

Starting school is a very special milestone for both children and their families, and we are delighted that you have chosen St Ann's to begin this important journey. We are proud to be a caring and inclusive school, rooted in strong values, where every child is encouraged to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

At St Ann's, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and inspiring environment where children develop confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning. Our dedicated staff work hard to ensure that each child feels valued and supported as they settle into school life and begin to build new friendships.

We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is key to every child's success. We look forward to working closely with you and keeping you involved in your child's learning and development throughout their time with us.

If you have any questions or need support as your child starts school, please do not hesitate to contact us—we are always happy to help.

We are excited to welcome you into our school community and look forward to the wonderful experiences ahead.

Warm regards,

Mrs Keen- Headteacher



Our School Values



Respect

Peace

Perseverance

**Forgiveness &
Reconciliation**

Hope

Honesty and Trust

St. Ann's - where everyone matters.

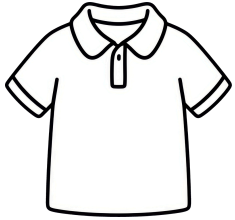
"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11

Uniform

Our school uniform helps children feel a sense of belonging and pride in being part of our school community, while also promoting equality, reducing distractions, and ensuring that all children are dressed comfortably and appropriately for learning.

Uniform with the school logo can be purchased via touchline.

<https://www.touchline-embroidery.com/shop-by-school-st-anns-ce-primary-school-warrington>



Trousers must be **grey** or **black**.

Polo shirts must be **white** or **light blue**.



Sweatshirts and cardigans must be **royal blue**.

School shoes that can be fastened independently.

PE kit is worn on designated PE days. PE kit should be **black shorts, white or blue t-shirt and black pumps**. In colder weather, black jogging bottoms may be worn.

Jewellery should not be worn to school. If your child has pierced ears, stud earrings may be worn but should be removed on PE days.

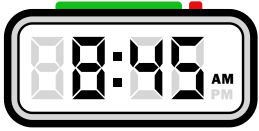


Important reminder- ensure that all clothing articles are clearly labelled with your child's name. School does not take responsibility for lost or missing items.



School information

You should drop your child off on the KS1 playground between **8:45-8:55pm** and collect them at 3:20pm.



All children independently enter Reception through their classroom door, greeted by the class teacher. They will learn to find their name peg and hang up their belongings.



At home time, children can be collected from the KS1 playground. Please ensure that you stand near the Reception classroom door so your child can easily locate you on the playground.

If someone different is collecting your child, please inform school prior to the end of the day. If staff have not met this person before, you will be asked to provide a password which is shared with the class teacher. The person collecting your child will need to provide the password to teacher.

If you wish to speak with the class teacher at the end of the day, please wait until all children have been safely dismissed, as this helps ensure the safety and smooth collection of all pupils.

School lunches

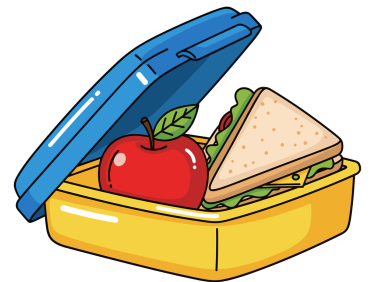
All Reception children are entitled to a free school meal. School meals are provided by our school cooks and menus can be found on our school website. Children make their lunch selection as they enter school each morning.

Children may wish to bring a packed lunch if they do not want a school meal. Packed lunches should include healthy choices. **Please note that we are a nut free school.** For support with healthy lunchboxes please refer to the NHS healthier families website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Healthy eating and lifestyles is taught as part of the EYFS curriculum and children are encouraged to make healthy choices. For more guidance around nutrition, please refer to the DfE Nutrition guidance.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6839b752210698b3364e86fc/Early_years_foundation_stage_nutrition_guidance.pdf



Reception have their lunch in the school hall from 11:30 until 12:00pm. The children play outside from 12:00pm until 12:20pm.

Behaviour

St Ann's manages behaviour through a clear and consistent system that helps pupils understand expectations and take responsibility for their actions. Our "**Golden Rules**" set out simple, positive expectations. These rules are reinforced through the school's behaviour policy, which explains how behaviour is encouraged, rewarded, and managed fairly across all classes. **Class Dojo** is used as a digital reward system where pupils can earn points for good behaviour, effort, and positive attitudes. The two top point scorers at the end of the week are announced as **class captains** for the following week.



Golden rules

Listen

Follow instructions first time.

Show respect.

Try your best all the time.



Our "cloud system" helps us to manage behaviour during the day. All children start on a sunshine. If a child makes the wrong choice, they may be moved down to a white cloud as a warning and a chance to improve their behaviour. This helps children understand what they need to change and gives them the opportunity to get back on track. If misbehaviour continues, a child may be placed on a grey and then black cloud. A black cloud is a more serious step, and parents will be informed so that school and home can work together to support the child in improving their behaviour.

Stickers are also used to celebrate children's achievements, positive behaviour, kindness, perseverance, and effort throughout the school day.

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The EYFS is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of their reception year at school. It focuses on helping children develop key skills through play. The EYFS supports children's development in areas such as communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development and expressive art and design as well as early reading and maths.



Children in Reception work towards achieving the **Early Learning Goals** by the end of the year, which show the expected level of development before moving into Year 1.

Our aim is to provide a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where every child can learn, grow, and build a strong foundation for future learning.

Early Learning Goals can be found on page 11 of the EYFS Statutory Framework.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68c024cb8c6d992f23edd79c/Early_years_foundation_stage_statutory_framework_-_for_group_and_school-based_providers.pdf.pdf



Specific Areas

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Art and Design



Prime Areas

Communication & Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social & Emotional Development

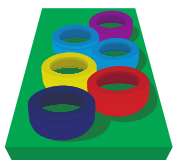




Continuous provision



In Reception, continuous provision is the learning environment and activities that are available for children to access independently throughout the day. Children learn through a balance of child-initiated play and adult-led activities, both indoors and outdoors. Areas such as construction, role play, creative activities, reading, maths and small world play are carefully planned and adapted to reflect the children's current interests, helping to ensure learning is an engaging, meaningful and inspiring way for every.



Outdoor learning is a very important part of our curriculum and takes place in all weather conditions. Being outdoors supports children's physical development, confidence, creativity and wellbeing, while also giving them opportunities to explore the natural world through hands-on experiences.



To support this, we ask that all children have a **pair of wellies** and **waterproof clothing or a rain suit** that can remain in school so they are able to fully access outdoor learning throughout the year. We also encourage children to come to school dressed appropriately for the weather each day.



Once a week, children also take part in Forest School sessions, where they explore our outdoor environment, develop teamwork and resilience, and learn through nature-based activities and exploration.

A typical day in Reception

This is a typical day in Reception; however, timetables are flexible and responsive to the needs, interests, and stage of development of the children, and they are adapted and refined throughout the year to ensure the best possible learning experiences.

Morning

8:45-8:55	Children enter Reception class.
8:55-9:10	Continuous provision activities
9:10-9:40	Phonics
9:40-10:10	Reading practice
10:10-10:15	Snack
10:15-11:15	Continuous provision
11:15-11:30	English
11:30-12:20	Lunch

Afternoon

12:20	Toothbrushing
12:25-12:45	Maths
12:45-2:20	Continuous provision
2:20-2:40	Topic
2:45	Snack
3:00	Story time
3:10	Songs
3:20	Home time

Carpet inputs such as phonics, english, maths and topic are short, focused and interactive, designed to engage children, introduce key learning in a clear way, and encourage active participation.

Snack in Reception

In Reception, children have two daily snack times.

In the morning, children enjoy a piece of fruit alongside water, which is taken as part of a circle time to support communication and language development through shared conversation and interaction.

In the afternoon, children have a carefully planned snack in line with DfE nutrition guidance, which promotes healthy eating while also supporting personal, social and emotional development (PSED) as well as communication and language skills through social interaction.

Example weekly snack plan	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Monday	Apple slices	rice cakes
Tuesday	Banana	breadsticks and hummus
Wednesday	Pear slices	yogurt
Thursday	Carrot batons	cereal
Friday	Tomatoes	pitta breads

A weekly snack fee of £2 per week should be paid via ParentPay.

Home learning

Home learning in Reception is designed to support and reinforce the learning that takes place in school. We ask that children read at home **at least four times per week**, and that this is **recorded in their reading records** so we can celebrate progress together. We will also regularly send home simple activities linked to current learning, such as practising letter formation or using tricky word flashcards to support early reading and writing skills.



In addition, home learning challenges will be sent out on a rolling basis, alternating between different areas of the EYFS curriculum to help develop a broad range of skills across all areas of learning.

Reading books and home learning activities are sent home every **Friday** and should be returned to school the following **Wednesday**.



We love hearing about what the children get up to outside of school, so parents are very welcome to email the school office with photos or updates for us to share with the class.



Parent partnerships

We value strong parent partnerships and offer a range of opportunities throughout the year to involve families in their child's learning.

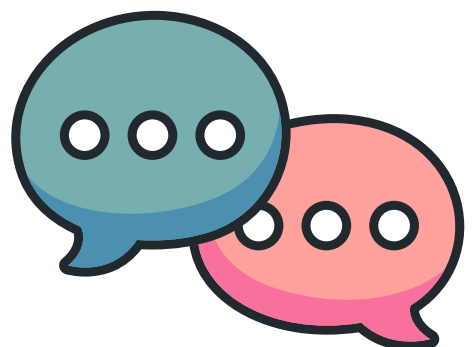
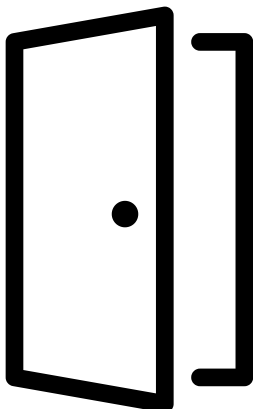
These include Stay and Play sessions, parent information meetings, and opportunities to observe phonics lessons in action.

We also hold special themed events across the year to celebrate learning together.

To support communication and language at home, we use "Ask Me About" stickers to encourage children to share their experiences beyond the classroom.

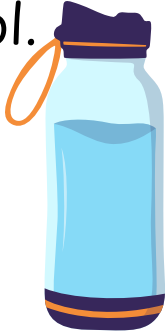
In addition, parents' evenings provide a chance to discuss progress and look through children's learning journeys, celebrating their achievements and next steps.

We operate an open-door policy and warmly welcome parents to make an appointment with the class teacher at any time to discuss their child's development, progress, or any questions or concerns they may have.



What your child needs to bring to school

- Clear bottle filled with water for them to access throughout the day.
- Book bag for things that may wish to bring home.
- Warm coat in winter.
- rain suit/waterproofs and wellies to leave in school.
- Sunhat in warmer weather.



We aim to keep the items children need to bring into school to a minimum and kindly ask that toys and other personal items from home are not brought in, to help avoid distractions, support a calm and focused learning environment, and reduce the risk of items being lost or going missing.

We ask that all items, including clothing, bags, and water bottles, are clearly labelled with your child's name to help prevent items from being lost or misplaced.

Reception class notices

- Children come to school in their PE kit on their designated PE day. (You will be informed which day this is in September)
- Children come to school in a black tracksuit on their forest school day. (You will be informed which day this is in September)
- Water bottles are accessed throughout the day and must only contain water. 
- Waterproofs and wellies should be left at school to access when needed. 
- Book bags with signed reading records and completed home learning challenges must be returned on Wednesday. 
- New reading books and home learning challenges will be sent home on a Friday.
- The class teacher will be out of class for 1 afternoon per week for planning time. Another member of staff will take the class during this time. 

Ready to learn

School readiness in Reception is about helping children develop the key skills they need to feel confident, independent, and ready to learn as they begin school life. The Department for Education's new guidance highlights that school readiness is not about academic ability alone, but about everyday skills such as communication, independence, managing routines, and building positive relationships.

There are lots of simple ways families can support this at home, including encouraging children to **dress themselves, use the toilet independently, share books, listen to stories, and follow simple instructions.**



At school, we work closely with families and other early years settings to ensure a smooth transition into Reception, so that children feel settled, secure, and ready to learn from their very first day.

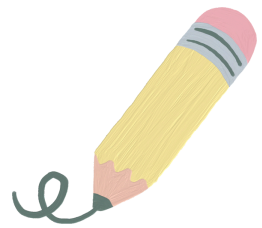
For further support with school readiness please visit :

https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/preparing-for-school/?gclsrc=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23777357255&gbraid=OAAAAAowZrsngAvnDrIQP8yYwxtOWHZX4n&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI-o2L-renlAMV54lQBhOX3jhkEAAYASAAEgLWI_D_BwE

For further support with toilet training please visit : <https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>

Useful websites

We understand that your child starting Reception is a huge milestone for both children and families, and it is completely normal to feel excited, nervous, or even a little overwhelmed. Starting school brings many new experiences and routines, and every child settles in differently and at their own pace. The websites below may offer helpful advice, reassurance, and practical support throughout the summer as you prepare for your child to join our school community in September.



<https://startingreception.co.uk>

https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/?gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23468622928&gbraid=OAAAAAowZrsnzGeOebcd-nt-G-nH4_ZTeT&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIzY3pze_CIAMVloBQBh3zmiu9EAAAYASAAEgKMO_D_BwE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>



Contact details

Please remember that our school staff are always here to help and support you. If you have any questions, concerns, or would simply like some advice or reassurance, you are very welcome to contact the school at any time. We value working closely with families and are happy to provide further support whenever needed.

School address: St Anns CE Primary School, Lathom Avenue, Orford, Warrington, WA2 8AL.

School email: office@wstanns.co.uk

School phone number: 01925 632210

For more information about our school please visit our school website: <https://stanns-warrington.secure-dbprimary.com/warrington/primary/stanns>

St Ann's CE Primary School

Safeguarding Team

We are here to help.



Mrs Keen
DSL



Mrs Grumbley
Deputy DSL



Miss Hunt



Mrs Ridgway



Mrs Swift-Bate

If you have any safeguarding issues or concerns,
please ask to speak to a member of the team above.