



Curriculum Information Reception Class 2016-17



“St Mary’s aims to develop the talents of each pupil as a unique individual whose full potential can be developed in a community which has Christ at its centre.”

Our Core Mission & Values:



As our School Mission Statement states: St Mary's aims to develop the skills and talents of all its pupils, in a nurturing family environment, which has Christ's living example of love at the heart of everything we do. As a thriving Catholic Christian school community, we have a unique and privileged position in living out this Mission: facilitating outstanding learning opportunities for our pupils; promoting values of empathy, tolerance and respect; being a living embodiment of 'church' for our wider school community.

Our Vision:

A Vision of Growth from St Catherine of Siena:

“Be who God means you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

The vision of St Mary's RC Primary School is as a hub of excellence in all we do: Educational Excellence, in our Teaching and Learning, in the formative Faith experiences we help facilitate for our pupils and wider school family, and in the way in which we strive to build God's Kingdom in our local and global community, piece by piece. By each member of our school family being encouraged, supported and inspired to live and work to the absolute fullness of their potential, our school will continue to be a beacon of educational, spiritual and community excellence for all to see.

Our Commitments to Excellence and Growth:

As a community dedicated to excellence and growth in all we do, we commit to striving towards being the absolute best we can be. As a learning community, we have the highest expectations of our pupils, and as such, hold ourselves to account by the highest standards. Our home school partnership aims to outline the commitments we make towards one another, in order that we may best meet the needs of all pupils in our school. As a learning community, we strive to work as closely as possible with the parents and carers of our young people, as initial educators, to support and encourage educational, social, moral, physical and spiritual growth and development. Through choosing the family of St Mary's for your child's education, you are choosing to enter in to a partnership which strives to support, encourage, empathise and enable, and one of which we hope to all be proud.

Our Curriculum:



At St Mary's, we strive to offer a broad and balanced Curriculum, based on firm groundings, which inspires, motivates and supports, and is delivered by highly skilled Teachers and support staff. We are committed to excellence in all we do, and the promotion of growth and development of each individual child.

The principles of the St Mary's Curriculum are as follows:



Curriculum Subjects:

Our Core Curriculum consists of Religious Education, English (Reading, Writing – including Phonics, and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling), Mathematics and Science. Alongside this, pupils will access a Foundation Curriculum based on half-termly topics, in Humanities (History and Geography), Computing, Art and Design Technology, Music, Computing, Physical Education and Languages. Each Term, parents/carers will receive a Curriculum overview of the key learning objectives in each curriculum area.

Extended Learning Opportunities:

Alongside our Core and Foundation Curriculum, pupils will access a rich wider range of learning opportunities which we call our Extended Learning Opportunities. These centre on the key areas of: Information and Communication Technology, Arts and Culture, Global Citizenship and the Rights Respecting Agenda, Outdoor Learning, Sport and Exercise. You will see these outlined in each class' termly Curriculum Map.

Whole-School Learning Weeks:



As a way of enriching the pupils' learning experiences in school, each half-term we 'collapse' our Foundation Curriculum for one week for pupils to engage in a whole school learning focus. These weeks aim to foster in our pupils a thirst for knowledge, a creative outlook and a love of learning. This year's themes are:

TERM	LEARNING FOCUS
Autumn 1	Rights Respecting Week for Change
Autumn 2	STEM Week (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)
Spring 1	Global Citizenship – Kenya
Spring 2	Mission Week
Summer 1	History Explorers
Summer 2	Creative Arts Week

Extra-Curricular Activity

As a learning community, we believe passionately that our pupils should also receive opportunities to develop skills and talents outside of the school curriculum. The programme for the up-coming year is as follows (**external personnel**):

Activity	Available to	Lead by
School Choir	Years 2 - 6	Mrs Sanderson
Sports Clubs (varying)	All KS2	Mr Colling and Mrs Joyce
Cycling Club	Year 5	Mr Colling (& Ben Tweedie)
Mini-Vinnies	Year 4	Mrs McTernan (& Mrs Salmon)
Reading Club	Years 5 and 6	Mrs Ledger
School Librarians	Years 5 and 6	Mrs Norman
Art Ambassadors	TBC	Mrs Pomeroy
Gardening Club	TBC	Mrs Gardner and Mrs Recchia
School Council and Rights Respecting Ambassadors	Years 2 - 6	Mr Wheatley and Mr Colling
Tennis Club	KS1 and 2	Blaydon Tennis Club
Happy Feet Dance	KS1 and 2	Nicola Liddle
Irish Dancing	Y1 - 6	Kelly Hendry
Gymnastics	KS1 and 2	Julie & team

Routines for Reception Class:



A typical day in Reception looks as follows:

- 9-9.30 – Circle time – Group phonics time
- 9.30-10.30 – Mixture of Teacher lead and Child Initiated activities accessed through enhanced provision.
- Break time 10.30-10.45
- 10.45-11.00 – Circle Time – Number Focus
- 11.00-11.45 - Mixture of Teacher lead and Child Initiated activities accessed through enhanced provision.
- Lunch
- 1.00-2.45 - Mixture of Teacher lead and Child Initiated activities accessed through enhanced provision.
- 2.45-3.15 – Review time and Circle time

Homework Note

Your child will receive homework weekly on a Thursday to be returned to school with the blue bag on a Monday. Reading books will be sent home on one day each week and should be returned on the same day.

Parent Helpers

Parent helpers are a great way of supporting the children in class with reading. Being a parent helper involves giving around 30 minutes of your time once a week to come into class and read with a group of children. If you would like to be a parent helper, please let us know so we can ensure we have the correct paper work in place for you to come into school to help. This will begin after half term.

As part of our extended learning opportunities, the children will take part in Forest School sessions on either a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon every week. If you would like to be involved in these sessions as a parent helper, please let us know. The sessions will run from 1pm until the end of the school day.

What's Special in Reception Class:



Read Write Inc.

At St Mary's, we use the Read Write Inc scheme to teach reading. This is an approach based on phonics.

We start with teaching initial sounds and then learn to read and write words through blending & segmenting. When your child is ready they will have Word Time sheets to practise at home. This then moves onto 'Ditties' where children begin to read in sentences and write words by segmenting sounds.

We will also start to teach High Frequency (or RED words) alongside our phonics teaching.

At first the reading books we send home may have no words and children are encouraged to tell their own story using the pictures. All of the reading books are based on the reading bands, which means that they include high frequency words as well as words which can be read phonetically (by sounding them out).

Teaching Sounds

In the first half term, children will learn to recognise and write one letter per day. They are then encouraged to bring something into school the following day with the sound they have learnt, to share with the class.

Me & My World Books

All children will be given a 'Me & My World' book as well as a homework book. This is for you to tell us about any special family celebrations or outings your child has been on. It does not have to be filled in every week and a photo or a little bit of information (eg leaflet) is all that is needed. It is to help us with the Early Learning Goal 'People and Communities' and 'The World' whereby children can tell us about events in their lives which are important to them.