



St Mary and St Peter Catholic Primary School

Set Sail to Success



Reception CLASS LETTER September 2021

Welcome to St Mary and St Peter, we hope you will enjoy becoming part of our school community. We hope that you had a great summer and are as excited about the coming term as we are.

Things your child will be learning this half term



- These first few weeks, with your support, we will be looking to settle your child into school. There is a lot to learn, friends to make, routines to learn, a new classroom to explore and discover.
- Our Main focus question for the Half term is 'Who am I? Who are you?' As part of this we would love it if you felt able to share on Tapestry a picture of the people who live in your house for your child to talk to us about.
- Initially we will be focusing on the prime areas of the Early Years curriculum, as shown below.

Physical development

(both gross motor – climbing, running jumping hopping and Fine motor – using tools such as scissors, threading moulding and holding a pencil correctly)
We use a variety of interesting resources to strengthen the muscles in our fingers, such as; threading laces, cutting with scissors, pegging and using tweezers. This helps us to develop a good pencil grip when writing.
It's very important to strengthen our upper body too by climbing, throwing, sweeping and drawing large pictures with chalks and paint brushes.
Every child has access to the outdoor area daily and children are encouraged to use this as much as possible!



Communication and Language

(Listening attention and understanding as well as speaking)
Children take part in circle games to support them in listening and paying attention.
Children will gain confidence in speaking and taking turns in conversations. We work in small groups and organise games and play that encourages taking turns in talking and listening.
Children are learning to follow more complicated instructions, involving several actions.



Personal, Social and Emotional development

(self regulation, managing self and building friendships) We take children from a number of different settings and part of the work we do in the first few weeks is to support the children in forming good relationships with their peers and teachers.
They are taught how to negotiate and solve problems through talking and listening.
Children take part in turn taking activities, such as turn taking card and board games, taking turns on the wheeled vehicles and using a sand timer to wait for their turn.



Things you could explore at home to help your child's learning

- Share the books that are sent home with your child.
The school expects that every child spends a few minutes reading every night, this needs to be recorded in their contact book, (when your child has read for 5 days a week for 5 weeks they are awarded their



first badge, this is then swapped as they reading more for more reading badges)

Every morning there will be a box of books outside the classroom and if you and your child want to swap their library book you can do so then, just return the one you have read and add the new one to their bag. Then write the title in their contact book when you share the book with them at home. Each week on a Friday the class will get a chance to visit our school library and choose some different books for the box, so there should be plenty of choice, but equally we are happy if children keep a book for several days to enjoy reading it several times. When reading the library books with your child you can ask questions like:

"What is happening?", "What do you think will happen next?", "What would you do if you were the child in the story?", "Which part of the story did you like best?" Later, as we start teaching Phonics we will send the sounds that the children have learnt in class, when this happens you will also get more information about how to support your children with learning to read and write these sounds.


- Please write into your child's school diary a brief comment every night saying how their reading went.
- Check your child's tapestry account regularly, talk about the learning that you see on there with your child. The class Tapestry account will be where you can see what we have been learning about as a class and any ideas and information about what and how we are learning. **If you have not already done so, please fill the information about your child on the site.** You are also welcome to comment on posts, and add posts of your own about things that your child is achieving at home. Please be aware that if you are commenting on a post that a number of children are tagged in on or on the class account then their relatives will also be able to see your comments. If you are struggling to get on the app please come and see us and we can give you some help.
- Talk to your child about school and what they have been doing. Some children are not always eager to talk about school. It can help to tell them about what we have been doing can prompt chat. Sometimes tackling it in a different way can help. Here are some possible prompts:
What was the funniest thing that happened to you today?
What are you most proud of today? Why?
Who were you kind to today?
What was the messiest thing you did today?
What school story do you like most? Why? What is it about?

Please take note of these points



- Please check that all uniform, but especially jumpers and cardigans have clear names on.
- In the Autumn term the weather can change greatly. If it is warm and sunny, please make sure your child has a sun hat and you have used a sunscreen that is long lasting before they come to school. When it gets colder make sure your child has a coat, named hat and gloves. They will also need Wellie boots in school whatever the weather. If they have waterproof trousers, these will be useful as we only have a limited

	<p>supply in school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will put any notes and messages either in your child's book bag or school diary, please check every night for us. We will check their book bags every morning for any messages. • You will also find information regarding the class on Tapestry and information regarding the school on the Jigsaw app. • Start of day routine, please bring your child to the class at the start of the day via the side date. This is also the place you will need to come to pick your child up at the end of school. Please arrive between 8:30 and 8:50 for drop off and pick up at 3:00. While we appreciate family life can be hectic, we appreciate you being prompt with your pick up and it can be distressing for your child when everyone else is picked up and they are still left. If for exceptional circumstances you are going to be late, please ring the office to let us know. • We will be washing hands at the start of the day, before food/drink, after toilet and whenever they are dirty. We have soap, sanitiser and tissues, your child will not need to bring their own. • Birthdays – we are happy to give out invitations, but please do not bring in any food items to share on your child's birthday. We have a number of children in the class who have certain items that they are unable to eat, obviously any food we provide will be mindful of this, but we are unable to accept/check foods coming in from families.
Baseline assessment	<p>Obviously in these first few weeks we will be getting to know your child and finding out about all the wonderful things they can do and how we can support their progress. We will record some of these observations for you on tapestry and you are also welcome to record anything you see them do at home. If you have any concerns about their learning or how they are settling in, do come and talk to one of the team (see how to contact us below).</p> <p>Alongside the informal assessments we make of your child's learning in the first few weeks we will also be administering, 'Reception Baseline Assessment' (RBA) which is a statutory assessment from September 2021 onwards. It provides a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school. It will provide a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils between reception and the end of primary school.</p> <p>The assessments will be carried out by the class teacher and will be done individually with each child in the class, they will take about 15-20 minutes for each child. As a school, we did the trial of these assessments last year and all of the children were quite happy to come and play with the special bears and cards. If you are concerned about the Privacy of your child's data you may find it helpful to follow this link:</p> <p>https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/4554/rba_pupil_data_privacy_notice.pdf</p>

<p>How you can get in contact with us</p>	<p>As your child starts school, we know you may have many questions/concerns / information you will want to share with us. Please do come and make contact with us. We will try and answer explain or solve any issues as quickly as we can. Sometimes we find several parents are asking the same questions and we might do a little information sheet or video for all the families. Please also let us know if there is anything that has happened at home that might affect how your child is behaving at school. For example, a pet dying, a late night or your child having seen something sad or frightening. It helps us to be sensitive to your child's particular needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can write a note in your child's diary. • Have a chat with me at the start or the end of the day, you are welcome to organise a time for a phone conversation after school or email me at kricketts2nrs@nsix.org.uk (If wanting a chat at pick up or drop off you may have to wait a minute while we welcome or say goodbye to the rest of the class. Emails are usually checked within 24 hours of being sent, but be aware that we are working with your child during the day, so we may not pick up anything till after 3:15) • If it is an urgent issue, please contact the school office via email or telephone
<p>The practioners in our class are: Mrs Ricketts (class teacher and key worker for all the children) Mrs Bailey Miss Hannant (Monday to Wednesday) Mrs Prawdzik (Thursday and Friday) We also work closely with the Nursery staff Mrs Agu, Miss Daniels and Mrs Green Many thanks for your support</p>	
<p>Mrs K. Ricketts </p>	