

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR AT SCHOOL

At St. Mary's we expect parents to fully support their child in all areas of school life. This support is essential in providing your child with a solid foundation for their future development.

This support can take many forms and will benefit your child both in their social and physical development and their academic achievement.

- During the first term children will take home books to share with their parents. We ask that parents read with and to their child for 5-10 minutes every day. Books will be changed regularly.
- We ask that parents encourage their child to complete 'Weekly Challenges'. These will consist of a variety of tasks, e.g. phonics sounds, red words (sight words), discussing topics and practical activities.
- Please also encourage your child to help you in your home, e.g. setting the table, tidying their room, helping with shopping. Playing together with toys such as play dough and Duplo, and other toys requiring manipulation and imagination, will help them develop necessary skills for future learning.

Please encourage your child to sit at a table when writing and to hold their pencil correctly using a tripod grip (using the thumb, index and middle fingers). In Reception children write in pencil.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL LIFE

At St. Mary's we have a strong commitment to our local parish communities and we expect parents to support and participate in all areas of school life.

There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of the school, for example by attending assemblies and special events or by helping to raise funds. All parents automatically become members of the P.S.A. (Parent Staff Association) when their child joins the school. Please also let us know if you are willing to share any particular skills, talents and interests with the staff and children.

There is a strong link between the school and St. Mary's Church. Our parish priest is a regular participant in school life.

We value the respect we have from the local community around our school and we ask you not to park illegally or inconsiderately close to the school. We encourage you to use public transport when possible or to walk to school.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming you and your child to St Mary's School.

Karen Pluckrose
Headteacher

This leaflet is available on line and as a PowerPoint presentation. Please go to the school website, 'Parents'/'Transfers' tab to look for it.

Please note, that Covid-10 transmission may affect some of the arrangements in this leaflet. We will let you know of any changes as they occur. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details, including your email.

St Mary's RC Primary School



STARTING SCHOOL A PARENT'S GUIDE

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HELPFUL ADVICE **ON STARTING SCHOOL**

Starting school for the first time can be a very daunting time for a child and their parents. At St. Mary's, we work hard to ensure this experience is as smooth as possible, allowing your child to feel truly comfortable and happy in their new school.

At St. Mary's we provide all children with a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. The knowledge and skills taught provide the foundation for good future progress through school and life. When they join Reception your child will be in their final year of the Foundation Stage.

The Early Years Foundation Stage – This starts from the age of 3 years to 5 years at St Mary's. Children are expected to follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum. This has been thoroughly planned to provide your child with every opportunity to access the curriculum through purposeful play, 'hands on' experiences and a balance of adult-initiated and child-initiated activities.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – This is a profile of what your child can do on leaving the Foundation Stage. Observations on your child's progress are carried out throughout the year by staff in order to give a well-rounded picture of your child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

In September you and your child will be expected to attend a meeting with your child's teacher. This gives you the opportunity to discuss your child with them in detail– what they like to do at home, their pre-school experience, interests etc. This meeting will last approximately 15 minutes.

THE FIRST DAY

In September your child will become a Reception pupil at St. Mary's R.C. Primary School.

During the first few days at school we strongly believe that it is important for your child to settle quickly into school routine. In order to make this as easy and as calm as possible we ask you to follow our advice carefully.

- Before the beginning of term you will receive a letter informing you of your child's class teacher.
- Please bring your child to the small playground gate at 8:55am where their teacher will greet them.
- Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform and that **each item is very clearly labelled** with your child's full name.
- Please bring a small piece of fruit with your child's name clearly marked on it, for them to eat at playtime.
- In order to minimise distress and make this new start as smooth as possible we ask that you say your goodbyes promptly in the playground and leave quickly. If you are upset, please do not let your child see this and if your child is upset do not worry as they will quickly settle once you have left.
- To support your child to settle in, their first week will be a phased start. On Monday 6th- 7th September they will attend from 9.00-12.00. From Wednesday 8th- 10th September they will have lunch at school and attend from 9.00-1.30. From Monday 13th September they will attend from 9.00-3.30.

- After the first week your child will come in to school via the main school gate and at the end of the day they should be collected from their classroom. Please ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the day as it can be very distressing for them if you do not arrive on time. If there are any changes to who collects your child from school, you must inform the school office in advance.

DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

It is important that your child begins to develop independent skills prior to attending school full time.

- Your child should be able to use the toilet independently, flush the toilet afterwards and wash their hands with soap.
- Your child should be able to use cutlery correctly by themselves.
- When buying new shoes please buy Velcro fasteners rather than buckles or laces as your child will find this easier.
- Please purchase ties that are pre-tied on an elastic band and trousers which are elasticated pull-ups without belts.
- Please put a spare change of underwear and socks into your child's P.E. bag in case of any accidents.
- Encourage your child to practise putting on their P.E. kit and uniform independently.
- ALL UNIFORM must be clearly labelled with your child's full name.