

Welcome to Reception



Welcome back to school after the summer break. I hope you and your children are settling into life at St Anne's.

This letter is the first of your regular Reception Newsletters. For this week it will be a paper copy, but next week they will be posted to the class website on Friday: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/reception-weekly-newsletters/>

The children have had a great first few days in school, are quickly making new friends and are learning the new routines and expectations for Reception. However, they have certainly got more tired as the week went on. Please be prepared for tears and tantrums at home over the next few weeks. It's hard work playing all day and learning new things!

Toileting & Handwashing

In school we are teaching the children to put the toilet seat up if they stand to use the toilet and put the lid down and flush (with a press flush) when they have finished. On the whole, the children are doing well when using the toilet independently. However, some children are forgetting to flush the toilet or missing when they are standing up. We have asked the children to tell a teacher if they have an accident on the floor or find a toilet with a wet floor so we can clean them. At home, please encourage your child to remember to flush the toilet for themselves. Please also spend some time over the next few weeks teaching your child to wipe themselves after a poo if they don't already do this by themselves. We don't have wipes in school so best to use toilet paper. Initially you can tell them you will check after they have done it themselves and in time this will not be needed. This will help their independence which will help in other areas of learning. Mrs Long, Mrs D'Arcy and I will always be around to support the children and will talk them through what to do if needed.

We wash our hands after using the toilet, before eating and after outdoor play. At home I would appreciate your support in teaching your child to wash their hands effectively and independently, including using soap – especially after using the toilet. There are some videos on the class Video Clips – Autumn 1 webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/video-clips-autumn-1/> that you can watch with your child and discuss. We will be working on this next week.

Arrival & Dismissal

Thank you for supporting your children coming to school and making goodbyes short. It really does help. Those that had a few tears on the first were happily playing within minutes of going to class and everyone is now coming to school happily. Well done children!

Reception Arrival	8.30am – 8.45am
Reception Dismissal	3.15pm

If you arrive late, please take your child directly to the main office where Mrs Miller will greet you. Please make every effort to be on time in the morning. Young children find it very difficult to adapt to the different routines when late or are late on a regular basis. If you are running late for dismissal for any reason, please inform the office via phone – I may not pick up an

email until after close of the day. We ask that you don't just ask another parent to pick up your child without notifying the school first. No child will be given to another parent without previous consent by you. If your child is in after school club, they will be escorted to club by a member of staff. For those parents of children in Kids Club, we ask that you walk on the footpath and not through the staff car park. Cars are often coming and going and last year there were a few near misses.

Milk

You should be receiving a ParentMail over the next few days about milk in school. Please make sure you respond to this to help with ordering.

Snacks

Every morning the children sit with their milk or a drink. During this time, they have a piece of fruit. We do provide a piece of fruit free of charge, but if you know your child only likes a particular piece of fruit then please send this in to school in your child's reading packet. If you would like your child to have something for the afternoon, then please send another piece of fruit in for the afternoon. There are some days when we still have spare fruit in school, but this is not always the case – especially at the start of the week. We have a fruit snack policy in Early Years (this can be fresh, dried or tinned fruit in a pot too). Please do not send in biscuits, sweets, cereal bars or crisps etc for snacks - children become very upset if they are not allowed to eat a snack provided from home.

Lunches

Our dinner ladies are Mrs Leach, Mrs O'Reilly and sometimes Mrs Daly. The children have enjoyed having lunches in school – especially the jelly & ice cream! Please make sure that you have always ordered a lunch for your child so that there will be enough food for everyone. It becomes very difficult for kitchen staff when many children have not ordered food. When eating at home, please encourage your child to eat their dinner sitting at a table using a knife and fork in the correct hands and not using their hands or a spoon for main meals. Perhaps purchase smaller set of cutlery to help your child. The big knives and forks can be heavy for little hands. For children who are bringing a packed lunch we ask parents to think carefully about the healthy options and the size. No nuts should be brought to school as we have some children with allergies in school. We will inform you via the Links Book if there are any issues regarding food.

Summer Record

Thank you to those parents who have sent back their child's Summer Record. If you have not already done so, please send them in. We will start sharing them next week and will continue to over the next few weeks. Once all children have shared their book, I will send them home.

Getting to Know You Form

On Wednesday I sent home a "Getting to know you" form. Please complete this return this next week. It will help form part of your child's learning profile.

Parent Information

The Curriculum Overview for Autumn 2025 has been uploaded to the class webpage. This gives information about the curriculum and how you can support at home. Meet the Teacher" meeting takes place on Friday 19th September at 2.30pm. Please come to the school's main entrance. The PowerPoint and pack will also be uploaded to the class website. Please use our class webpage <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/reception/> as a source of information and learning. There are activity ideas, photographs, web links and videos that will support your child's learning. There will also photographs of the children at play. The main school's website is continually updated and has a wealth of information: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/>

Uniform

Please make sure that long hair for both boys and girls is tied back and off their face every day and that children are not wearing jewellery except a small pair of stud earrings (**hoop earrings are not permitted in school**) in line with school policy. Please make sure that stud earrings are small so that they are safe for school use. These studs should be removed on our PE day (Thursday). Please also ensure that nail varnish and tattoos are not worn to school. As we move through the Autumn term and the weather can change throughout the day, always send your child with a coat with a hood – a light raincoat is ideal initially.

Homework for parents - Please check that all uniform is clearly named.

Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to name their child's uniform. It really does help Mrs Long and myself return missing jumpers. The children are currently learning to put their jumpers into their bags when they are taking them off. If they do this, hopefully jumpers will go home with the right child. There are some children with jumpers or cardigans that are not named. Jumpers are costly to replace. If they are named, we will be able to return missing clothing easily.

Children in Reception change for PE in school and do not wear PE kits to school on PE days as Y1 – Y6 do. Please start to send in your child's PE bags. These stay in school and are sent home at the end of every half term to be washed and returned on the first day after the holiday. **Please make sure that this is clearly labelled on the outside with your child's name and has some sort of recognisable feature such as a key ring, ribbon etc. if it is a navy school one.**

PE kit should include:

- Black shorts
- White t-shirt with the school logo
- Trainers with Velcro – no laces please unless your child can do laces independently
- A pair of socks for girls in case they wear tights later in the term.
- Reception children do not need a black track suit or football shin pads.

Woodlands School

Woodlands School will begin shortly – I will inform you in the class newsletter. We will visit on Friday mornings. We will ask you to provide suitable clothing - see the New Parent Meeting Pack and website for details.

Spare clothing

Parents do not generally need to send in spare clothing for their child. Most children are usually dry and clean throughout the day in Reception. Accidents do sometimes happen however and we have spare pants, socks / tights and uniform where needed. However, if you know your child has regular accidents, it might be helpful to send a bag with spare uniform in.

Please remember to return any spare uniform that has been given out or update your child's spares bag.

Reading Packets

Thank you for sending your child with a reading packet. Please remember to check and empty reading packets daily for any letters, pictures or paintings that your child may have been given. Links books have been given out and are inside. Please check these links books for messages from school staff and make sure these links books are available in school every day. Mrs Long checks them every morning. Please also look at your child's reading packet for if they have key rings. Some children have many larger ones. One key ring will suffice as too many will take up too much room in our reading packet boxes.

General

Don't forget the school has an active PTA who always need more parents to help. We are desperately looking for more members. It is a good way to support the school, make new friends and have a good time. The next PTA meeting takes soon. Information will be sent out via ParentMail. Please talk to the PTA if you can help in any way. If you are not able to make the meetings, but would like to help at the events or can offer services/donations from your place of work, please let the PTA, PTA Ambassador or the office know. We really do need new members as many longstanding and active members left in July as their children moved to Year 7. More information can be found on the PTA webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/pta/>

The 'Prayer Bag' will go home shortly on a rota basis. Please use the artefacts at home to share prayer as a family and make a short record about your child's experience in the record book. There is helpful information on the Catholic Life webpage to support you and you're your child with prayer. Resources will be changed depending upon the season / unit taught in school. Please return this as soon as you are finished with it because other children will be waiting to take it home. More information can be found on the Prayer Catholic Life webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/prayer/>

The 'PE Bag' will go also home on a rota basis. Please support your child in being as active as they can. It would be good to get the whole family involved in games outside. There are more ideas on the 'Keeping Fit & Physical Development' webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/keeping-fit-physical-activity/>

Travelling Ted hasn't started his adventures just yet. When he does, he will come home with one child who has done something good, behaved well, worked hard etc. Please make sure that he (and his travel rucksack) is returned - the children are always excited to take him home and are disappointed when he is not in school. I do keep a list of children he goes home with to ensure he goes home with everyone! If everyone return him quickly, everyone will be able to bring him home twice in the year.

Please make sure your child does not bring medicines or sun creams to school. Please make sure sun creams are applied before school and that you contact the office if medication is needed in school (except asthma inhalers or allergy epi-pens).

Over the weekend, I will update the school website with dates for your diary.

I do hope this letter gives you the information you require about what to expect through the coming weeks and year ahead. If you have any questions or worries, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me. The next one won't be quite so long – I promise!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alison Turley
Reception Class Teacher / EYFS & KS1 Leader