

ST JOHN'S CHURCH of ENGLAND ACADEMY

Headteacher: Miss C. Large B.Ed (Hons)

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6th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of the children and their families to St John's Reception class in September. Our aim is to provide a happy and safe environment where all children can reach their full potential, and it is vital to us that we build a close home/school relationship from the earliest opportunity in order to fully support both you and your child during their time with us at St. John's.

Unfortunately due to the current situation we have been unable to carry out our usual transition process, as we explained to you in the email you received recently. However, we have made arrangements for an alternative transition process to take place at the beginning of the school year in September.

In order for the children to get to know their new classroom environment, both indoors and outside, and also provide an opportunity for you and your child to meet their new teaching staff and find out more information about Reception and the wider school, we will be holding four "Stay and Play" sessions on Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September. The sessions will be held in small groups and you will be invited to attend **one** of the sessions with your child. Parents are invited to stay for the first part of the session, where they will have the opportunity to speak to the staff, find out information, ask any questions and also fill in all of the relevant forms, and will then leave the children to spend a short time in Reception with us to explore! Could we please ask that you **bring your child's birth certificate to your Stay and Play session**. This will be returned to you at the end of the session. Your child's Stay and Play session will be on one of the following dates, which we have emailed to you –

Thursday 3rd September – 9.30am – 11.30am

Thursday 3rd September – 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Friday 4th September – 9.30am – 11.30am

Friday 4th September – 12.30pm – 2.30pm

School Day:

The term will start for Reception on **Monday 7th September**. Due to the current situation the children throughout the school will have staggered start and finish times. The Reception children should **arrive between 8.55 and 9.10am**. Please take them to the **Reception top gate**. Mrs Matkowski will be there to greet them and will take them from you and will guide them to the Reception door where Miss Tricker will be waiting for them. There is a one way system for parents to enter and exit the school premises, so please follow the green exit signs to leave school via the appropriate gate. This is to ensure that parents are not crossing each other by entering and exiting the gates at the same time. Mrs Matkowski will point you in the

right direction. Could we please ask that you also respect the 2 metre social distancing guidelines whilst on the premises. Thank you.

For the first week (from Monday 7th until Friday 11th) your child will have a shorter school day. This will help your child with the transition into school and will help them to gradually settle into the school routines.

For this week the children should be **collected at 2.00pm** please. When we see you arrive the children will be escorted out to you. Please collect them from the **bottom Nursery gate**, as this will help us to maintain the one way system around school.

As of **Monday 16th September** the children will attend for the full school day which will be from **8.55am – 9.10am** until **3.05pm – 3.20pm**.

Health & Safety

Please ensure that you are on time to collect your child and please inform us if anyone different is going to be collecting them. We recommend that all children are collected by an adult 16 years or over. Thank you.

Uniform

The children should wear grey or black skirt/pinafore/trousers and a white or pale blue polo shirt. They should also wear a royal blue cardigan or sweatshirt. Unfortunately due to the current circumstances you will be unable to order any uniform with the St John's logo on until September. Please don't worry about this as plain cardigans/jumpers which can be bought from local shops/supermarkets are absolutely fine. Please make sure that the children are able to fasten/unfasten all of their clothing independently. The children should also wear **plain black shoes – Velcro fastenings, no shoe laces please**.

The children will also need a **book bag** which they should **bring to school every day**. These will be available to buy in September at a cost of £5.00 from Mrs Williams in the school office.

P.E. Kit

All children will need a P.E. kit which should consist of a **plain white t-shirt and plain black or royal blue shorts**. The children may also bring plain black plimssoles/sandshoes if you wish, but please don't worry about these as our P.E. lessons take place in the hall and many of the children prefer to remain in bare feet. Their P.E. kit should be kept in a **small draw string P.E. bag** which will be kept on their coat peg. Again these may be bought from Mrs Williams in September at a cost of £4.80 Please note that for health and safety reasons **no other bags such as rucksacks or backpacks** will be allowed in school. Thank you. Please help your child to practise getting undressed and dressed independently during the summer holidays to help them to prepare for doing this during our P.E. lessons.

Naming clothes

Please ensure that **all school uniform, P.E. kit and bags are named**. Please also check your child's uniform regularly to ensure that names have not faded during washing. This will help to avoid confusion when items are lost, or children pick up the wrong clothing by mistake which can so easily happen.

Working Together Books

Each Friday your child will receive their green "Working Together Book". This will contain a weekly letter which will tell you what your child has been learning that week, and may also include special dates for diaries and any upcoming events. There will also be a parental response box at the bottom of each letter

suggesting how you can support your child with their learning at home, and may suggest activities you could try. Please take some time to read the letter, sign it and make a comment in the box and please return the book to school by the following Wednesday. We love to hear what the children have been learning at home and what skills they have been practising, and we'd love you to send us messages and any photos so we can share in their home learning. Please send us any messages/photos etc. to - reception@stjohnsceacademy.co.uk Thank you.

Preparing for School

During the summer holidays there are lots of small activities that you could do with your child to help them to prepare for starting school.

Try to practise counting with them. Encourage them to count slowly and carefully, touching one object at a time as they count them. You could count small objects like stones or crayons, toys, buttons on clothing as you fasten them, steps/stairs as you climb up and down etc. Please also look out for numbers that they may see in the environment while out and about. They may be house numbers, numbers on signs, in shops, or on buses.

Please encourage your child to handle books carefully, to talk about the pictures with you, answer questions about the story and to also enjoy a quiet 5 minutes sitting still with you each day. We try very hard to promote the children's speaking & listening skills, as they are essential if children are to make good progress, and encouraging your child to develop good reading habits is a vital part of this process, and will help them enormously when we begin our phonics work.

Please also try to encourage their independence. Help them to be able to use the toilet independently – being able to unfasten and fasten their clothing independently and also be able to put on and take off their own coat. Please see the attached booklet "Time Together" compiled by the National Literacy Trust for more activity ideas you could try.

We realise that starting school is a huge milestone for both you and your child and we want this process to be as smooth as possible. The staff are always available to discuss any queries, problems or worries you may have. Please feel free to come and talk to us at any time after school. We're looking forward to meeting you all.

Miss M. Tricker
Reception Teacher

Miss M Tricker	Reception Teacher
Mrs C Matkowski	Teaching Assistant (Reception)
Mrs P Lambert	Nursery Teacher (EYFS Lead)