

St James the Great Catholic School
Welcome to Reception Class!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a fantastic summer and welcome your child to our Reception Class.

Our first topic will be 'Me, Myself and I' which will enable us to get to know your child so that they can settle well at school.

As part of this topic, we ask the children to bring in some photos of themselves with their family and a photo of themselves as a baby. Please could you bring these in next week and we will use them for our class display. All photos should be in an envelope clearly labelled with their name so that they can be returned to you when we have finished the topic.

Clothing

The children spend a lot of their time in the outside learning areas. Please make sure that your child is always dressed appropriately for **all weather** situations. Please ensure that your entire child's uniform is clearly labelled. Please provide a spare set of clothes in a separate bag to hang on their pegs in case they get wet in the water tray, etc...

Reading



It is very important for your child to bring their blue book bag to school every day so they are always accessible for us to read with the children and change their books when we need to. Your child will be given their own 'My Reading Diary' to be put in their book bags. Your child can select a choosing book on Tuesday and Friday to take home. This is for your child to enjoy and share with you. They are not expected to read this book but you can ask them questions about the pictures as well as the story.

Once the children have settled into school, you are welcome to come into the classroom on **Tuesday between 8.45 and 8.55am** to choose and read a book with your child. We will let you know when this will begin. We will also start group shared reading and your child will be given a shared reader book to read with you at home. Please ensure these books are in school **every day in their book bags**. Please ensure that you make time to read with your child.

Phonics



Before reading develops the children need to be able to pronounce the phonemes (letter sounds) correctly so that they can blend sounds together to make words. We will learn 5 sounds each week. There are 42 phonemes that the children will need to learn. The phonemes are not taught in alphabetical order but in a way that allows the children to make many words using just the first 6 phonemes e.g. the first 6 sounds are s, a, t, p, i, n to make words such as it, at, is, in, sit, sat, pat, tap etc. There will be a Workshop Session undertaken by Ms. Delaney which will provide further information on the new Phonics Program - please look out for a letter!

Please note: If Shared Reader Books are lost there will be a fee of £5:00 per book to pay to cover the cost of replacement.

Class Teddy

Reception class have a class teddy. A child will take the teddy home for the weekend on a Friday and it needs to be returned the following Monday so that the child can share their weekend experiences with the class. Please support your child in recording what they did that weekend in the class book.

HOME TIME

IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING HOME WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU INFORM US WHO WILL BE COLLECTING THEM. IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION THEN A TELEPHONE CALL WILL BE SUFFICIENT. WE ARE UNABLE TO LET CHILDREN GO HOME WITH ANYONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN NAMED TO US IN ADVANCE.

It is really important to us that all the children in the class are happy! If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to come and ask us at the beginning of the day.

Thank you for your help and support.

The Reception Class Team - Miss Bonnici (Class Teacher), Ms Gabriela and Ms Diane

Reception Class

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will learn to...

Demonstrate friendly behaviour, initiate conversations forming good relationships with peers and familiar adults.

Be more outgoing towards unfamiliar people and more confident in new social situations.

Accept the needs of others by taking turns and sharing resources (sometimes with the support of others).

Initiate conversations, attend to and take account of what others say.

Be aware of the boundaries set, and of behavioural expectations in the setting

Understanding the World

We will learn to...

Know some of the things that make us unique, and talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends or family.

Show care and concern for living things and the environment.

Look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change and ask questions.

Know that information can be retrieved from computers

Communication and Language

We will learn to...

Follow directions and show understanding of prepositions such as 'under', 'on top', 'behind' by carrying out an action or selecting correct picture.

Maintain attention, concentrate and sit quietly during appropriate activity.

Respond to instructions involving a two-part sequence.

Take part in discussions about my home, my body, my senses, my body and my feelings.

Physical development

We will learn to...

Experiment with different ways of moving.

Understand that equipment and tools have to be used safely.

Use a correct pencil grip and gain control with mark making implements.

Complete a puzzle and threading activities.

Copy some letters, e.g. letters from their name

Show some understanding that good practices with regard to exercise, healthy eating, sleeping, hygiene and oral hygiene can contribute to good health.

Dressing & undressing with help.

Literacy

Books we will read: Starting School, Teddy Goes to School, The Colour Monster, The Colour Monster goes to School, My Big Brother Boris, My Little Sister Doris, Brown Bear, The Big Book of Families, My Body, Flooded.

We will learn to...

Hold books the correct way up and turn pages

Understand that print carries meaning and, in English, is read from left to right and top to bottom.

Read for pleasure and learning to read using a shared reader to practice phonics skills recognising s, a, t, p, i, n

Give meanings to marks that we see in different places.

Hear and say the initial sound in words.

Give meaning to marks we make as we draw, write and paint.

Me, Myself, I



Expressive Arts and Design

We will learn to...

Join construction pieces together to create and build models.

Draw a self- portrait and our families.

Capture experiences and responses with a range of media, such as music, dance, role play,

paint and other materials or words.

Create simple representations of events,

people and objects.

Explore what happens when we mix colours.

Mathematics

We will learn to.....

Recognise numbers from 1-5 without counting

Count, find and write numerals 1 to 5.

Recite numbers in order to 10

Show an interest in shape and space by playing with shapes or making arrangements with objects as well as creating shape pictures.

Describe the position of objects such as 'behind' or 'next to'.

Use simple mathematical language to describe and compare objects by length, height and weight.