

## Reception Class

Hello, my name is Mrs Castledine and I am the Reception teacher in our school. I have worked at St Andrew's Primary School for 4 years. In addition to teaching in our Reception class, I am the lead teacher in Early Years, overseeing our Nursery class, as well as maths lead for the whole school.

As well as these subjects, I am passionate about Art, Reading and Outdoor learning. I love to go walking, travelling, reading and spending time with my family.

I have high expectations of the children in my class and expect that they follow the class and school rules while being respectful to all members of our school community.

Our Early Years Unit is committed to learning that is engaging, inspiring and enjoyable and we endeavour to ensure every individual reaches their full potential; gaining lifelong learning skills in our happy, secure, caring environment of mutual trust and respect. My aim is for every child in my class and our whole Early Years Unit to be given the best possible learning opportunities and reach their full potential.

We are extremely lucky to have an amazing Early Years Team working at St. Andrew's. Nursery children are led by our HLTA Mrs Tones and TA Miss Makepeace. Our Reception class is supported by our HLTA Mrs Bousfield, Apprentice Miss Greaves and TA Miss Clare. All staff work extremely hard to ensure that all children within EYFS have a rich and stimulating learning environment.

In Reception and Nursery, children will learn to:

- Listen attentively in a range of situations.
- Listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.
- Follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.
- Answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.
- Express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs.
- Use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.
- Develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.
- Show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements.
- Move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.
- Handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.
- Know the importance of good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe.
- Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.
- Be confident to try new activities and say why they like some activities more than others.
- Be confident to speak in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities.
- Talk about how they and others show feelings, talk about their own and others' behaviour, and its consequences, and know that some behaviour is unacceptable.
- Work as part of a group or class and understand and follow the rules.
- Play co-operatively, taking turns with others.
- Show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings and form positive relationships with adults and other children.
- Read and understand simple sentences.
- Use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately.
- Read and write some common irregular words.
- Demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.
- Use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds.

- Write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.
- Count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number.
- Add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer.
- Solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.
- Use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems.
- Recognise, create and describe patterns.
- Explore the characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.
- Know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.
- Talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.
- Make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur and talk about changes.
- Select and use technology for particular purposes
- Sing songs, make music and dance and experiment with ways of changing them.
- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes.
- Represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories.

### **Home Learning opportunities for Reception and Nursery**

As children spend approximately 15% of their life at school and 85% of their life at home it is essential that they are assisted to see learning as something that happens both at school and at home. In Reception, the key purpose of home learning is to develop a partnership with parents and involve parent's actively in pupils' learning. The most important form of support parents can offer their child is to read to them and, when they are ready, hear them read. If possible, this should happen for a short period of time every day. We strongly encourage the setting up of a regular routine so that children can establish a reading habit. At this age in a child's development the best learning happens through story, play and games. In addition, the following activities are recommended:

- **Talk with your child about what they have done at school (and about what they do at home).** This offers a valuable opportunity for reflection and a chance to consolidate what has been learnt. It also provides a meaningful context for developing speaking and listening skills.
- **Read to your child for a short time every day.** Discuss the story with them, talk about the pictures and ask them to predict what will happen next or to explain why an event in the story happened. The more stories a child hears, the more they learn to understand how stories work. Those with a greater experience of stories are more equipped to learn to read. A great deal of a child's understanding of the world comes from stories.
- **Help your child to learn nursery rhymes.** Act them out together. Children really enjoy this and very quickly they will learn them off by heart and be able to recite them.
- **Ask your child to read their 'home readers' to you.** In the early stages, you will probably need to help your child out and do some of the reading for them. As time progresses your child will become increasingly able to read to you. Children in reception will bring home a home reader which will be changed once a week.
- **Sing with your child!** Children love singing familiar songs. Those with a repetitive structure or a chorus are particularly easy for them to learn (Ten green bottles; Old Macdonald had a farm; the wheels on the bus)

- **Provide plenty of opportunities for drawing, colouring and painting.** Drawing a picture is an important channel for children to communicate and express themselves. It is really good for them to draw often. Give your child the chance to use a broad range of media: crayons, felt tips, paints, pastels and chalks.

- **Make things with your child.** Children really enjoy using a whole range of different materials. Playdough helps the development of their motor skills. Replicas of everyday items can be made using paper, card, tape, glue, string, glitter, beads and a whole range of recyclable materials.

- **Play games.** Simple games help children to develop basic mathematical skills. You could play the following games with your child: dominoes, snakes and ladders, draughts, connect 4, and any other simple dice game.

- **Let your child build:** Duplo, Lego, Meccano and other construction materials help the development of their creative skills.

- **Words and numbers in the environment:** do comment on the words and numbers your child will come across during their daily life. Help to develop your child's awareness of them whenever possible.

- **Count with your child** when they are going up or down stairs; when you go to the supermarket when you are laying the table and at other times when the opportunity arises.

- **Ensure your child has plenty of exercise.** Children need to run around, visit a playground, play in the sandpit, climb up a climbing frame, chase a ball and go on the swings. All these activities help to develop the child's physical skills as well as assisting them to overcome fears and inhibitions.

- **Small world toys** such as a doll's house or a model garage allow children to act out their feelings through play.

- **Trips to places of interest** are hugely rewarding for children. They develop their knowledge and understanding of the world by extending their experience of life.

Should you need any other information whilst your child is in Early Years please don't hesitate to contact me on Class Dojo or make an appointment to come and see me or a member of our Early Years Team.