

St Kentigern's Primary School

Induction Booklet



Mission Statement



St. Kentigern's School is part of our parish community of faith which helps our children to develop their spiritual, mental and physical abilities to their highest possible potential, by prayerfully basing their lives on the teachings and values of Jesus Christ and his Church, while recognising and respecting the beliefs of others.

We are committed to the development of the whole child within a community where every individual is valued and respected.

Co-operation and friendship will encourage a happy and caring learning environment.

Our School Motto: *'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.'*

Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to St. Kentigern's Catholic School.

We hope that some of your questions will be answered in this booklet. However, if you have any other concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Starting school is a huge step to make, especially when you are only four years old. We aim to make this step into school as happy and stress free as possible. This is why we have a staggered start to enable the children and Early Years staff to form positive relationships by getting to know each other better. Your child will be attending either morning or afternoon sessions for a week block at a time. This has been organised so that your child receives the maximum opportunity to meet each of the members of the class in house teams.

When your child attends school full-time, the school day begins at 8.55 a.m. prompt. Staff will however, be available in the Reception classroom from 8.45 a.m. onwards.

N.B If your child arrives after 8.55 a.m. they need to report to the office where they will be registered and then escorted to their class by a member of staff.

The School Day

Please send your child into school with a named water-bottle that can be refilled during the school day as we encourage all children to stay hydrated.

As the children arrive into class they will be provided with a free breakfast, from Blackpool Council, which usually consist of a drink of milk and a piece/bag of fruit. Morning break is from 10.40am until 11.00a.m.when they have the opportunity to have a snack such as a pancake, waffle or brioche roll.

Lunchtime is from 12 noon until 1.15pm and all KS1 children are entitled to a hot free school meal.

Afternoon break is from 2.15pm until 2.30pm when they will receive a piece of fruit.

The school day finishes at 3.30 p.m. when your child will be sent out to meet you in the playground.

N.B If your child is to be collected by someone who is unfamiliar to staff, please inform the office or class teacher beforehand!

St. Kentigern's Parish

Our school is an integral part of our parish community. Parish and school links are strengthened at particular times such as Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter. Reception children will be involved through playing musical instruments, singing and dancing, showing the pictures they have made etc.

Each year the Reception children will be involved in either an Infant Christmas production or a Carol Service which will be held in Church.



Each Sunday the 9.45a.m. Mass is designated the Family Mass and the children are encouraged to take part in their own Liturgy of the Word led by the parish catechists. We encourage you and your family to take part in the full life of the parish.

The parish social centre is open each night of the week and also on Sunday mornings when the children and families meet after Mass for toast and coffee. This is organised by the PTFA.

Throughout the year the Reception children join various celebrations that are held in Church. Parents will be notified of these events through the school website, newsletter and through Class Dojo (login and password details to follow).

Religious Education



The main aim of our RE programme is to help children grow in the awareness that God loves each one of us, that we need to learn to love him and that we show our love for him by helping one another.

The children learn about the Catholic Faith through taking part in discussion, drama, pictorial and written activities.

Through the year we hold class assemblies when we invite parents, grandparents and friends to attend. The children also take part in a daily act of worship through prayers in the class, in assemblies and various masses in Church.

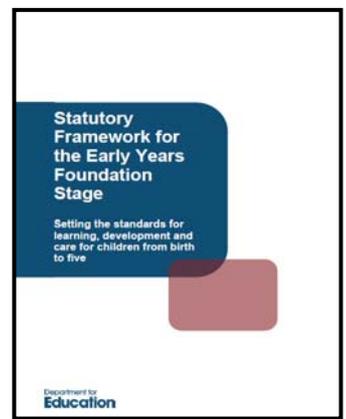
There is a whole school assembly and an infant assembly each week focussing on the gospel value, good work and other achievements are rewarded. Special bronze, silver and gold certificates are awarded for gaining house points for good work or good behaviour.

Parents will be notified of these achievements through text messages and are welcome to view their children's work and photograph which is displayed in the entrance area of the school on the 'Achievement Board'.

Every child is part of a house team and house points are used as a reward and incentive. Throughout the year, the children gather together in their house groups to play games and work with each other.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The reformed Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was published in March 2014 and was effective from September 2014. It sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.



The Learning Environment

Early Years Education is based on a continuous provision of learning through many different types of play based activities. Some of these will be adult led, others will be child led.

The learning environment in the Reception Class supports child development in the areas of

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We have the largest classroom in the school but limited outdoor provision. However we make the most out of what we've got, including the secret garden.

You will be able to track your child's learning journey online through an app known as 'Tapestry'. When you provide an email address, you will receive login details.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE involves Listening and attention, and Understanding and Speaking:

At St. Kentigern's the children will have opportunities to listen to stories and to respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions and actions.



The Role-Play area provides the stimulation for spontaneous language development. The Role-play area will be changed each half term to match with topics we will cover. It will give children various opportunities to interact in real-life situations e.g. Home-Corner, Italian Restaurant, Aquarium etc.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT involves Moving and handling, Health and self-care. at St. Kentigern's we aim to improve skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Physical development also helps the children gain in confidence and self-esteem. We have a dance specialist who teaches them weekly in the hall.



We promote healthy eating and encourage the children to be independent from the very beginning such as hanging up their own coats and taking responsibility for their own book bags and belongings.



Our Health and Safety Policy does not allow children to take part in any physical education or dance unless they are in correct dress. This is green shorts, yellow t-shirt, and black pumps. **N.B. Children are not permitted to wear any jewellery for their own safety.**

We request that children with pierced ears take their earrings out on P.E. days or don't come to school in earrings the day of P.E.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT involves Self-confidence and self-awareness, Managing feelings and behaviours and Making relationships:

This area of learning is vital for your child in all aspects of their life and it gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning.



At St. Kentigern's, we aim to provide the support and experiences that enable your child to develop a positive sense of themselves and respect for others. We follow a whole school behaviour policy 'It's good to be green' and 'Class Dojo'

when children are rewarded for positive behaviour. A positive approach to discipline is paramount and parents are communicated with.

LITERACY involves Reading and Writing both of which relies on developing phonic knowledge. We teach reading and writing following the scheme 'Letters and Sounds'. Children will be encouraged to learn each letter sound with a jingle and action. They will be taught to write each letter sound using a simple letter formation. Group activities may involve shared reading or writing, language games etc.



Each week your child will bring home a reading book and reading diary. The diary is used to exchange positive or constructive comments as to how your child has read in school and at home.

Please remember to send your child with their reading bag every day.

There may be times when your child will re-read a familiar book. This is such an important activity as it develops language familiarity and confidence.



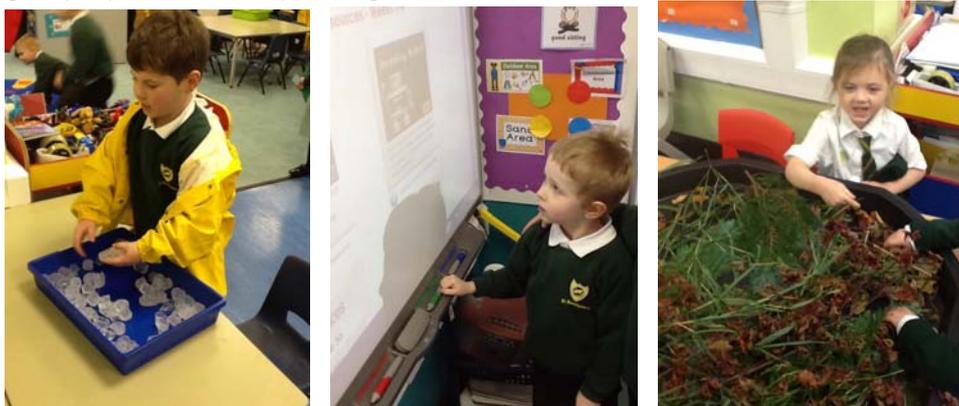
We also encourage children to select books of their own choice and have introduced a 'Home Reader' scheme where the children are able to select books to take home from class to share with their parents. These books are to encourage special story times with their parents and are changed regularly.

MATHEMATICS involves Numbers, Shape, Space and Measures. It involves counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns, calculating and problem solving. Children also explore shape, space and measures.



At St. Kentigern's we use rhymes, songs and stories to encourage learning. Emphasis is also put on developing their ideas and methods to solve practical problems. It is important that the children's experiences of mathematics are enjoyable and meaningful and that their confidence is fostered through building on from what they know, what they understand and are able to do.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD involves People and Communities, The World, Technology. It involves helping your child make sense of the world they live in. This forms the foundation for later work in Science, Design and Technology, History, Geography and Computing.



At St. Kentigern's all our activities are based on first hand experiences that encourage interest and curiosity. Children will learn to investigate, be curious, be enthusiastic and experiment. Areas of learning are exploration and investigation, designing and making skills, ICT, a sense of place, a sense of time, cultures and beliefs.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

At St. Kentigern's we provide a stimulating environment in which creativity, originality and expressiveness are valued. We provide a wide range of activities that children can respond to by using their senses.



A music specialist visits each week to enable them to explore their musical talents through song and percussion.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

We use 'Tapestry' an electronic resource to monitor your child's progress through the Reception Year which is essential to ensure that they are making progress and will enable early identification of any difficulties.

Throughout the Foundation Stage, the children are working towards 17 Early Learning Goals.

In the summer we will determine whether children are meeting expected levels, are exceeding them, or are below the expected level ('emerging').

Throughout the school year, parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's development with the class teacher through the online messaging on 'Class Dojo' and view your child's learning journey on 'Tapestry'. We encourage parents to upload any significant learning that takes place outside of school.



Induction Programme

The children will start their Induction into St. Kentigern's by visiting the Foundation Class for a morning or afternoon session on Friday 30th June 2017. After this visit the Class Teacher, Nursery Nurse and /or Family Support Worker will visit the children in their homes and at their Nursery.

These visits are for the staff to get to know the children and their families before they begin school in the Autumn Term and for the staff to familiarise themselves with the needs of the children and their next steps of learning.

The children will then start school on Tuesday 5th September, attending either a morning or afternoon session in weekly blocks for three weeks. This is key to the induction of the children as it allows the children and staff to get to know each other and for the children to familiarise themselves to the classroom in small groups.

The week beginning the 18th September, the children will also stay/ come in for lunch. This is an important time as it will be the first opportunity for the children to be together as a class.

They start full time on Monday 25th September.

Educational Visits



Educational Visits are an essential part of a child's development and learning. Your child will be undertaking a number of trips ranging from a walk to the local shops, a theatre visit and trips out of the locality. In order for your child to go on these trips, it will be necessary to give your permission by signing an agreement form. You will always be advised of any major trips in advance. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to come with us. We keep the costs to a minimum by using our own school minibus.

Kids Club

Our after school Kid's Club at St. Kentigern's provides excellent, regular and affordable child care. Kid's Club is open from 3.30 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. during term time and caters for all age groups including Reception age children. It is run by highly qualified school staff and is registered with Ofsted and operates from the school hall at a cost of £5.00 a session.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is open from 7.45 a.m. during term time and is available to all children attending St. Kentigern's. Children are provided with a drink of milk or juice and cereal or toast and are taken to their classes at a cost of £2.00 a session.

Children can attend from 8.30am without breakfast for 50p.

If you would like more information, or would like to register your child, please contact Miss Scarlett through the school office, during school hours.

N.B. Reception children will only be able to attend Breakfast club and/ or Kids Club once they are attending school full-time.

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

The PTFA forms an important part of the life of the school. Every parent becomes an automatic member when their child joins St. Kentigern's School. New parents are encouraged to join the committee. The first PTFA event is the spooky disco.



The PTFA meet in school, usually about once a month, to organise social events and raise additional funds for the school. This year we asked each class to organise an event. We found this a very successful way of running events as the children and parents from each class had ownership of running their event. During the year we hold a number of events including discos, St. Kent's Got Talent, Cinema Night, International Food Festival and the Summer Fun Day.

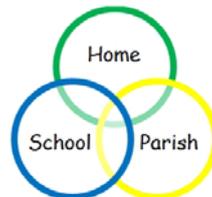
Final Note

We recognise that as parents, you are your child's first educators. At St. Kentigern's we actively encourage parental involvement.



We have welcomed a number of parents into school this year on 'Family Friendly Fridays' to help with reading and many other activities. If you can give any time at all to come in and share your talents, you will be most welcome.

We aim to work in partnership with you for the good of your child. We are looking forward to meeting you and your child and starting a seven year partnership that is key to helping every child be the best they can be.



If you have any queries then do not hesitate to contact us and we will speak to you personally. All matters that are discussed are confidential.

We are sure that your child's first experience at school will be happy one.

Mrs E. Harris
(Reception Teacher)