



Welcome Pack and Useful Information for starting school

September 2022



Thank you for choosing our school for your child. I am very much looking forward to getting to know them in the coming months. Please contact the school as soon as possible if you did not attend the recent parents meeting.

This booklet has been produced in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take time to read through the information. If you have any questions or queries whatsoever then please email me at philippa.crosby@sthelens.org.uk

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 18th May- Open evening for new parents to come and see our classrooms and school 4.00-6.30pm

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Introductions



My name is Mrs Crosby and I will be your child's class teacher for their first year at school. I have been a teacher for 14 years and have taught both Key Stage 1&2 in addition to being in EYFS for the last 4 years. I have several roles within our school including EYFS lead, RE lead and Operational Safeguarding.

I am also a mum to two gorgeous children who like to keep me extra busy! I love anything sparkly or Disney and my favourite thing to do is to read lots of children's stories.



My name is Mrs Carr and I will be a teaching assistant in Reception.

I have 3 children and a new puppy called Ted. I love going on walks with Ted, eating cookie dough ice cream and going for bike rides.

Our School Uniform

Items of school uniform printed with the school logo are available to purchase from our suppliers, Whittakers, 38 Bridge Street, St Helens. Details of our uniform are as follows:

Girls:

Grey pinafore dress, skirt or trousers
White polo shirt
Red school cardigan or school sweatshirt
Red or grey tights or white socks
Flat black school shoes(No trainers or boots)

Boys:

Grey trousers or shorts
White polo shirt
Red school sweatshirt
Dark coloured socks (no patterns)
Black school shoes(No trainers or boots)

For summer wear:-

Red and white gingham dress

P.E Uniform:

This consists of a red and white t-shirt (please ask for the 'new style' t-shirt at Whittakers), black shorts, black school pumps and black or grey tracksuit bottoms for both girls and boys. This should be brought in at the start of term and will come home with the children at the end of each term. Children will spend some time outside every day, so they will need adequate clothing and footwear. Items can be placed in a drawstring bag and will remain your child's peg. School PE bags are available to purchase from the school office, but I would advise letting your child choose their own drawstring bag for their PE kit so that they can easily identify it. **PLEASE MARK EVERYTHING WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

Reading Folders:

Children who are new to Reception will be given a reading folder from the PTFA. You **do not** need to purchase a reading folder from Whittakers.

Spare clothing:

Your child will require a set of spare clothing to leave in school. An essential part of learning in the EYFS is based around discovery and your child will get wet or dirty on occasions. Please provide at least one clean set of spare underwear, socks/tights, t-shirt and trousers that your child can be changed into. These do not need to be school uniform.

Wellington Boots:

We aim to be outdoors as much as possible in all weathers. Please provide a pair of wellies clearly marked with your child's name to be kept in school.

Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum using the Development Matters Document.

The EYFS is split into two areas called 'The Prime Areas' and 'The Specific Areas'. The Prime Areas consist of 3 areas of learning and the Specific Areas consist of 4 areas of learning:

Prime Areas	Specific Areas
Communication and language	Literacy
Physical Development	Mathematics
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

In September 2022, the Reception children will be assessed 'On Entry' so that we can ascertain what your child can already do and to formulate their next steps for learning. Learning within the Foundation Stage is tailored to your child's individual needs and requirements. The children will be part of the first official Reception Baseline Assessment. Our own assessments will allow us to get to know how best to support your child. Within the first weeks of school, lots of child-initiated play with adults supporting the play will take place. This is how we will learn what your child likes to do the most, learn about your child's likes and dislikes and begin to build relationships. Your child will be assigned a key worker within the first two weeks of starting school, who will work with your child individually to achieve their 'Next Steps'.

Assessment is an ongoing process in EYFS and sometimes children will work in small groups together to achieve the same outcome and at other times individual work is required. This is the same for every child.

Phonics

We complete a phonics session every day using the Read Write Inc synthetic phonics scheme. This will teach your child how to recognise letters, say the sound correctly and also the letter formation in readiness for writing. I will be running a parent workshop for phonics

and early reading in the first couple of weeks of school and I would strongly encourage as many of you to attend as possible.

Literacy and Maths

A daily Literacy and Numeracy whole class input takes place also. All Literacy teaching is focussed around quality texts and works on a topic related link. Whole class teaching takes place daily in addition to small group work and individual work. Maths teaching is focussed around practical games, activities and tasks also.

R.E

As a Catholic school, we dedicate 10% of our weekly timetable to the teaching and learning of R.E. We follow the Come and See R.E scheme as recommended by Liverpool Archdiocese. In addition to this, children will take part in Collective Worship and daily prayer also.

Hours of the School Day

School begins: 8.45am

Children will come into school via the door at the rear of the school building from the Infant playground. They will be welcomed into school each morning by a member of the Reception team.

School ends: 3.15pm

Children are collected from the infant playground at the rear of the school building. The children will be let out from school one child at a time.

Please allow for some extra time at home time in the early days as I learn lots of new faces.
Thank you

Breakfast Club

We operate before school childcare provision run by our own school staff. Below you will find more information.

Breakfast Club

Every morning 7.50am-8.45am. Costs £3 per day.

After School Club

We have an after school club, which is operated by an external agency (KAB's) and is available each evening until 5.45pm. This is £6 per session

Please use the school app to book your child in to any of the clubs available

Holiday Dates



St Helens Council CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2022/2023

Name of School: St John Vianney Catholic Primary

The following dates were determined by the Governing Body at their meeting held on 9th December 2021

**These should be the same as the dates in the standardised school year pattern unless you intend to take an in-service training day at the start or end of a term.*

Term	*Open On:	*Close On:
<u>Autumn term 2022</u>	Monday 5 th September 2022	Friday 21 st October 2022
	Tuesday 1 st November 2022	Wednesday 21 st December 2022
<u>Spring term 2023</u>	Wednesday 4 th January 2023	Friday 10 th February 2023
	Monday 20 th February 2023	Friday 31 st March 2023
<u>Summer term 2023</u>	Tuesday 18 th April 2023	Friday 26 th May 2023
	Monday 5 th June 2023	Tuesday 18 th July 2023

Easter Bank Holidays:

Good Friday: 7 April 2023

Easter Monday: 10 April 2023

Bank Holidays during term time:

May Day: Monday 1 May 2023

Please list ALL CPD Days

Thursday 1st September 2022

Monday 17th April

Friday 2nd September 2022

Wednesday 19th July

Monday 31st October 2022

Signed: _____

Date: _____

School Meals and lunches

Children in Reception are entitled to free school meals as part of the universal free school meal subsidy for all children. Each day the children have a choice of a hot meal, a vegetarian option and also a sandwich option. They have access to additional carbohydrates such as pasta, rice and bread and also fresh fruit and veg aswell on the trolley in the hall at lunch time. Menus can be found on the school website or council website. If you wish for a scanned copy to be sent to you then please let me know. Please note that if you are entitled to certain benefits, your child is eligible for a free school meal. Despite the fact that all children are entitled to free school meals in EYFS and Key Stage One, benefit related free meals need to be applied for through the St Helens Council website.

Alternatively, you may wish for your child to have a packed lunch from home.

All children eat together in the hall and if your child changes their mind or wishes to try something different then our school cook is very accommodating and understands that this is something new for the children in the early days.

Snack

Your child will be provided with a snack each day in Reception. Our snack area is a 'rolling snack' area where the children are taught to come and help themselves to their snack when they are ready. Snack time operates between 10.00 am and 11.15am. The children are encouraged to self-register at the snack table when they access it by taking their name card from the wall. This also encourages name recognition. The rolling snack helps the children to develop independent skills and also life skills where they learn to cut, chop, spread and mix with adult help and supervision.

How much is snack money?

Snack money costs £1.00 per week. You can pay weekly, half termly or for the entire year, whichever suits you best. Snack consists of items such as cereal, toast, pancakes, crackers and cheese, wraps and seasonal items such as hot cross buns in addition to fruit and milk, which is available daily. Any snack money sent into school should be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your child's name on.

Here is a breakdown of snack money payments by half term if you wish to pay in larger chunks:

Autumn half term 1: £7.80

Autumn half term 2: £7.00

Spring half term 1: £5.80

Spring half term 2: £6.00

Summer half term 1: £6.00

Summer half term 2: £6.40

The amount for the whole school year is: £39

If you would like to pay for snack money for the entire year in one payment then of course you can do. Please send in the money in a clearly named envelope. Cheques can be made payable to 'St John Vianney Catholic Primary'

Drinks

The children are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school each day for refreshments. There is water available throughout the day for the children to access and milk is also available for snack time. If you wish for your child to have milk, it will cost an additional £6 for the year. The children who have paid for milk are entitled to one carton of milk per day.

Communication

Communication is key. The more that we know about your child, the better we can support them and in equal measure, the more that you know about what is happening at school, the happier that you will feel. A child starting school can be an anxious time for everyone and we completely understand that you and your child may feel apprehensive at times. There are several ways to contact me, should you need to.

We use 'Class Dojo' for communication purposes. If you do not already have access, login's will be sent out via email. It is important that you are fully connected and active prior to your child starting school. Please download the app onto your phone and you will be able to contact me via there. It may be a short message to let me know that a Grandparent is picking up your child that day or perhaps that your child is feeling a little under the weather that day. The message will reach me straight away. All messages are direct and are visible only to me. All messages can be translated also. Within the Class Dojo app, you will also see the things that your child is being rewarded for in class too. Alternatively, you can telephone the school on 01744 678570 to speak to me. If I am unavailable, then I will ring you back as soon as I can.

We use an online Learning Journey called 'Tapestry' to record your child's progress and achievements. We encourage parents to contribute to this by logging in and adding your own observations of your child at home or out and about. Please ensure that you have completed the relevant permissions forms and return them to school. These are added to weekly, if not more often and it is essential that you are connected to your child's account as you will be able to keep up to date with what they are doing at school. If you are not yet connected to Tapestry, permission forms will be sent out via the school app for you to fill out and return. An email will then be sent to you.

From September 2020, we have been using another online platform called 'Seesaw' to record progress and evidence work in ICT and Come and See, our RE curriculum that we follow as a Catholic School. Log-in details will be given out within the first week of school.

As a school, we use a school app called ParentApps to communicate with you. You will be able to contact the school directly, access holiday dates, find school information, complete permission forms, pay for trips and clubs, register your child's absence amongst many other things via this app. It is essential that you download this app in order to be kept up-to date. It is essential that you are connected to the school app.

Safety and Security

The safety and security of your child is of paramount importance. We operate a password system for anyone collecting your child. Most days it will be myself letting the children out of school but there will be times when I am not available and another member of staff will need to let the children out of school safely. The password system operates well particularly at this time. You will be required to set a password for your child and list the most common people who will collect your child from school and their relationship to them. This password will be kept securely at school. We will never let a child go with someone that we don't know or who cannot give the required and correct password. We will always make contact with yourself as parents to check the identification of the person who is collecting your child before letting them out of school.

If for whatever reason, the person who was expected to collect your child from school changes unexpectedly then it is your responsibility to let us know. This can be done by a telephone call to the school office or more simply, a message via class dojo to me to let me know. This is for your child's safety.

Please ensure that you share the password with whoever it is that is collecting your child.

Password forms will be sent out via the school app.

Starting School

It is important for us to get to know your child as quickly as we can and the early days of starting school are an essential time for this to happen.

Please see the table below for more information:

Monday 5 th September 2022	Tuesday 6 th September 2022	Wednesday 7 th September 2022	Thursday 8 th September 2022	Friday 9 th September 2022
Children will be split into two equal groups and attend one session only Morning session: 8.45am-11.30am Afternoon session: 12.30pm-15.15pm No lunch will be given at school on this day	Children will be split into two equal groups and attend one session only Morning session: 8.45am-11.30am Afternoon session: 12.30pm-15.15pm No lunch will be given at school on this day	All children to attend in the morning session only and stay at school for lunch Morning session: 8.45am-12.30pm All children will be collected at 12.30pm after lunch	All children attend full time 8.50am-3.15pm	All children attend full time 8.50am-3.15pm

Further information will be sent to you regarding which session your child will attend on Monday 5th September and Tuesday 6th September 2022