

ST AIDAN'S

Voluntary Controlled
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Early Years Foundation Stage Reception Handbook

Welcome to St. Aidan's! We appreciate what a big step starting school is and we want you and your child to feel happy and secure with us.

This handbook is intended to be an outline of what you and your child can expect at St. Aidan's. We hope that it will provide you with much of the information you will need. If you have any further queries please feel free to email the school office at: admin@staidansprimaryschool.org.uk.

Settling–In

It is important that both children and parents feel comfortable and secure when they begin school, which is why we have a settling in process. The children start school in small groups through staggered entry. They begin by coming in for morning sessions, they then stay for lunch and build up to attending school for the full day. All the children will have started school by the beginning of the third week of term.

School Lunches

Reception and Key Stage 1 children are currently entitled to a free school lunch. If you feel this is not suitable for your child, please speak to your child's Key Person during your transition meeting.

If you decide that you would like your child to have a packed lunch, it should be a healthy one and clearly labelled with their name. Please do not include chocolates, sweets, any drink other than water or any foods with nut derivatives- we are a nut-free school. The children eat their meals in the dining hall and will be looked after by a meal time supervisor.

School Uniform

St. Aidan's is a cashless school. In early September, you will be sent log in details for our *SchoolMoney* system which will enable you to buy uniform and in future pay for school trips etc. All items of uniform with the St. Aidan's logo (T-shirt, sweatshirt and fleece) can be purchased from the school. You will be able to view the items at the 'Welcome meeting' and then order and collect them before your child starts school. Children are allowed to wear their own choice for the bottom half of their uniform but we would encourage you to choose easy clothing with an elasticated waist. Suitable footwear is needed- we encourage Velcro fastenings until your child is able to tie their own laces. Your child will also require a school book bag. Please ensure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

From October, every child will be required to have their own PE kit. This comprises of a blue pair of shorts, a white T shirt and bare feet. Your child's P.E kit should be kept in a cloth bag clearly labelled with their name and placed on their peg.

Breakfast Club and Hornsey YMCA After school club

Once your child has fully settled into our Reception class we are able to provide a Breakfast Club at a cost of £5.00 per day. Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am-8.40am in the school hall and the children are then escorted into the playground and then into their classrooms at 8.40/8.45am. Please speak to the office manager and the reception team if this is something that is of interest.

St. Aidan's works closely with the Hornsey YMCA which provides an afterschool club. The staff are able to collect your child at the end of the school day and take them to the hall next to the school. This facility closes at 6pm. Please contact Hornsey YMCA N8 if you require this extra provision.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (or EYFS) refers to the education and care provided to children from birth until they are five. At St. Aidan's it refers to the Nursery and the Reception Class. Our classes follow the colours of the rainbow. Our Reception class is called Red Class.

Our Curriculum

The EYFS curriculum is split into 7 'Areas of Learning.' These are:

PRIME AREAS:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This relates to developing confidence and independence, building positive relationships with others and developing good social skills. This area also focuses on developing every child's self-help skills.

Physical Development

This relates to improving control and co-ordination in gross motor and fine motor skills. This will be through using bikes and scooters and climbing apparatus outside and taking part in a range of mark making opportunities.

Communication and Language

This covers communication with one another, developing skills in speaking and listening and attention in a range of situations.

SPECIFIC AREAS:

Literacy

This covers reading and writing. Children will have opportunities to share stories, poems and information books, enjoy role play and use puppets and masks. We encourage their emergent writing and provide lots of opportunities for writing as part of our planned play activities. We hold a meeting in the Autumn term to talk in greater detail about how we teach reading and writing in Reception and how you can support your child at home.



Mathematics

This involves using ideas about number, simple calculations, quantities, shapes and measures. Activities are fun, meaningful and practical. We hold a meeting in the Autumn term to talk in greater detail about how we teach mathematics in Reception and how you can support your child at home.



Understanding the World

This covers investigating and beginning to understand the things, people and places around us. Activities are always fun and practical and cover science, history, geography, RE and ICT.



Expressive Arts and Design

This area covers all creative activities such as dance, role play and drama, art, craft and music. The children have weekly music sessions in which they learn new songs and learn to use percussion instruments to explore volume, pitch and rhythm.



Planning

Our curriculum combines carefully chosen topics, annual events such as World Book Day, and activities that we devise for specific children. Each week we carefully observe a small number of children, then devise activities that will support their learning. Our planning also reflects our commitment to equal opportunities and the provision of a curriculum which reflects our multi-cultural society.

Play

Play underpins every aspect of the EYFS curriculum. When children are engaged in an activity, they learn most. Much of the time your child will be able to choose which activities they wish to take part in. Your child will also have the opportunity each day to play as part of a small group and with the class as a whole.

In order to promote independent learning, both the inside and outside classrooms are organised to allow your child to freely access a wide range of stimulating resources. "Play underpins all development and learning for young children. Most children play spontaneously, although some may need adult support, and it is through play that they develop intellectually, creatively, physically, socially and emotionally," (Practice Guidance for the EYFS)

Free- flow and the Outside Classroom

Your child will have access to the inside and outside areas of the classroom for much of the day. Your child will be able to decide where they would like their learning to take place, we call this free- flow. We encourage everyone to spend some time outside each day, as there are important skills that can only be learnt outside such as running, riding wheeled toys and using their 'big' voice. Please make sure that your child is always suitably dressed for the weather.

“...when children are playing outdoors, they are exercising their intellectual and emotional muscles as well as their physical. They are developing their powers to think, to feel, to do, to see and to understand, to represent and to express. They are imagining, puzzling, exploring, befriending and sharing,” (M.J. Drummond (1995) Can I Play Out?)

Key Person

Your child will be assigned a ‘Key Person’. The role of the Key Person is to take specific responsibility for first settling your child and then promoting their learning. They will also be your first point of contact about anything that you wish to discuss about your child. However, we do work closely together as a team. Please feel free to approach any member of the team and they will pass on any information to your child’s Key Person.

Red Class Library

Once a week your child will be allowed to choose a book from the class library. This is a book for you to read to your child and we ask that you make a comment in the yellow reading record book. Please make sure your child brings their book bag to school every day as this is where you will find important letters and your child’s work. Please make sure that the reading book is returned in the book bag ready to be changed the following week.

Special Books

With your child we create a Special Book. It is special because it captures lots of the wonderful things they do at school. Together we stick in photographs and things that they have made, and write down what they have done.

We encourage you to add to your child’s Special Book and we will let you know of set dates when you can come into the classroom to celebrate their achievements and add photographs or pieces of work.

Your child will take their Special Book into Year 1 to show their new teacher some of the fantastic things that they have achieved throughout their year in Reception. During the first half term of Year 1, your child will bring home their Special Book as a keepsake.

Working with you

We appreciate that parents and carers are a child’s first and most important teachers. We know that they have already learnt many things from you. At St. Aidan’s we try to work with you to build on this foundation to help your child to flourish. We are always available for a quick chat at the beginning or end of the day but if you want more time please ask to make an appointment.

Every Friday (via email) you will receive our weekly curriculum letter which will inform you of the topic your child will be learning about as well as any forthcoming events and dates. Parent consultations will take place twice a year. This will give you the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with the Reception Team.

Helping Your Child at Home

We feel that the most important way to help your child learn and develop is to try and make some time everyday to play with them at something they have chosen. If you are already doing this well done!

Reading to your child is crucial if they are to develop a love for books and to become successful readers themselves. If you can read to them every night as part of their bed time routine, you will be laying the foundations for a successful school life. You can read to your child in English or any language you know.

Toileting

We encourage your child to use the toilet independently and it is very important to inform us if your child has any difficulties with this at your transition meeting. If necessary, we may need to set up a care plan as part of our Contenance policy.

Collecting your child

Our first priority is the safety of your child. To this end we will only let your child be collected by someone you have told us about at your transition meeting. If someone else is to pick up your child, please tell us in advance and write it on the area provided on the classroom door.

Illness

If your child is ill, please phone the school office on 0208 340 2352 to let us know. If your child vomits or has diarrhoea, then you must wait 48 hours from the last episode before sending them to school.

If your child has a medical condition or may require medication to be administered in school e.g. your child has asthma or has an adrenaline pen, then our medical officer will meet with you and organise for a medical care plan.

Accidents Happen

Young children regularly bump and graze themselves. When this does happen we will administer first aid. On those occasions when a child bumps their head we will make a courtesy phone call to inform you.

Jewellery

The school has a policy that the only jewellery that can be worn by children are stud earrings and for religious reasons. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Fruit, Milk and Water

Every day we will provide your child with a piece of fruit and access to milk through our snack area, there is no charge for this. Please make sure your child brings in a water bottle daily. This should be clearly labelled with their name.

St. Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Status

St Aidan's is a voluntary controlled primary school, which means we have strong links with our local church- Holy Trinity. The children in Red class attend church three times a year for a Christmas service, an Easter service and a Year 6 Leavers service. If you do not wish your child to attend the church services, please put this in writing to the Headteacher.



We hope this booklet has provided some additional information to support your child's induction into school. We look forward to welcoming your child into Red class in September.