



Reception Welcome Letter

September 2021

Class Teachers: Mrs Portman (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) Mrs Harris (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Freeman (Monday-Friday)

Dear Parents

Welcome to Reception and St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School. We would like to take the opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to welcome your little ones into our school. It has been lovely seeing the children coming into school with big smiles and looking so smart in their school uniform. We have been delighted with how well they have come into school and we know they will continue to amaze us as the year progresses! We are looking forward to helping them grow and develop this year.

We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some information and to tell you a little about the routines and activities happening in Reception class this year.

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage is split into 7 areas of learning. It is a largely play based curriculum which aims to develop the whole child. Children will learn through play by accessing a range of activities both independently and with adult support. We will have various 'themes' throughout the year and will also take into account children's needs and interest when planning. You will be able to find information about the theme for each half term on our school website on the reception class page. Our theme for the first part of the Autumn term is 'All About Me!' The children will be learning all about themselves, their families, where they live and much more! We will also begin to look at the season of Autumn and Harvest.

Seesaw:

You will soon receive your child's log in details for their Seesaw account. We will be using Seesaw as a form of communication with you and will also be sharing some of your child's learning with you through this platform. The Early Years curriculum has changed this year and there is much less of a focus on recording evidence for children's learning journeys and a push on practitioners spending more time interacting and developing children's learning in the moment, rather than capturing moments on camera. As a result of this, we will be trying to spend less time taking photos and writing observations and more time being in the moment with your child. Whilst we will be sending photos and adding observations on Seesaw, we will not be uploading a certain amount each day / week. We do hope that what we are uploading gives you an insight into what your child is getting up to in school. We would also love to see the things that your child is doing at home too as this enables us to build a bigger picture; so please do feel free to send photos to us on Seesaw. As the year goes on and children grow in confidence and ability, we will be encouraging them to take photos of their independent work and save it on to their Seesaw account. Once the children are settled into school life, we will begin to add some home learning activities to this platform.

Uniform

The children have started school looking very smart in their new uniforms. Many of the jumpers and items we have come across have been labelled but we would like to remind any parents that haven't yet labelled their child's clothing and belongings to do so. Please label everything they wear, including their shoes, so we can easily care for your child's belongings. We would also like to ask parents to ensure children's hair is tied back at all times.

Snack and Lunch time

Snack: The fruit scheme is operating in school and your child is entitled to have a piece of fruit during milk and fruit time in the mornings. If you would like your child to have fruit during afternoon break then please provide them with some each day. As we are a healthy eating school we only allow children to eat raw fruit and vegetables at break

time and will not allow the children to eat any processed fruit (e.g. Winders, School Bars, Fruit Cake etc.). You are welcome to send in fruit from home if your child will only eat certain types of fruit. Children receive free milk in school up until their 5th birthday. If you would like them to continue having milk after this time, please speak to Mrs Brown in the school office.

Lunch – From next week (20th September) some children will be having hot lunches provided by school. Mrs Brown has ordered lunches **up until October half term** for those children who are having hot lunches. After this time you will need to log in to your **Parent Pay account** to order lunches for your child. **You must do this one week in advance.** If you forget to order lunch, you will need to send your child in with a packed lunch from home for that week. You can order lunches for the whole half term so it is best to order them all at the same time and this will save you having to remember each week!

Water Bottles

There is a water bottle station in the classroom and this will be accessible to your child whenever they want a drink. The children must take their water bottle home at the end of every day to be washed and refilled. The children are only to have water in their water bottles for during the day but feel free to send them in with a separate fruit juice or squash bottle for their drink at lunchtime if you would like to. Children must only have a school water bottle but can bring an additional bottle with squash in for lunch time. As with everything, please ensure water bottles are labelled either with a waterproof name label or a permanent pen.

PE Kits

The children will be participating in P.E. activities on a Thursday so please ensure they have full PE kit in school on this day. Your child's PE kit can be left in school and taken home to be washed each half-term. **Please ensure your child's name is in all of their clothes and belongings.** You can support your child at home by encouraging them to get dressed and undressed from their school uniform. The children do find the buttons very tricky however we do like to encourage children to be as independent as possible and attempting to get themselves dressed and undressed is an important skill.

Home Activities

As your child becomes more settled in school, on Fridays we will set 'home activities' for you to complete with them. This might be practising reading and writing the sounds we have been learning that week, writing their name, recognising any tricky words, or maths activities/games. We will set work on Seesaw or send something home in their book bag. Work that is set on Seesaw can be completed on there, any work that is sent home in the book bag should be returned to school on the following Friday. We understand that children are often very tired when they finish school and so don't expect children to be sitting and working for a long time each night. We recommend doing little but often to keep children engaged.

Reading at home and in school

Your child will soon be receiving their first reading book. This book will be a picture book without any words. Please enjoy sharing this book with your child, encouraging them to use the pictures to tell the story. Children will have a few weeks of books without words whilst we begin our phonics teaching. Picture books help children to develop their story telling skills, vocabulary and imagination. At first children might find it tricky to 'tell the story' but with support from adults at home they very often become wonderful, imaginative storytellers!

When the children have acquired some skills in recognising letters and sounding out words, they will have a book with short, simple sentences. We recommend reading with your child every day at home in order to build your child's confidence and reading fluency. In addition to reading books, you will receive something called 'Fred Cards' which will have the sounds of the week and words for your child to read that contain these sounds. Please practise reading the sounds and words on the Fred Card each day to ensure children are able to quickly recall the sounds they have learnt. Your child will have a reading record in their book bag which we ask you to sign and comment in each time you have read with your child. We will aim to change books twice a week, normally this will be on a Monday and Thursday however this can change so it is important that children have their reading book and record in school every day. In addition to their school reading book we also suggest that a variety of texts and other materials are shared with your child, reading every day has such a huge impact on their development.

Reading in school:

As part of their phonics lessons, children will be reading every day. Your child will also read to an adult in class at least once a week. Children will have the opportunity to read and be read to everyday. Each day in school ends with story

time. Children are asked to vote for the story they wish to hear every afternoon - they will do this at our 'Story Voting Station' in class.

Marvellous Me and Show and Tell Sessions:

Marvellous Me!

Each week a child is chosen to take home the 'Marvellous Me!' box. This is a special box, which the children fill with items from home that are important to them or show how 'marvellous' they are! Every child will have a turn across the year. Please talk to your child about the items they are bringing in and ensure they can explain the item and say why it is special. Further instructions can be found on the lid of the box to remind you when it is your child's turn..

Show and Tell

On a Thursday your child will be able to take part in a show and tell session. Show and Tell sessions are so valuable for your child's learning and development – they develop speaking and listening skills, gain confidence and develop their social skills. Your child will be invited to bring something into school to show to the class and talk about (it can be anything they are interested in but please make sure they are able to say why they have chosen this particular item!) Children will be allocated their week for show and tell to make it manageable in class and to ensure everyone gets a turn. We will send a slip to inform you when it is your child's turn to bring their show and tell into school.

If children have something that they are particularly proud of, for example a piece of work they have done at home or a certificate they have received for something outside of school then we are more than happy to show this at any time and they do not have to wait for their designated show and tell time on a Thursday.

Our main aim is to make sure your child is happy, healthy and achieves their full potential in all areas. We will do everything possible to make sure your child is excited to come to school and that their education is fun and interactive.

If you have any questions please feel free to send us an email:
reception@wulsev.worcs.sch.uk

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Portman and Mrs Harris
Reception Class Teachers