

8/9/2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to St Matthew's, whether you are returning after the summer break or joining us for the first time this year. We look forward to working alongside you all to achieve the best possible Early Years education for your children. This year I will be teaching the Early Years children. Mrs Collaki, a higher level teaching assistant, will be teaching the children every Wednesday. Our main focus for the next few weeks will be settling the children into school routines, acquiring positive learning behaviours and building friendships.

- Termly topics will be in the form of Big Questions. Our Autumn 1 Big Question is 'Who am I? The big questions will allow a more open-ended approach to the topic, with cross-curricular learning activities largely based on the children's interests.
- In class we will be using class floor books and individual learning journeys to record children's learning and ideas.
- Each term we will have a set of key skills that the children will be working on. The key skills for this term are outlined below:

<u>Reception Key Skills</u>	<u>Reception Activities/ Experiences</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● I am familiar with the school setting and classroom routines, being able to access the activities set up for me● I can follow simple instructions● I begin to select my own activities● I can use mark-making or writing tools to create work of my choice● I begin to interact or form friendships with classmates● I begin to talk about myself and what makes me unique/different from others.● I begin to be able to name my feelings● I can count objects actions and sounds to 10● I can link the numeral with the cardinal number.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● role-play, imaginative play, acting out home and school scenarios● fine-motor activities such as threading, play-dough● action and movement games and activities● drawing and writing tasks - talking about and labelling pictures● name writing● drawing a self portrait● circle time focused around building friendships, talking about similarities and differences between us● RWI phonics - getting familiar with letters and sounds they make● understanding numbers and counting everyday objects● recognising and writing numerals● talking about our homes and family customs● listening to, acting out and retelling stories● singing nursery rhymes

- Each term we will have a set of key picture books which will be used as a stimulus for discussions, mark-making opportunities and cross-curricular learning. Some of this term suggested texts are:



Vocabulary:

Family members: mum/mother, dad/father, grandmother, granddad/grandfather, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousin

Body parts: head, neck, stomach, chest, leg, arm, knee, foot/feet, toe, finger, thumb

Feelings: happy, sad, excited, silly, sick, angry, feel

Routines: teacher, classroom, tidy up, playground, table chair, draw, write, trace, cut, stick, paint, sit, run, class your legs, fold your arms, listen, look at me, wash your hands, share, take turns

Curriculum Goals for Reception:

- I can show understanding of my own feelings, those of others and I know how to regulate my feelings.
- I can demonstrate engaged attitudes in a variety of activities.
- I can share own ideas and thinking in conversations
- I can retell stories, rhymes, songs and events and I can show awareness of the listener.
- I can demonstrate and share a love of reading.
- I can read and write a meaningful sentence using phonics knowledge
- I can use equipment and tools with control
- I can move my body with safety, balance and control
- I can observe, explore and ask questions about the world around me noticing the changes and differences
- I can become a confident mathematical thinker who can apply my skills and solve problems
- I can express myself creatively using a range of available resources

In addition to the Parent Information pack on our school website, the following information will also be helpful as your child starts at St Matthew's:

- **School Uniform:** All the children must come to school wearing the correct school uniform. (Elasticated school uniform trousers or jogging bottoms are often a better choice for school children than trousers with the zip and a button as they encourage to develop independence) Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled as this helps to return lost items to the right children. It is important that the children wear appropriate footwear – comfortable black school shoes with Velcro fastenings help with developing independence.
- **Book Bags:** These are an important part of school life as they help to bring home books, letters or art work that the children have made. The book bags need to be brought to school every day.

Please make sure your child's name is clearly labelled on their book bag. Books will be changed on Mondays.

- **Spare Clothes:** Each child needs to have a set of spare clothes in a **clearly labelled string draw bag**, e.g. St Matthew's PE bag, which will be kept on your child's peg. Please note that our cupboard cannot fit bags of other styles due to a very limited space.
- **Snack Time:** Fruit and milk will be made available to the children every day. We will encourage children to try all of the fruits that are provided. If you haven't yet told the school office about any medical or allergy information about your child, please do pass this on as soon as possible.
- **PE:** PE sessions will take place on a Monday. On this day, the children have to come to school wearing their PE kit - navy shorts/jogging bottoms, T-shirt, trainers and the school jumper
- **Safety:** To ensure the safety of all pupils, the use of mobile phones and taking pictures of the children by parents is not permitted in our Early Years setting.
- **Medicines:** Only prescribed medicines in the prescription packaging may be administered at School and all the relevant paperwork must be completed by the parent/carer prior to any medication being administered. General medication (such as Calpol, cough medicine, eye drops) cannot be administered by any member of staff.
- **Celebration Assembly:** Our whole school Celebration Assembly takes place every Friday at 2:50pm; all parents are welcome to attend. The black playground gates on St Ann's Lane are opened at 2.45pm so that parents can join us for this special assembly in the school hall.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to me at school at the end of the day, or make an appointment by emailing the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Ola Jezewicz

Reception Class Teacher