# SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

## Induction Booklet

**Mission Statement**

**With Jesus as our guide, we learn, pray and live together in a safe and happy way.**

Dimbles Hill, Lichfield, Staffordshire. WS13 7NH
School tel: 01543 226090
Nursery tel: 01543 226094

# Welcome to
# SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

We are delighted to welcome you to our school and we hope that this is the beginning of a very happy, cooperative and successful partnership.

As you can see from our Mission Statement, as a Catholic School, we believe that Jesus is at the centre of everything we do and therefore we strive to create an environment where all children are happy and safe and able to fulfil their potential.

The beginning of a child's school life is a milestone and we want to do everything possible to ensure it is a calm and enjoyable process.

This booklet is designed to give you as parents and carers all the information you need to feel confident about your child beginning their school life.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries:

Mrs Faulkner - Headteacher

Mrs Middleton - Class Teacher

Mrs Woolfenden – Deputy Headteacher/ SENCO

Mr S Alexander – Finance & Support Officer

Mrs Blamire - Admin Assistant

We hope that you find this useful and that you and your child will enjoy an active and happy life at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School.

**Mrs C Faulkner**

**Headteacher**

## THE FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT

Children in all Nursery and Reception classes work within the Foundation Stage Unit. This means that there are close links between Nursery and Reception classes, which makes for a smoother transition for your child. The areas of the Curriculum at pre-school settings are described as *Development Matters* and provide skills, understanding and attitudes that will enable the children to progress further through the Foundation Stage when entering the Reception Class. The areas covered in Reception Class are described as Early Learning Goals.

The Early Learning Goals form the final part of the Foundation Stage Curriculum, and it is these goals that the children will be working towards achieving by the end of their year in Reception Class. These Early Learning Goals provide a smooth transition to the National Curriculum, which begins in Year 1.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is grouped under seven areas of learning:-

**The Prime areas are;**

**Communication and Language**

This includes speaking and listening,

**Physical development**

This includes developing fine and gross motor skills, beginning to understand how their bodies work and what they need to do to be healthy and safe.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This includes knowing who they are, where they fit in and feeling good about themselves. It is also about developing respect for others, relationships and a positive disposition to learn.

**Specific Areas of Learning**

**Literacy**

This includes reading simple texts, linking sounds and letters and writing for a variety of purposes.

**Mathematics**

This includes counting, sorting, matching, seeing patterns, recognizing relationships and working with numbers, shapes and measures.

**Understanding the World**

This includes exploring and finding out about the environment and people and places that have significance in their lives. This forms the foundation for later work in Science, Design and Technology, History, Geography and ICT.

**Expressive Arts and Design**

This includes exploring and sharing ideas and feelings through Art, Design and Technology, Music , Dance and role play activities

These areas provide the setting for a more appropriate and effective curriculum for young children's learning development.

A typical day in Reception class is organized through adult focused activities, where the children work in small groups or individually, with an adult and child choice activities which involve the children choosing activities planned to develop skills set out in the Early Learning Goals in all seven areas of learning.

**LITERACY**

Reading readiness and the ability to read with understanding and for enjoyment depends also on the child's ability to listen, follow instructions, and to talk. Please help your child to develop these skills by:-

1. Reading stories, talk about what happened and discuss the pictures with them.

2. Encouraging your child to use correct words and not baby talk. Encourage them also to speak in sentences rather than one word answers.

3. Teaching your child to listen without interrupting. They must be able to listen to the teacher and to the other children. In school they are part of a group.

4. Teaching your child nursery rhymes and teaching them basic colours and shapes in things they see around them.

5. Enrolling your child in a local library. Read to them and talk about their books. This will help to develop a love for books and reading. Encourage them to look after their books.

Although we teach the names of letters, at first we concentrate on the sounds the letters make. This is to enable the children to build up simple words when they are reading and to learn to spell them when they are writing. There will be a parent workshop in the first half term that covers the teaching of letters and sounds.

Reading is a skill which develops slowly and improves with lots of encouragement and practice. The class teacher will judge when your child is ready to begin taking a reading book home and the type of book it will be. When your child brings home a book, please show lots of interest by looking at it, discussing the pictures and reading the book with them. Please return the book to school each day in their book bag.

Each child will also bring home a 'Reading Record Diary' book which has a 'comments' section to be filled in by whoever hears the child read. More guidance will be provided when your child takes their reading book home.

If you are helping your child to write their name, **please encourage them to write in lower case letters using a capital letter at the beginning of their name only.**

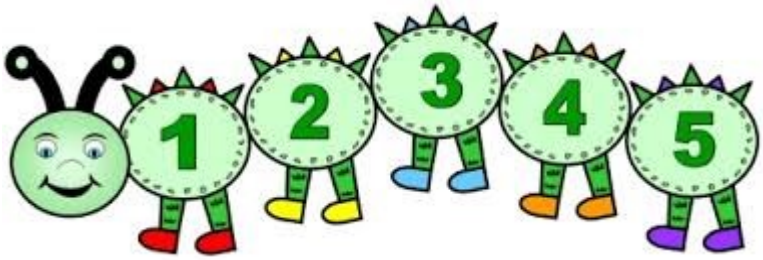
## MATHEMATICS

Please help your child to prepare for Reception class by counting to 20 together. Please also help them to recognise these numbers. Together, look for numbers around your home or when you are out shopping.

Play games of guessing a number, snap with numbers and counting things out to you touching each object as you count.

Please make such activities fun!

We also cover a variety of concepts such as, measurement, shape and positions of objects e.g. on, over, under, beside etc. Please help your child to do jigsaws and identify simple shapes in their environment.




## THE FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE

The children will be assessed on entry to Reception Class in relation to the Development Matters which they may have been working on during their time in pre-school settings. These assessments will be made in all seven areas of learning and will be achieved through planned activities and teacher observation. The information obtained will ensure that each individual child will be provided with opportunities to suit individual needs and these assessments will be recorded in the Foundation Stage Profile document.

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the year in Reception Class, looking at children's progression through the Development Matters, through the Early Learning Goals and onto the National Curriculum. By recording this information in the Foundation Stage Profile, a picture of the whole child is provided at the end of the Foundation Stage. This information will provide the Year 1 teacher with an individual profile of each child and serve as each child's end of year report.

## POINTS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION WHEN CHILDREN ENTER RECEPTION

Whether your child is four or five years old when starting school, they will be happier and will settle far more quickly if they have learned a range of social and independence skills first.
Parents are welcome into the Reception classroom for the first few weeks, although we often find children are keen to come in independently.

## Social Training

As far as possible, please encourage your child to do the following:-

1. Fasten buttons, zips, buckles, laces and shoes with Velcro. Please help your child to be able to hang up items on a peg and to recognise their name.

2. Dress and undress. Your child will be expected to be able to change into shorts, t-shirt and pumps for P.E. **(All P.E. items must be labelled with your child's name)** and dress themselves again afterwards. They also will need to fold up their clothes and place them in a pile. We request that children wear polo shirts on PE days as these aid the dressing process! P.E bags need to kept in school. They will be sent home each half term to be washed. For health and safety reasons children are not allowed to wear earrings during PE lessons. Therefore please ensure children do not wear earring on PE days to avoid any upset at having to take them out.

3. Recognise their personal belongings e.g. school bag, coat and shoes. **It is essential that all school clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name** because most of the class wears the same size and a lot of school clothing is bought from the same shops. Order forms for labels are enclosed with this pack or can be obtained from the school office.

4. Lunch times can be stressful for young children. Please help your child to be able to use a knife, fork and spoon properly and to cope 'alone' at the dinner table and during dinner times.

5. Your child will need to be able to look after themselves in the toilet, washing their hands, blowing their nose etc. Please help them to do these things at home.

6. At the end of the school day i.e. 3.15pm, you can collect your child from his/her teacher by the Nursery door. Please be prompt when collecting your child as the children become distressed when parents arrive late.

If there is an unavoidable delay and you cannot be on time to collect your child, please telephone the school to let us know on 01543 226090. Please let the class teacher know if a different adult will be collecting your child and the password they will be using.

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