



Early Years  
Welcome Booklet  
2020-2021

# **Welcome**

Sacred Heart Primary School

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## **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Welcome you to our school! We are delighted to be to working with you and your child in what will be a new and exciting stage in their development.

We will provide you with a warm and welcoming atmosphere in which you and your child feel safe and secure.

We will work together to give your child the very best start in their education and we value your support on this very special learning journey.

## **EARLY YEARS**

Here at Sacred Heart we aim to meet the unique needs of all of our children in a caring and friendly atmosphere. The environments that we create for children are important to us and we aim to inspire awe and wonder to enable them to learn and develop to their maximum potential, both indoors and outdoors. Our environment consists of many different areas:

- Creative area
- Playdough area
- Water area
- Sand area
- Construction area
- Writing/drawing area
- Construction area
- Small world area
- Maths area
- Story area
- Investigation area
- Music and movement area
- Role play area
- Loose parts

We encourage the children to think creatively and imaginatively, and we do this by having dynamic and flexible systems that support personalised learning. We provide a balance of adult facilitated (activities which are planned and led by an adult) and child initiated (activities which a child independently chooses) learning that allows children to be confident, competent, creative, independent learners with excellent self-esteem.

Our strategic observation and evaluation process ensures planning reflects the children's interests, and individual care and learning requirements are met. Our self-evaluation and informed discussions identify strengths and priorities for development that improves the provision for all children.

## Tapestry

We use a secure online learning journal called tapestry which documents your child's learning throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage. The journal provides you with instant snapshots of your children's learning in school through photos, videos and notes. We hope that as parents/carers you will value this as much as we do and we encourage you to add photos, videos and comments of things that your child may be doing at home to give us the full picture of your child.





We place great emphasis on children learning outdoors and we are passionate about promoting this. All children will have the opportunity to go out and about on regular visits using the school mini buses to enhance their learning and experiences as well as being introduced to Forest School. Reception class attend weekly Forest School sessions throughout the year at Scotswood Natural Community Garden.

The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. By participating in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks and activities in a woodland environment each participant has an opportunity to develop intrinsic motivation, sound emotional and social skills. These, through self-awareness can be developed to reach personal potential.

Forest Schools has demonstrated success with children of all ages who visit the same local woodlands on a regular basis and through play, who have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.



## Reading

We believe that reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out. We know that a child who is a reader can escape to another world simply by turning a page and the adventures are endless. We want children to love reading and to love learning.



At Sacred Heart we use the Read Write Inc (RWI) phonics programme to get children off to a flying start with their literacy. RWI is a method of learning centred round letter sounds and phonics, and we use it to aid children in their reading and writing. Nursery children will be introduced to RWI to enable them to get off to a flying start when they go into Reception class. This will be introduced at an age appropriate level and will not be as tightly structured as Reception class and will allow children to become familiar with the images and rhymes used.

Using RWI, the children learn to read effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into comprehending what they read. It also allows them to spell effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into composing what they write.

When using RWI to read the children will:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts
- learn to read words using Fred Talk
- read lively stories featuring words they have learned to sound out
- show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions.

When using RWI to write the children will:

- learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent 44 sounds.
- learn to write words by saying the sounds in Fred Talk
- write simple sentences

## **Mathematics**

We also use a hands on maths programme at Sacred Heart called Numicon. Numicon is a multi-sensory approach to teaching maths developed by experts in the classroom. It is designed to help children understand connections between numbers.

Through the multi-sensory activities and mathematical language of Numicon, your child will develop the understanding and skills that underpin their later understanding of number.

## **Trips and Visits**

As a school we value the importance of school trips and visits, we strive to provide opportunities for children to make learning fun and purposeful. We use this as an opportunity to put learning into context for young children. Our trips reflect the children's interests and needs as well as providing new opportunities and experiences. We hope to take our reception class on an overnight residential trip to Whitby in the summer term.

As well as school trips, we also invite visitors to our school to enhance the learning experiences.



## **Buddies**

At our school we have a buddy system in place. This is where nursery children and reception class children are partnered up with a year 5 and 6 buddy for the year. We hold a special buddy assembly for reception and year 6 children at the beginning of the year to celebrate this. Throughout the year the children spend time with their buddies including trips, library time and time to develop their relations.





## **What should my child wear?**

The school uniform can be purchased from Tots to Teams based at Kingston Park. We do ask that children are dressed in school uniform every day. Please do not let your child wear necklaces, bracelets or earrings for school as these can be dangerous if they get caught on something.

## **Independence**

When buying school uniform and shoes please consider whether your child will be able to get them on and off by themselves. Most children's uniform have elasticated waists to aid independence and most shoes now have velcro fastenings. Shoes that are flat and rubber soled, make it safer for your child to climb.

## **Names in clothing**

Please write your child's name in **ALL** clothing they have at school including coats and shoes. Many shops now sell fabric pens that don't wash out or iron on labels that you can put inside clothes.

## **Being dressed for outdoors**

We will be spending lots of time outside everyday so please could you provide a pair of wellies with your child's name marked inside them and a warm waterproof coat.

When it is time for your child to visit forest school, they will be required to wear a school tracksuit.

## **PE kits**

The children in reception will be doing weekly PE sessions and will need to bring a PE kit into school. The school PE kit is a white t-shirt and red shorts.

## **Water bottles**

Water bottles with the school logo will be available to buy from the school office priced at £1.50.



## **Attendance and Punctuality**

### **Where do I bring and collect my child each day?**

Doors will open at 8.45am for Reception and 8:55am for Nursery. Staff will be there to greet you and your child. Please bring your child to the classroom doors promptly for the beginning of each day. Please do try to be on time. The doors will be closed promptly.

At the end of the school day please collect your child from the Nursery classroom at 3:00pm and Reception classrooms at 3.10pm before collecting any older children in school. Thank you.

Your child's attendance at school becomes statutory once they are in Reception. We do ask that you make every effort to bring your child to school on time every day. If your child is poorly, please ring school before 8.55am to let the staff know of their absence. Holidays are not allowed during term time.

### **What happens if my child has head-lice?**

Despite all that has been done to eradicate them, the problem of the common lice still emerges from time to time.

If you find them or suspect they are in your child's hair, don't worry and carry out the following procedure:

Smother the hair in conditioner. Go through the hair very carefully with the special comb. Follow this procedure regularly for 2 weeks.

### **School website and blogs**

Our school website is updated regularly with important dates and events. You will also find curriculum information on our class blogs as well as photos and updates on what the children have been learning each week. We value your contributions and would love you to have a look regularly and comment on what the children have been doing.

### **Open Door Policy**

We operate an open door policy and staff are available to speak to if you have a problem or query. Staff will have time after school to talk about any issues you may have or parents can leave a message with the member of staff on the door each morning.

We look forward to seeing you and your child at the start of the term.

The Foundation Stage Team

