



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

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Class Information Letter – Reception

Welcome to the new school year. We would like to welcome you and your child to Reception at St Vincent de Paul. We are really looking forward to working with the children this year and we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for them all.

Behaviour and Rewards

Our school uses the Hertfordshire Steps approach which supports a therapeutic ethos, early intervention and professional responses to complex, challenging or high-risk behaviours. We have developed three universal school rules which each class has spent time exploring and these are:

- Be ready
- Be respectful
- Be safe

In Reception we value and praise the children as they make the right choice, this may be accompanied with an extrinsic award e.g. stickers etc.

Curriculum

Here is information relating to the Autumn Term curriculum. If you look on the school website you will see how this fits into the curriculum for the entire Key Stage. This may help you to plan interesting visits that match your child's syllabus.

In RE we shall continue to follow the Liturgical Year. This term, beginning with Ordinary Time, leads up to the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. Our themes will be: God's World and God's Family. We will be reflecting on God's love and care for each one of us. We will learn about Creation and think about ways we can care for the world. We will learn how we can use the gifts God has given us to show our love for Him by helping one another and people in other parts of the world. In Advent we will reflect on ways to respond to God's greatest gift His only son Jesus.

Our topics for this half-term are **All About Me, and Celebrations**. We will be learning about ourselves, getting to know each other and the people around us. After half term we will be learning about celebrations that we and others celebrate, e.g. birthdays, Diwali, Hanukah and Christmas. Our topics are always flexible as we aim to develop the children's learning through their own interests. Children in the Reception class learn best through playful activities and having fun so activities are designed with this in mind.

Watch out for the forthcoming date for our **Curriculum Information Meeting** this term. This is to share the End of Year Expectations and our approach to teaching reading and writing. We look forward to sharing this with you ... details to follow!

The areas of learning and development for the children are divided into 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas and are shown below.



Prime Areas	Focus
Personal, Social and Emotional	Making relationships Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour
Physical Development	Moving and handling safely Health and self-care
Communication and Language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking
Specific Areas	
Literacy	Letters and sounds phase 2 Blending and segmenting CVC words Developing a love of stories and story telling
Mathematics	Early Number skills Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and our community Animals from different areas of the world Computing, developing mouse skills
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials

Physical Education

Our PE day is Thursday. Throughout the whole school all PE kits consist of navy shorts and white round necked t-shirt stored in a small drawstring bag (not a large rucksack). Please make sure all of their **uniform is clearly named.**

Home Learning

Home learning is usually set on Fridays to be returned no later than the following Wednesday. This will include a variety of activities across the Early Years curriculum. This is supplemented by regular reading and phonics activities. Children in Reception and KS1 are expected to bring their reading books in a school book bag each day.

General information:

Our next parent Consultations will be on:

Monday 7th October 2018: 3.30pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 8th October 2018: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Water Bottle: All children are encouraged to drink plenty of water during the day, therefore, please supply your child with a refillable **sports top** water bottle. This must ONLY contain water, NO juices. Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day. Children in other year groups may bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable for a morning snack if they wish.

NO jewellery should be worn in school including earrings. Those with pierced ears must remove the earrings during school hours. If you wish your child to have their ears pierced this should take place at the beginning of the summer holidays to ensure the ears are healed before returning in September.

Long hair must be tied back during school hours.

Plimsolls: all pupils must have a pair of well-fitted plimsolls in school. Please ensure all clothing and personal items are named. Lost property is now in a blue box directly outside our main office area and is accessible at all times.

Thank you in anticipation of all of your support throughout the year. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

The Early Years team

