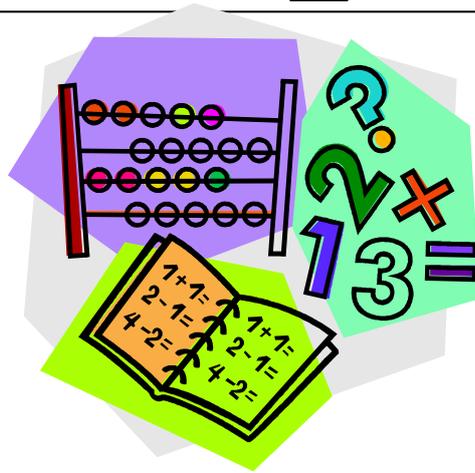


# Foundation Stage



Information for  
Parents

2017 - 2018

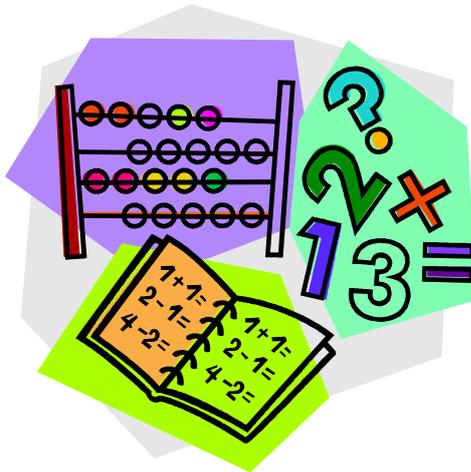
# Timings for school

The Foundation Unit is an important part of St. Ambrose Catholic Primary School. The nursery children attend 5 days a week and all nursery children have been given a morning session. Reception children complete a full school day.

Nursery Morning Sessions: 9.00am - 12.00pm

(Top-Up Nursery Session will be until 3.30pm)

Reception: 8.55am - 3.30pm



# Foundation Stage Staff

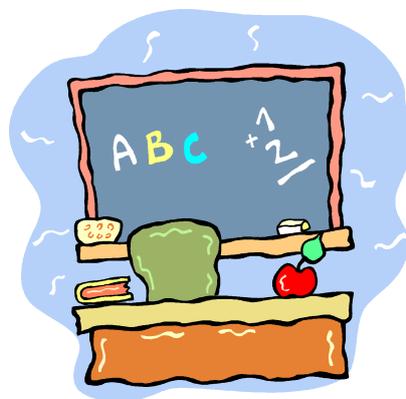
Mrs Edwards - Reception Teacher/ FS Co-ordinator

Miss Slack - Nursery Teacher

Mrs Allman - Nursery Nurse

Miss Beech - Teaching Assistant

All staff members in the Foundation Unit are very approachable. If you have a problem or any issues you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to come in and talk to one of us.





## Settling in

For children in Nursery we allocate a week in September where the children will have a visit with their parents and a phased transition into school. Reception children are invited for a visit before the summer holidays and if needed we will arrange further visit days.

If your child is upset during the initial period in school, please don't worry. Children who 'cling' and appear to be distressed are usually playing quite happily within a few minutes of their parents leaving. You are very welcome to phone school and check that your child has settled down, just to put your mind at rest.

## Collecting Your Child

Children must be brought to and collected from school by their parent or another responsible adult. It is very important that you tell us if someone different will be collecting your child. We cannot send the children home with someone different if we have not been told about it. Please make sure that you arrive on time to pick up your child at the end of each session. If there is an emergency and you are delayed please telephone school and let us know.

## Absence and Illness

If your child is absent, please contact us by phone on the first day of absence and follow this up with a written note when they return to school. If your child is feeling unwell or has been sick during the night, please keep them at home for their own well-being and also in the interest of the other children.

## Water

Health experts say that children and adults need eight glasses of water a day to reduce dehydration and headaches. Not only that, but children who regularly drink the recommended intake of water are found to be calmer, more alert and concentrate better.

Therefore, children are encouraged to drink water during the day. Your child should bring a bottle of water into class. The bottle must have a sports cap and have their name on it. Children are only allowed to bring plain water, not fizzy or flavoured.

## Foundation Stage Fund

Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of £1 per week to the Foundation Stage Fund. This is to pay for the little extras like baking activities, playdough, creative activities and extra toys needed to enhance topic areas and learning experiences for the children. Please give this in to either FS staff or at the office on a Monday morning.

## Snack time

The children in Foundation Stage have a set snack time each day. During this time they have fruit and milk or water. We do not allow the children to bring their own snacks into school. Milk is free until your child turns five but you will need to register with 'Cool Milk for School'. Once your child turns five they can still get milk at snack time but it has to be paid for. These forms have been included in your packs.

On a Friday we have 'special snack' where we get the children to try a range of different snack e.g. pitta bread and dips or cheese and crackers.

## Behaviour

All children need discipline so that an appropriate working environment can develop. They also need to feel secure and to learn what acceptable behaviour is. The children are encouraged to appreciate and respect themselves, others and the environment in which they learn. We discourage hitting and hitting back. Praise is used to reinforce good behaviour and the children are encouraged to talk about problems and disagreements.

We encourage an ongoing positive approach to dealing with the children's needs and have a 'Super Star' system to reward good behaviour and work.

If you have a problem regarding your child's behaviour and you would like support please come in and speak to a member of staff.

## Foundation Stage Curriculum

Early Years education is crucial and concerns the development of the whole child. The needs of 3-5 years olds are different from older children and as a result the curriculum is specifically designed with young children in mind. There are seven areas of learning and development in the foundation stage. All areas of learning are important and are interconnected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

There are also four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**

The emphasis for this is on children learning how to work, play and co-operate with others and function in a group beyond their family. This includes personal, attitudes, social, moral, cultural and spiritual development. Building relationships and developing confidence and self-esteem are all important parts of school life.

## Communication and Language Development (CLD)

Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

### Physical Development

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

### Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

The children are introduced to individual letters. They practice these in handwriting sessions and are encouraged to form these letters during writing activities. Children are given lots of opportunities for using pencils and crayons. Please support your child's writing development by modelling and encouraging this letter formation when they are writing at home.

General reading readiness is stimulated by building up vocabulary through conversations, poems and stories. We encourage the children to become word conscious by reading signs and labels within and outside the classroom.

As the children progress through reception they will be given a reading book. This happens when the children are ready for one, not as soon as they come into the unit.

## **Mathematics**

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

## **Understanding of the World**

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

## **Religious Education**

As a Roman Catholic School, our faith is very much at the centre of all we do, both religious education lessons and the mission and ethos of our school. We follow 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' scheme which offers the children opportunities to grow in faith, love and spirituality from where they are currently at.

We have very strong links with the parish and Fr. Geoff O'Grady is a regular visitor to school. Throughout the year we have mass in school and at times we take the children to visit church.

We take very seriously our role in helping parents who are, of course, the first educators of children in the ways of the

faith. We look forward to working with you towards first sacraments and we see this as a great privilege.

## Helping your child at home

You can help your child to become more independent by:

- Encouraging them to do things by themselves
- Showing them how to put on coats and fasten buttons and zips
- Ensuring that your child can use a knife and fork for dinner time
- Encourage them to get dressed/undressed independently in preparation for PE lessons
- Being independent with belongings in preparation for coming to school and having to hang up their coat and bag
- Ensuring that they can go to the toilet on their own.
- Sharing stories and information books as often as possible to develop a positive attitude to reading
- Encouraging them to count as often as possible; climbing the stairs, setting the table
- Sing number rhymes and counting songs together
- Help your child to recognise numerals used to represent sets of objects e.g. there are four spots on this dice. A number four looks like this...4

## School Uniform

We have a school uniform that helps to develop our sense of community. Parents are asked to co-operate in the provision of the following:

Girls:

Grey pinafore/skirt

White shirt/polo shirt

Blue sweatshirt/cardigan

Sensible black shoes

Boys:

Grey trousers

White shirt/polo shirt

Blue sweatshirt

Sensible black shoes

Summer:

Blue and white dress

Grey shorts

A fleece is also available, but this is for outdoor use only, and should be worn in addition to a sweatshirt, not as an alternative.

PE Kit:

White t-shirt, black shorts and pumps.

Please ensure that all your child's clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name. School cannot be held responsible for lost clothing.

The wearing of jewellery is not permitted for Health and Safety reasons.

It is recommended that the girl's hair is tied back to avoid the infestation of head lice and the boy's hair **must not have** 'tram lines' or other shapes cut into their hair.

