



King's St Alban's

Curriculum Information for Reception Parents



**Teachers: Mrs Thorp (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and
Miss Cartwright (Thursday, Friday)**

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Monkhouse

This page will give you some information about the Early Years Curriculum. It also gives details that we hope you will find useful about daily routines and other Reception facts.

Our Topics

We will begin this term settling the children into our school routines. As we get to know the children and understand their interests and likes we will plan lots of exciting, engaging experiences and learning opportunities. We believe that children learn best when they take charge of their own learning.

Our topic to begin with is 'Ourselves.' We will be looking at how we grow and change, the differences and similarities between us and also talking about our families.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum outlines the important areas of learning throughout Reception. It focuses on the development of each unique child and consists of the following areas:

Themes

The EYFS is based around four themes:

- ***A unique child*** - every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- ***Positive relationships*** - children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person
- ***Enabling environments*** - the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning and we plan to give children opportunities to learn within the classroom, in the playground and within the school grounds
- ***Learning and development*** - children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

Areas of Learning and Development

The EYFS has seven, interconnected areas of learning and development. Three prime 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 prime areas are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional** (making relationships, self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour)
- **Physical Development** (moving and handling, health, and self-care)
- **Communication and Language** (listening and attention, understanding, and speaking)

The additional four areas are:

- **Literacy** (reading and writing)
- **Mathematics** (numbers, shape and measures)
- **Understanding the World** (people and communities, the world, technology)
- **Expressive Arts and Design** (exploring and using media and materials, being imaginative).

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The EYFS recognises three main areas that encompass the characteristics of effective learning. These are:

- **Playing and Exploring (engagement)** - children finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to 'have a go'
- **Active Learning (motivation)** - children being involved and concentrating, keeping trying and enjoying achieving what they set out to do
- **Creating and thinking critically** - children having their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things

Growth Mindset

At King's, rather than simply praising success we praise effort and persistence. We want our students to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, to enjoy putting in effort and to want to keep on learning. To assist us with this we shall soon be 'growing' a learning tree in the Pre-Prep Department. This will be situated in the foyer. Each term we shall be encouraging the children to display particular personal qualities towards their school work and in their

daily life at school. Your child will be awarded a leaf to place on the tree if they continue to demonstrate these positive character traits. Please take the time to talk to your child about why they have been awarded a leaf on the tree and to praise their attitude and effort.

Our Pre- Prep Growth Mindset traits that we shall be focusing on over the next year are:

Kindness

Perseverance

Risk Taking (daring to be different, courageous, original)

Teamwork

Being Flexible

Staying Focused

Independence

Daily Routines and Additional Information

7.45: Early room for those that arrive before 8.30am.

8.30: Choice of activities whilst teacher and classroom assistant read with each child individually. We will be reading on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please bring book-bags to school every day for communication purposes.

9.15: Tidy up ready to start the phonics lesson. The children will work in groups with an adult. Groups come together at the end of the lesson to share their experiences and a selection of work is celebrated. We will often have a book that we focus on. This is also the session when we concentrate on writing, with an emphasis on letter formation and pencil grip.

9.50: Helpers will give out cups for milk/water and a selection of fruit. Children visit the toilet and dress for playtime weather conditions. Please make sure your child has a coat, hat and gloves in winter and a hat in the summer at all times.

10.00: Playtime.

10.30: Assembly

11.00: Literacy or Maths lesson. The topic is introduced with the children on the carpet using lots of practical activities and games. Group work follows and then there is an opportunity to come together again.

12.00: Lunch is eaten in the hall. We say grace and then all eat a hot meal. Children are encouraged to try a little of everything. A member of our Pre – Prep staff will sit with the children during lunch.

12.30: Outside for playtime.

1.00: We have a drink whilst we listen to a story or have a mindfulness session.

The afternoon tends to focus on our current topic and activities are a mixture of child - initiated and those led by the teacher and assistant. We spend lots of time outside exploring our environment and actively learning.

3.00: We have toast and water/milk and often go out for a short play. We return to the classroom for a story, our going home prayer and a song.

3.30: End of school for Reception. Any children remaining after 3.40pm are taken to late room or to a club if they are signed up for one.

Our weekly timetable also includes P.E, Swimming, Music, French and Celebration Assembly on a Friday.

Marvellous Me!

Each child will be invited to take the 'Marvellous Me' box home on a Friday and find up to five special things to show and talk about at school on the following Monday. We will photograph these for a classroom display. The instructions are inside the box!

Literacy and Phonics

Your child will have daily phonics sessions and literacy sessions in which we will cover the following areas:

Reading (Blending)

We follow a variety of synthetic phonics reading schemes that include *Jolly Phonics*, *Read Write Inc.*, *Dandelion Readers* and *Yellow Door*. To give your child practice at blending, one of the activities in their sound books may be short CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words. Please listen to your child blending the sounds to read the words. **THEY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO LEARN THESE WORDS AS SIGHT WORDS.** Please always keep these activities in your child's book bag. In addition to the sound book, your child may bring home other activities such as Word Card key rings and skill cards.

Spelling (Segmenting)

If your child is going to be able to write independently, he/she will need to be able to hear the sounds in words and to write the letters for those sounds. When your child is able to hear the sounds in words, he/she may bring home words with which to practise their new writing skill. These words are for you to call out. He/she has to listen for the sounds and write down the letters for those sounds. Please see this as an exercise in exploring and practising the spelling rules your child is learning at school.

Handwriting

We use lower case letters when we write in Reception, except for names and later in the year at the beginning of sentences. We learn to form them correctly in preparation for joined up writing in Year One. In these vital years, great importance is placed on ensuring the correct formation and placement of letters. Handwriting will take place during phonics sessions each week and formation will be practised through activities in the sand, flour and using interactive formation programs. In addition, short handwriting practice lines will be in their sound books. It would be greatly appreciated if this and the correct holding of a pencil could be similarly reinforced at home. (See 'frog on a log' – separate sheet).

'Wow' moments

The children follow the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). This means the children will be learning through activities personalised to meet their own needs. In order to meet your child's interests and needs in the most effective way we need you to get involved! You will always be the most important influence in your child's life and because of this we would like you to share your child's interests and successes with us. Please record your child's achievements in the portfolio section of Class Dojo and then we will print the photo off and put it into your child's learning journey. An example of a wow moment could be being independent using the toilet or managing to do their buttons up.

Weekly news

Information for Reception parents will be sent home with your child each Friday and include any special events or reminders for the following week. It will also be displayed on the entrance to Reception. Please ask if you have any queries or concerns. We are always happy to make an appointment for longer discussions as it is not always possible to speak at length when the children are arriving at school.

PE and Swimming lessons

Games lessons will be on a Monday. PE lessons will be on a Wednesday. Reception have swimming on Thursday afternoons. Please ensure your child has their swimming bag in school on this day. Forest school is on a Friday afternoon.

Forest School

The children have Forest School on a Friday afternoon. This is when we explore the environment, make things with natural resources and take risks in our safe outdoor space. Please ensure your child has wellies, coats and navy waterproof trousers in school at all times.

We hope that you have found this information useful. Please come and talk to us if you have any queries.