

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH of ENGLAND ACADEMY

[www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk)



## Welcome to Reception

Starting school is an important milestone, not only for your child but also for you and your wider family. At St. John's we recognise that this can be an unsettling time for all concerned. You may be excited, or perhaps a little worried about how your child will cope with taking these first steps towards more independence, and how they will settle into a new and different routine. We want to reassure you that your child's happiness is of the utmost importance to us, and we will do all that we can to ensure that we create a happy and safe environment where all children can reach their full potential. We appreciate that you are your child's first and most important educators, and value the enormous contribution you make to your child's learning. By working together and developing an excellent home/school partnership from the earliest opportunity it will enable us to make sure that your child receives the best possible start to their education, and has firm foundations upon which to build.

### The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Reception class is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The children learn by playing and exploring, by being active and through creative and critical thinking; which takes place both indoors and outside. This stage of their learning builds on the skills they have been developing during their time in nursery or pre-school settings. The children will spend their time engaged in a mixture of adult focused activities and activities they have chosen for themselves, where they will practise and reinforce the skills they are being taught. As the year progresses their learning will become more formal to help to prepare them for Year 1 and the next stage of their education.

### Areas of Learning

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape educational provision in the EYFS. All of these areas of learning are important and are inter-connected. There are three Prime Areas and four Specific Areas.

**The three Prime Areas, which are particularly important for developing children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning are:**

### Communication and Language

This involves giving children opportunities to experience high quality conversations with adults and their peers throughout the day. To develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves, and to speak and listen in a range of situations. Providing activities to develop excellent speaking and listening skills to enable the children to become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.



★  
★ **Physical Development**

★ This involves providing opportunities for young children to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. They  
★ explore activities to develop their gross motor skills i.e. core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness,  
★ co-ordination and agility. Fine motor activities are also undertaken, to improve confidence in writing,  
★ cutting and using tools. **Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical  
★ activity, good dental hygiene and how to make healthy choices in relation to food and  
★ lifestyle choices.**

★  
★ **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

★ This area of the curriculum is crucial for children's emotional health and wellbeing, and is fundamental to  
★ their cognitive development. It involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and  
★ others, to form positive relationships and develop respect for others, to develop social skills and learn how  
★ to manage their feelings, to understand appropriate behaviour in groups, and to have confidence in their  
★ own abilities. It is key to the children feeling happy and confident in their learning and their wider school  
★ life.

★  
★ **The curriculum also includes the four Specific Areas of learning. These are;**

★  
★ **Literacy**

★ Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and  
★ write. Children will develop their phonic skills, knowing which letters represent each spoken sound, learning  
★ how to blend these sounds together to read simple words, then sentences. They will also learn how to  
★ segment (or break down words into sounds) in order to write words then sentences. They will also begin to  
★ learn how to read and write words which cannot be blended or "sounded out" which we call "Tricky  
★ Words". Children will be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems and other written  
★ materials) to ignite their interest in reading, as the ability to read accurately, fluently and with good  
★ understanding is a vital skill and central to future life success. At St. John's we are committed to ensuring  
★ that all children are equipped with this ability and develop the love of reading widely and often, both for  
★ pleasure and acquiring information.

★  
★ **Mathematics**

★ Mathematics involves providing the children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in  
★ counting, understanding and using numbers, making calculations – beginning to understand and use the  
★ language of addition and subtraction, and doubling and halving, solving mathematical problems and also  
★ develop an understanding of shapes and simple ways of measuring – i.e. looking at length, weight,  
★ capacity, time and money. The children are encouraged to solve problems in a practical concrete way  
★ before moving on to more abstract concepts. Numbers and shapes form part of our everyday environment  
★ and the children are encouraged to notice these and their relationships in their everyday experiences and  
★ play.

★  
★ **Understanding the World**

★ This involves guiding the children to make sense of their physical world and their local and wider  
★ community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places and the  
★ environment. The children will have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of related stories and books,  
★ visit a variety of places in the local area and have a range of visitors into school. The children will also  
★ have access to a range of simple computer programmes and are taught how to use these safely. Beginning  
★ to learn about using computers and the internet safely too.





★ **Expressive Arts and Design**

★ This aspect looks at the development of the children’s imagination in art, music, movement, dance, role  
★ play, design technology and stories. It involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of  
★ media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts,  
★ ideas and feelings through a variety of activities. It leads the children to explore texture, form, shape and  
★ space in 2 and 3 dimensions.



★ **Home Learning**

★ 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@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk](mailto:reception@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk) Thank you.



★ **Useful Websites**

★ Below is a list of websites that we use at school. I’m sure your child will enjoy sharing them with you at  
★ home –

- ★ <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>
- ★ <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
- ★ <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>
- ★ <https://www.ictgames.com/>
- ★ <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>



## Our Outdoor Area



We love to explore in our outdoor area and practise our physical skills. We also enjoy small world play, and using our outdoor writing den!

## Indoor Learning



Our role play area changes with our topics and to follow the children's interests. We may have a café, a vets, a post office or even Santa's letter writing station!



Our reading den also changes with our topics, favourite book or current author.

Our Small World area and our Prayer Corner, when we want to spend a quiet moment to ourselves.



Our Creative Area where we can design models, paint, use play dough or make a collage.



Using our maths skills independently.

Using our computers and Interactive White Board.



Practising our phonic skills at the Challenge Table.

Using our phonic knowledge in role play.

