

# Welcome to Reception



Welcome back to school after the summer break. I hope you and your children are settling into life at St Anne's.

This letter is the first of your regular Reception Newsletters. It will keep you informed with what we have been learning in school and give you some tips how you can help your child at home. For this week it will be a paper copy, but from next week they will be posted to the class website on Friday:

<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/weekly-newsletters>.

Mrs Johnston's weekly headlines will be sent to you via Arbor Communications.

The children have had a great first week in school, they are quickly making new friends and learning the new routines and expectations for Reception. However, they certainly have got more tired as this week has gone on. Please be prepared for tears and tantrums at home over the next few weeks. It's hard work playing all day and learning new things!

## Toileting & Handwashing

In school we are teaching the children that our toilets are a private and quiet place. We are learning to close the toilet door, to flush (with a press flush) when they have finished using the toilet and remember to wash their hands. On the whole, the children are doing well when using the toilet independently. However, some children are forgetting to flush the toilet or missing when they are standing up. We have asked the children to tell a teacher if they have an accident on the floor or find a toilet with a wet floor so we can clean them. At home, please encourage your child to remember to flush the toilet for themselves. Please also spend some time over the next few weeks/months teaching your child to wipe themselves after a poo if they don't already do this by themselves. We don't have wipes in school, so it's best to use toilet paper. Initially, we will help children by talking them through how to do it and then we will check after they have done it themselves. But in time this help will not be needed. This will help their independence which will help in other areas of learning. Mrs Long, Mrs D'Arcy and I will always be around to support the children when needed.

We wash our hands after using the toilet, before eating and after outdoor play. At home I would appreciate your support in teaching your child to wash their hands effectively and independently, including using soap – especially after using the toilet. There are some videos on the class Video Clips – God Made Me & My Family webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/videos-god-made-me-and-my-family> that you can watch with your child and discuss. We will be working on this next week.

### Arrival & Dismissal

Thank you for your support in helping your child come to school and making goodbyes short. It really does help. Those children that have had a few tears are always happily playing within minutes of going to class. Well done children!

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| Reception Arrival   | 8.30am – 8.45am |
| Reception Dismissal | 3.15pm          |

If you arrive late, please take your child directly to the main office where Mrs Miller will greet you. Please make every effort to be on time in the morning. Young children find it very difficult to adapt to the different routines when late or are late on a regular basis and miss out on lots of social interactions, games and times for friendship building. If you are running late for dismissal for any reason, please inform the office via phone. We ask that you don't just ask another parent to pick up your child without notifying the school first. No child will be given to another parent without previous consent by you. If your child is in after school club, they will be escorted to club by a member of staff. We ask that you walk on the footpath around the school and not through the staff car park. Cars are often coming and going and last year there were a few near misses.

### Snacks

Every morning the children sit with their milk or a drink. During this time, they have a piece of fruit. We do provide a piece of fruit free of charge, but if you know your child only likes a particular piece of fruit then please send this in to school in your child's reading packet. If you would like your child to have something for the afternoon, then please send another piece of fruit in for the afternoon. There are some days when we still have spare fruit in school, but this is not always the case – especially at the start of the week. We have a fruit snack policy in Early Years (this can be fresh, dried or tinned fruit in a pot).

### Lunches

Our dinner ladies are Mrs Leach and Mrs O'Reilly and sometimes Mrs Daly. The children have enjoyed having lunches in school – especially the chocolate biscuits & ice cream! Please make sure that you have always ordered a lunch for your child so that there will be enough food for everyone. It becomes very difficult for kitchen staff when many children have not ordered food which means other children miss out.

When eating at home, please encourage your child to eat their dinner sitting at a table using a knife and fork in the correct hands and not using their hands or a spoon for main meals. Perhaps purchase smaller set of cutlery to help your child. The big knives and forks can be heavy for little hands. At the end of the year, I have to assess if children can use a variety of tools which includes using cutlery to meet expectations. Children who use cutlery confidently and efficiently are often the children who have the best handwriting due to stronger muscles in their fingers.

For children who are bringing a packed lunch we ask parents to think carefully about the healthy options and the size. No nuts should be brought to school. We will inform you via the Links Book if there are any issues regarding food.

### Summer Record

Thank you to those parents who have sent back their child's Summer Record. If you have not already done so, please send them in. We have started sharing them and will continue to over the next few weeks. Once all children have shared their book, I will send them home.

### Getting to Know You Form

Last week I sent home a "Getting to know you" form. If you haven't already done so, please complete this form and return it next week. It will help form part of your child's learning profile.

### Parent Information

The Curriculum Overview for Autumn 2026 will be uploaded to the class webpage shortly: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/curriculum-planners>.

This gives information about the curriculum and how you can support at home.

The 'Meet the Teacher' meeting for EYFS takes place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45pm. Please come to the school's main entrance. The PowerPoint and pack will be uploaded to the class website:

<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/meet-the-teacher-and-general-information-for-parents>.

The main school website is continually updated and has a wealth of information: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/>. Please use this as the first point for information and dates for our school. The class webpage <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/reception/> is great source of information and learning pertinent to Reception. As we had a new website earlier in the year, I am still developing this page with new information. There are useful web links, activity ideas and videos that will support your child's learning.

We have a busy Facebook page that staff use to upload pictures of your child's learning and share information with you. Please search for **St Anne's Primary School Streetly** and click **Follow** for regular updates.

### Uniform

Please refer to the uniform policy given to you at the New Parent Meeting and ensure children are dressed accordingly. Shoes should be worn and NOT boots.

Please make sure that long hair for both boys and girls is tied back and off faces every day and that children are not wearing jewellery except a small pair of stud earrings (**hoop earrings are not permitted in school**) in line with school policy. Please make sure that stud earrings are small so that they are safe for school use. These studs should be removed on our PE and Woodlands School Day. Please also ensure that nail varnish and tattoos are not worn to school. As we move through the Autumn term and the weather can change throughout the day, always send your child with a coat with a hood – a light raincoat is ideal initially until the weather gets colder.

### **Homework for parents - Please check that all uniform is clearly named.**

Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to name their child's uniform. It really does help Mrs Long and myself return missing jumpers & cardigans. The children are currently learning to put their jumpers into their bags when they are taking them off. If they do this, hopefully jumpers will go home with the right child. There are some children with jumpers or cardigans that are not named and we've had to play the missing jumper game. Jumpers are costly to replace. If they are named, we will be able to return missing clothing easily.

Children in Reception change for PE in school and do not wear PE kits to school on PE days as Y1 – Y6 do. Children gain so many skills from learning to dress themselves and again it is something I have to assess at the end of the year. If you haven't already done so, please send in your child's PE bags. **Please make sure that this is clearly labelled on the outside with your child's name and has some sort of recognisable feature such as a key ring,**

**ribbon etc. if it is a navy school one and that all PE kits are clearly named – including trainers.**

Until the warmer weather, Reception's formal PE lessons take place inside. PE kit should include:

- Black shorts
- White t-shirt with the school logo
- Trainers with Velcro – no laces please unless your child can do laces independently
- A pair of socks for girls in case they wear tights later in the term.
- Reception children do not need a black track suit.

### Woodlands School

Woodlands School will begin shortly – I will inform you in the class newsletter. We will visit on Friday mornings. We will ask you to provide suitable clothing - see the New Parent Meeting Pack and website for details.

### Spare clothing

Parents do not generally need to send in spare clothing for their child. Most children are usually dry and clean throughout the day in Reception. However, accidents do sometimes happen, but we have spare pants, socks / tights and uniform when needed. If you know your child has regular accidents though, it might be helpful to send a bag with spare uniform in.

**Please remember to return any spare uniform that has been given out or update your child's spares bag.**

### Reading Packets

Thank you for sending your child with a reading packet. Please remember to check and empty reading packets daily. Links books have been given out and are inside. Please check these links books for messages from school staff and make sure these links books are available in school every day. Mrs Long checks them every morning for any messages from home. Please also look at your child's reading packet if they have large or too many key rings. One subtle key ring will suffice as too many will take up too much room in our reading packet boxes.

### General

Don't forget the school has a small, but active PTA who always need more parents to help. This year we are desperately looking for more members. It is a good way to support the school, make new friends and have a good time. The next PTA meeting takes soon - information will be sent out via Arbor Communication and also be on Mrs Johnston's weekly Headlines. Please talk to the PTA, Reception's PTA Ambassador or me if you can help in any way. If you are not able to make the meetings, but would like to help at the events or can offer services/donations from your place of work, please let us know. We really do need new members as many longstanding and active members will be leaving at the end of this year – including our successful Chair.

The 'Prayer Bag' will go home next week on a rota basis. Please use the artefacts at home to share prayer as a family and make a short record about your child's experience in the record book. There is helpful information on the Catholic Life webpage to support you and you're your child with prayer. Resources will be changed depending upon the season / unit taught in school. Please return this as soon as you are finished with it because other children will be waiting to take it home. More information can be found on the Prayer Catholic Life webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/catholic-life/catholic-life/prayer-at-st-annes>.

The 'PE Bag' will go also home on a rota basis. Please support your child in being as active as they can. It would be good to get the whole family involved in games both inside and outside. There are many ideas at the front of the record book.

Travelling Ted has started his adventures! He will be coming home with one child who has done something good, behaved well, worked hard etc. Please make sure that he (and his travel rucksack) is returned - the children are always excited to take him home and are disappointed when he is not in school to do so. I do keep a list of children he goes home with to ensure he goes home with everyone! If everyone returns him quickly, everyone will be able to bring him home at least twice in the year.

Please make sure your child does not bring medicines or sun creams to school. Please make sure sun creams are applied before school and that you contact the office if medication is needed in school (except for asthma inhalers for asthmatics or allergy epi-pens).

I do hope this letter gives you the information you require about what to expect through the coming weeks and year ahead. If you have any questions or worries, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me. The next newsletter won't be quite so long – I promise!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alison Turley  
Reception Class Teacher