

We are so pleased to welcome your child to St. Michael's and to Acorn Class!

Thank you for entrusting your child to our care.

What does my child need?

- Outdoor clothing. We will play outside in all weather.
 - In colder weather, this includes wellies, waterproof clothing, a warm hat and gloves.
 - In warmer weather, this includes a sun hat and sun cream. We ask that you apply sun cream in the morning before your child arrives. We will apply more at lunch time. If your child has sensitive skin and requires a special brand, please provide this in a named bottle.
- Two complete changes of clothes, including socks!
- Water bottle filled with water. No juices/ sweetened drinks please.
- Please label everything from water bottles to Tupperware containers to socks! Children often have similar if not identical things.

Our Day

- 8:30 am Children arrive. One of the members of staff will open the green gate.
- Parents/ carers help their child to settle into the classroom.
 - Please help your child to:
 - Hang their bag and coat on the labelled pegs.
 - Find their name and put it on the registration board.
 - Settle them into an activity.
- Parents/ carers can stay as long as needed to help settle their children in for the day.
 - 9:00 am Carpet Time
 - We say good morning to one another, sing some songs and talk about our day.
 - 9:15- 11:00 am Free Flow Play
 - Children choose activities and resources. Staff support them in their play, helping them to make their next steps.
 - During free flow play, snack is set up on a table and all children are encouraged to have a snack and a drink.
 - 11:15 Story Time and Talking Box
 - 11:30 am End of Morning Session
 - Children going home at 11:30 am are collected using the side gate which will be unlocked for a short time.
 - 11:30 am – 12:00 pm Lunch Session
 - 12:00 pm - Outdoor Play Session
 - 12:30– 2:30 pm Free Flow Play
 - 2:45 pm Story Time and Talking Box
 - 3:00 pm End of Afternoon Session
 - Children going home at 3:00 pm are collected through the green gate.

Toilet training

As part of the EYFS curriculum, we will support your child in becoming independent in self-care. Please let us know if your child is toilet training and what you will be doing at home, so we can reinforce what you are doing in the classroom. When you come in each day, please inform a staff member if your child is in a pull up or pants.

Managing children's behaviour

- We believe in motivating children to do their best through praise. We use a Celebration Board (similar to Dojos which are used from Foundation onwards) to praise the children for following the rules and behaving in a way that embodies our school's values: respect, courage and perseverance.
- Children will be given clear guidance and boundaries. We will show them by example, acting out scenarios ourselves. Children are empowered to manage their own behaviour through clear and consistent discussion.
- Children who are not able to adhere to the rules will be spoken to away from the group. We will ensure they know exactly why they have been asked to move away and an appropriate course of action will be taken (e.g. it may be that they need to apologise or choose a different activity.) On some occasions, we may ask the child to sit with an adult for a few minutes to help them calm down and to discuss how they could have managed their behaviour in a different way or give them strategies for what to do the next time.
- We do not tolerate physical violence or bullying.

Learning through play

- "Children are born with a natural desire to explore and learn and practitioners can support them in this. We do this by creating an enabling environment (both physical and emotional) and through the relationships and interactions that the children experience" ... " Let the children choose what to do, join them and support them in their pursuits" – Anna Ephgrave
- Children are supported in child- initiated play by the adults in the setting. We encourage independence and help the children achieve their next steps through activities and experiences they have chosen.

Who is my key worker?

Mrs. Claire Bennett, the qualified teacher and Mrs. Lindsay Collins, the HLTA in the Nursery Class, are the key workers for all the children in the class. The teacher and HLTA are supported by excellent teaching assistants.

Take Home Books

We have set up a system for borrowing books to read with your child. It will be put out every morning on the table by the door. Please take a moment to choose a book with your child to take home.

Take Home Bags

We will be sending home Take Home Bags with children over the course of the year. These bags have resources for you to share with your child, such as books, games and activities. There are 9 in total so you should get one at least once a term. A separate letter will be sent about these.

The Talking Box

- The Talking Box is an opportunity for the children to develop their communication and language skills, and personal, social and emotional skills.
- Children can put items into the Talking Box for us to discuss at the end of the session.
- We would love to see drawings, writing or anything creative your child has done at home, evidence of trips you have taken, things your child has found interesting or commented on, and of course, books. We love to share the children's favourite stories!
- It is a talking box so we want to use it to help your child develop their vocabulary and understanding of the world. Talk about whatever it is with your child at home to help prepare them to talk about it in nursery.
- **The Talking Box is not intended for toys.** We will not discuss toys that have been put into the Talking Box. Please help your child avoid disappointment by discouraging them from putting toys in.

Lunch

- If your child stays for lunch, please note we will put what your child has not eaten back into their bag so you are aware of what they have had.
- We encourage children to make healthy choices about what they eat. Please support us in this by providing a healthy lunch for your child. No chocolate or crisps please.
- We are a nut free zone so please be mindful of this when preparing your child's lunch.

Water Bottles

Please put only water in the children's water bottles.

Parent helpers

We would really like parents/ carers to volunteer in the classroom. If you are interested in becoming a parent helper, a sign-up sheet will be posted on the classroom door at the beginning of each half term.

Take home box, trays and art pegs

The children create beautiful works of art daily. They have spent a significant amount of time making these items. Please remember to take them home. We will photograph significant pieces for our records and to make observations about how your child is learning. These observations will be loaded onto Tapestry. If you are not sure what they have made please ask us. We already have some budding 3D designers, painters, writers, illustrators and architects!!!

Taking things from Acorn Class Home

It can be tempting for little ones to put things into pockets, jumpers, trays, bags etc. We kindly ask that you check to see if anything from our classroom has made it home with your child and if so, return it promptly. Resources are expensive and we need to make sure they stay in the classroom for all children to enjoy.

Outings and Trips

The village of Steventon is an amazing teaching resource. We plan to take the children on various outings around the village to enhance their learning. These trips will usually take place during the morning session.

Curriculum

We will post information about what we are learning each half term on the Acorn Class page. If you would like a printed copy, please let us know.

Tapestry

We use Tapestry Online Learning Journals to record children's progress. A separate letter with information about this system will be sent.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning with your child!
The Early Years Team at St. Michael's School