



SAINT GEORGE'S
(HANOVER SQUARE) SCHOOL
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Head teacher: Mrs Judith Standing

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Dear parents,

Please find below some useful information that will tell you a little but more about what the Reception class is like at St George's.

Reception curriculum

In Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which outlines seven areas of learning that underpin the activities and experiences the children will have throughout the year.

The seven areas are:

-Personal, Social, Emotional Development

-Physical Development

-Communication and Language

-Literacy

-Maths

-Understanding the World

-Expressive Art and Design

The first three areas are the prime areas. Personal, Social and Emotional development, Physical development, and Communication and Language underpin the learning in all the other areas and we spend much of our first term focusing on developing the relevant skills in these areas.

The Reception year is very much a continuation of Nursery and we will take into account the individual needs, interests, and stages of development of each child to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all of the areas of learning and development.

Learning opportunities for the children are developed:

-Through play, which at times is structured to enable new skill development

-Through children's interests noted by staff and from parent suggestions

-Through allowing children to make their own choices and decisions

-Through providing a range of stimulating resources that children are encouraged to explore freely and through direction from staff

-Through catering for different learning styles and needs

Autumn Term

This first half term is mostly about settling in to a new school, getting to know one another and establishing routines.

Reading

In Reception we love reading and have an abundance of books for the children to enjoy, as well as reading stories together as a class. When your child is ready they will get a levelled book to take home to read with you. They will have a home/school reading record where you can write comments about how they read, what they enjoyed etc. This will also be used at school to comment in. The children will have a 'free choice' book to take home which will not be at the child's reading level but is a book they are interested in and want to share with their family. I encourage you to read this book to your child and discuss it with them.

General reminders/information

*The children take part in ballet **every other Friday**. You should have a letter informing you of which group your child is in and when their ballet sessions are. **They will need to come to school in their P.E. kit/ballet clothes for this and bring their school uniform in a bag to change into afterwards.**

*P.E will take place on a **Monday. Children will need to have their P.E. kit in school every Monday.** We will be able to assist with tricky buttons, ties and zips but please practise with your child how they dress/undress and look after their belongings so they can develop a level of independence.

*Please make sure all items of uniform, P.E. kit, lunch box and water bottle are clearly labelled with your child's name.

*Children can bring in a labelled water bottle to drink throughout the day. There is also a fountain in the playground and drinks available at lunch time.

*If your child is having packed lunch please make sure they are aware of this and know which lunchbox is theirs.

*Packed lunches should not contain any chocolate, crisps or sweets. **Children should also not bring in any nuts (all nuts), products that contain nuts or have traces of nuts in them.** There are several children in the school who have severe nut allergies.

*The children are offered a fruit or vegetable snack mid morning. If your child is particularly fussy about fruit and veg then please send in a fruit or vegetable they like.

*For more information about the school lunch menu please see the school website.

*The playground gates are open at 8.30am where Reception parents are welcome to sit/talk/read with their child. The bell will ring at 8.55am and the children should 'freeze' and then wait until their class is called before lining up. I ask that you say goodbye to your child as the bell goes or just before so the children can line up independently. It is important for the children to develop this confidence and independence as it will help settle them into the school routine.

*The playground gates will open at 3.15pm for parents to wait to collect their child. Reception children will come down the grey steps at 3.25pm, slightly before the rest of the school. Please do not rush to the class, as we will release each child when we have seen their parent/carer. If someone else is collecting your child, please inform the class teacher and the office in writing.

*Children do not need to bring any of their own equipment to school e.g. pencils, pens. The school has all the resources they will need and more often or not these get lost.

*If you have any junk materials (toilet roll tubes, yogurt pots, milk carton lids, cereal boxes etc) please bring them in as we use them for junk modelling.

Ways to support at home

Many parents are keen to support their child with their learning at home and this is where the children put to practise all the new skills they are learning. Playing together, cooking, reading, even tidying up all offer great opportunities for your child to show-off what they have learnt. Many activities at home can also help to develop your child's fine motor skills - a very important factor when they are learning to write, draw and paint. Activities such as knitting, sewing, icing cakes, mixing ingredients and manipulating small toys/puzzles/cars and games all help with their physical development and are a great way to enjoy some time with your child.

For your child to develop a sense of independence there are many things you can do at home to support this e.g. giving your child small, simple tasks such as sorting socks or cutlery, putting away toys or shoes and stacking books. It is also important that you allow your child to go to the toilet by themselves and wash their hands as doing tasks like this can really help them develop a sense of responsibility and confidence.

Making friends and developing relationships are very important aspects of the Early Years Framework. I would encourage you to talk to your child about their day, who they have played with, what was the funniest part of the day, what did they most enjoy, what was their favourite thing at lunch, did they make something etc. It may take a little for them to open up and talk comfortably about school, however this is expected and it can take some children time to readjust and settle.

We have included some 'wow moments' parent slips that can be used at home to document when your child has achieved something they were finding difficult, tried really hard, mastered a new skill or have generally done something really good! They can then be sent back to school in their bag to be kept in their Learning Journey. We will aim to hand out a few of these every half term.

A 'typical' day in Reception (This changes as the year progresses and as the children develop)

Approximate timings	Learning opportunities
8:55-9:05	Bags and coats away and register
9:05-9:20	Collective Worship
9:25-10:20	Whole class interaction and discussion. Self-selecting outdoor learning time and activities linked to children's interests, covering the seven areas of learning.
10:20-10:45	Tidy up, snack and story
10:45-11:25	Whole class interaction and discussion. Self-selecting time in groups and activities linked to children's interests, covering the seven areas of learning.
11:25-11:45	Tidy up and prepare for lunch
11:45 - 1	Lunch and playtime
1 - 1:30	Register and Phonics
1:30-2:45	Self-selecting time in groups and activities linked to children's interests, covering the seven areas of learning.
2:45 - 3:05	Circle time and discussion
3:05 -3:25	Story/songs and prepare for home time
3:25	Home time