

St Lawrence School Reception Class Information Booklet



Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever-changing world'.



Welcome to St Lawrence School Reception Class. Starting Reception is an exciting time for children and parents and this booklet is intended to provide a useful guide for you.

St Lawrence School offers high-quality educational experiences in a safe, caring environment. We pride ourselves on our high standards and encourage our children to become confident learners.

Starting Reception

If your child already attends our school Nursery, they will be familiar with our school setting and most of the Foundation Stage Team. For those children in our school nursery, inductions will take place during the second half of the Summer term. During this time, your child will be able to join the Reception Class once a week, for a morning session with a small group of Nursery friends. If your child does not attend St Lawrence School Nursery, they will be offered a 'Stay and Play' session which will take place after school hours, in line with current guidelines (as at May 2021) at the end of the Summer Term. This session will be informal and play-based and will give your child the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Reception Classroom, the outdoor area and the Reception staff. In addition, the Reception Class teacher will contact your child's key worker at their current Nursery for an informal chat about your child. This may be a face-to-face meeting, or may take place virtually, depending on the Nursery guidelines.

The start dates for our Reception children are staggered to allow an easier transition time - you should have had a letter advising which date your child is starting school. We find that staggering the start dates allow the children to settle in better. If you wish to discuss flexibility regarding start dates, please do not hesitate to contact me.

School Times

Children may be dropped off in the lower school playground between 8:40am and 8:50am. The Reception Class Teacher will be on duty from 8:40am in the lower playground and the children will make their way up the steps independently to the playground where they will be supervised by the Reception Teaching Assistant until the bell rings at 8:50am, at which point the children will make their way in to their classroom.

Pick-up time for the Reception Class is at 2:45pm from the lower playground. If your child has an older sibling, the pick-up time is the same as the older siblings (ie: if they have a sibling in Year 1 or 2, pick-up time will be at 2:30pm).

Absences

If your child is ill or unable to attend a session, please let us know by telephone (863172). It is especially important that children who have infectious conditions such as gastroenteritis or diarrhoea remain at home until at least 48 hours after the last episode. Children suffering from chicken pox may return to school once the spots have dried up. Children suffering from impetigo or conjunctivitis may return once the condition has been treated – please seek advice from your doctor.

It is advisable to tie long hair back and to regularly check your child for head lice. Leaflets and guidance on prevention and treatment of lice are available from our Reception Area.

Please let us know if your child has any medical condition, ailment or allergy.

Our Curriculum

The children in our Reception Class follow the ‘Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum’. This curriculum caters for all children up until the end of the Reception year. The Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning, for the purposes of planning and assessment.

The key areas are as follows:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making Relationships
Self-Confidence and Self Awareness
Managing Feelings and Behaviour

2. Physical Development

Moving and Handling
Health and Self-Care

3. Communication and Language

Listening and Attention
Understanding
Speaking

In addition to these key areas, there are specific areas of learning:

4. Literacy

Reading
Writing

5. Mathematics

Numbers
Shape, Space and Measures
Media and Materials
Being Imaginative

6. Understanding the World

People and Communities
The World
Technology

7. Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and Using

The Foundation Stage team meet regularly to plan together and discuss the next steps for the children. Planning is based on the children's own interests and so varies from year to year.

Here are a few examples of projects that we will be doing with the children during the year:

Why Do Squirrels Hide Their Nuts ? – An Autumn-themed topic which looks at the seasonal changes in the natural world during Autumn and Winter. Children will be finding out about hibernation and migration, Autumn food and woodland animals as well as seasonal celebrations and festivals;

Will You Read Me A Story ? – This is a magical project all about fairy tales, goodies and baddies ! Children will be exploring the characters, settings and themes within fairy tales and will be writing and telling their own stories;

Who Lives in a Rockpool ? – In this project, children will be finding out about seashore plants and animals and looking at the features of the seashore. They will learn about water safety and will be creating Art work using beach materials.

Snacks and Lunch

Children have the opportunity to eat a mid-morning snack (provided by parents) after their playtime. **Please could you ensure that snacks and lunchboxes are nut-free, according to school policy.** We have a number of children in school who are allergic to nuts.

Lunchtime takes place between 12:30pm and 1:00pm in the school hall. The children are given half an hour to eat their packed lunches and then half an hour of playtime afterwards. The children are supervised by Lunchtime Supervisors both whilst eating their lunch and outside during the playtime session. Please could you ensure that your child is able to access their lunch independently.

Please could you provide your child with a named water bottle (to be taken home and refilled on a daily basis). This should be in addition to the drink in their lunchbox as the named water bottle is kept in the classroom and children do not have access to their lunchboxes until lunchtime.



Clothing.

We encourage outdoor activities as much as possible and so a coat, gloves and hat are required in colder weather and a sunhat in warmer weather. It would be really helpful if your child could bring in named puddle suits and Wellington boots (normally these are kept in school).



Please name all items of clothing !

Forest School Activities

We are fortunate to have two trained forest-school practitioners working in the Foundation Stage and we use our outdoor areas as much as possible.



Forest School activities take place outside in our Nature Areas. The children undertake a range of practical activities and carry out achievable tasks. The aim of involving children in such activities is to raise their self-esteem, develop their self-confidence, independence, enthusiasm for outdoor learning as well as develop communication and problem-solving skills.

Facebook Page / Newsletters

We have a Facebook page (*St Lawrence Primary School* – look out for our logo) that we use to inform parents of class activities and diary dates. We also send home regular newsletters and are in the process of setting up an online mailing system.



Please note that we never name children on our Facebook page and ask parents that they do not identify children either in any comment that they might make on our posts. There is a consent form in the Information Pack relating to permission to use your child's image on our Facebook page.

We ask that parents make themselves familiar with our 'Social Media for Parents' policy which is available on our school website www.stlawrence.sch.je Your support with this is much appreciated.

Reporting on Progress

There will be meetings with the Reception Teacher in the Autumn Term and the Spring Term to discuss how your child is settling into the Reception Class.

If you wish to discuss progress at any other time, please speak to your child's Teacher to arrange a mutually-convenient time.

At the end of the Summer Term, you will receive a report outlining your child's development and progress over the year.

We use the EExAT online assessment and tracking system which enables us to create online learning journals for your child. This enables us to record children's learning and development. These journals are accessible to parents and parents are able to add their own observations and photos to these journals. Information about EExAT together with log in credentials will be sent to parents once children have settled in and the system is up and running.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns – it is very important to us that we have good relationships with parents and carers.