



Congratulations on becoming a member of the
St Andrew's Family!

We love to learn!

Your child is a valued member of the St Andrew's family and as such we want to ensure the best possible start to their school experiences! The Reception year is a very important stage of your child's development that will prepare them for their school career. We promote learning for all by providing a stimulating and happy environment where children are given the opportunity to learn through self-initiated play, exploration and through teacher led sessions. We plan for learning experiences that are playful and multisensory which help your child develop socially, emotionally and physically. We also lay the foundations for curriculum areas including maths and literacy.

The Foundation Stage curriculum comprises of seven areas. The prime areas include: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development and Communication and Language. These are recognised as being particularly crucial in developing an ability to learn and building positive relationships. These skills are applied and strengthened through four specific learning areas that include Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. These seven areas are explained further below.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development encourages children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage and regulate their feelings; to manage their own hygiene, dressing and have an understanding of the importance of healthy food choices.

Communication and Language development supports children in accessing a rich language environment and in developing vocabulary; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development provides opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children are taught to hold a pencil effectively, show accuracy when drawing and forming letters and manipulate tools such as scissors and cutlery.

Literacy development encourages children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children will be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest and to act as a stimulus for enjoyment in early reading and writing.

Mathematics gives children the opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, subitising (recognition of amounts without counting) and composition of numbers within 10. To explore number patterns such as doubles and odds and evens.

Understanding the World guides children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, the past and the natural world.

Expressive Arts and Design enables children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Learning Journey

Your child's time in Reception is a true journey of learning. We collect evidence of these journeys in big floor books, individual writing books and by documenting 'WOW' moments for everyone. As part of our partnership in educating your child, we recognise that you spend the most time with them and see them develop a range of skills in different situations outside school such as learning to ride a bike. We would very much like you to communicate such achievements with us

Your child will receive a reading record that will be used to record the book titles that your child shares at home and at school. There is a place in this book where we ask you to write a comment regarding your child's interest in the books, whether they managed to read their book independently or if you needed to give some support. Please be honest when making your comments.

Behaviour Policy

We have high expectations for behaviour in St Andrew's Primary School. We encourage children to listen carefully and do as they are asked, to share and take turns, to take care of school property and the property of others, to help tidy away, to be kind to other people and to always say please and thank you. We believe that it is very important to work together and encourage good behaviour in a positive way and celebrate the positives. Positive behaviour is acknowledged and rewarded. Please see the school behaviour policy for more information. <https://st-andrews-laverstock.wilts.sch.uk/policies/>

Uniform

All children are expected to wear the school uniform and appropriate shoes. More information on what your child needs to wear in school and for PE can be found on the school website- <https://st-andrews-laverstock.wilts.sch.uk/uniform/> All clothing (including shoes) must be labelled. No nail varnish and stud earrings should be covered for PE. Parents will be informed about PE days at the beginning of the school year.

Keeping in touch

Our school website has a wealth of information. Please take the time to explore the site where you will find, amongst other things, term dates, hot lunch menus, curriculum overviews as well as our events diary. <https://st-andrews-laverstock.wilts.sch.uk/> We often send home letters to keep you up to date and informed of events happening at school so please check your child's book bag daily.

We want your child's first year of education to be enjoyable as well as successful. We therefore wish to work in partnership with you so your child benefits from all adults supporting them in their learning and development. If you know your child has a concern but is not yet confident to communicate with school staff, please tell us as soon as possible so we can support any anxious

times. We do want to emphasise that you can come and talk to us at any time before or after school. If you have a concern that is of a more confidential or private matter, please make an appointment with Mrs Usherwood or Mrs Fernie, we will be pleased to see you. Our contact details can be found on the website or pop into the school office to make an appointment.

If you have any questions about learning or any other aspect of school life, please do talk to a member of the Reception team. We all want to ensure you and your child have positive experiences here at St Andrew's Primary School.



Birthdays



We like to celebrate birthdays at St Andrew's Primary School. Your child is welcome to wear their own clothes to celebrate on the day of, or closest day to, their birthday. We will also sing happy birthday to your child in class. As a Healthy School we are unable to give out birthday cake or treats for children's birthdays.

Things to bring

Your child is entitled to a free cooked lunch while they are in the Reception class until they leave KS1 in Class 2. Our delicious school dinners are cooked in our school kitchen. Please visit our website to view our healthy menu. Should you wish to send a packed lunch on any day please make sure it is sent in a suitable, labelled container. Please ensure packed lunches are healthy with no sweets or nut products. We have fruit every day so you will not need to bring a snack. Up until your child turns five they will also be entitled to a free carton of milk.



Learning is thirsty work so it is very important that you bring a named water bottle every day. Water is the only drink we can have in our bottles as it helps our brain to think better and faster. No fruit juices, squash or fizzy drinks please.



Your child will soon be sharing books at home with you so please bring your child's reading book bag every day.



A waterproof coat will be needed on rainy days so we don't spoil our learning and outdoor play! You may also want a named pair of wellingtons that can stay in school. If it is hot and sunny in September, provide a hat and apply sun cream before coming to school.



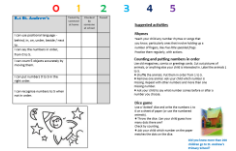
P.E. kits need to be in school once a week on our PE day. Inside your kit bag you will need a pair of shorts, a P.E. t-shirt and plimsolls/trainers. Navy tracksuit bottoms are useful for colder weather. Everything must be labelled to help your child to look after their belongings.

Home Learning

In Reception your child will take home two books, one reading book for them to read to you and a share at home story from our class library. We ask you to read with your child every day and to fill in your child's blue reading record each time.



Your child will also bring home a maths passport in the back of their reading record. Please practise the activities and skills at home together. When you have ticked off each of the skills, your child's passport will be checked by a school adult and they will bring home the next one. We have four maths passports to complete in reception.



Your child may occasionally bring home some activities linked to the topic. There may also be some projects/tasks to do over holidays.



Phonics

We use 'Little Wandle' for our phonics scheme to teach children the skills they need for reading and writing. More information about how we teach phonics and how you can support your child at home will be delivered in a Phonics information evening for adults in the autumn term.

Letter formation

Your child will learn to write letters using the correct formation. We focus on making sure each letter begins in the right place and uses the correct rotation when forming each one. Letters are produced in a flowing movement, which helps the development of a physical memory of how each letter is written. Below shows the letter formation for the sounds we will learn.

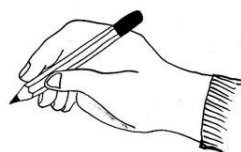


A correct pencil grip is essential for children so please make sure you encourage your child to hold all mark-making tools with the correct grip.

Visual of Pencil Grip
Left-Handed



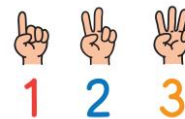
Visual of Pencil Grip
Right-Handed



Please begin to encourage your child to write using this style and to avoid writing in capital letters at home.



Mathematics



Mathematics is taught practically in Reception. The children will develop their understanding of numbers as well as reading and writing numerals, comparing quantities and building an understanding of the composition of numbers to 10. We will explore shape, pattern, measure and position in addition to the foundations for calculations and problem solving. More information about how we teach maths and how you can support your child at home will be delivered in a maths information evening for adults in the autumn term.

Holiday Activities

Here are some suggestions of things you can do together over the summer holiday

- Chat about starting school in a positive way.
- Play games that encourage your child to listen and take turns.
- Share number stories, rhymes and songs, e.g. 5 Little Speckled Frogs.
- Share stories and talk about the pictures. Encourage your child to turn the pages carefully, guess what might happen next and join in with repeated refrains.
- Look out for and talk about the different numbers and letters you can see in the environment when you are out and about, e.g. bus numbers and door numbers.
- Encourage dressing and undressing independently (ready for PE)
- Encourage your child to write their name at home, making sure that it's not all in capitals!
- Help your child develop fine motor skills through play and cooking: make play dough together, thread dried pasta on string and peel and cut some vegetables for dinner.
- Make sure they can use a knife and fork independently in preparation for school lunches.



Remember:

Parents are important teachers.

School can be hard work!

A good day's work needs a good night's sleep!

If you wish to speak with a member of staff before your child starts in September please do not hesitate in making an appointment.

We look forward to working with you and your child in
September!

Things I can do by myself!

Getting Ready for School Checklist

I can...		I can...		I can...	
recognise my name	☐	hold my pencil carefully	☐	put on my socks	☐
write the first letter	☐	draw a face	☐	find my shoes	☐
copy my name	☐	colour in carefully	☐	put on my shoes	☐
write my name	☐	name the colours I use	☐	fasten my shoes	☐



I can...		I can...		I can...	
count from 1 to 10	☐	sing simple rhymes	☐	find my coat	☐
recognise some numbers	☐	sing and clap to a song	☐	put my arms into my coat	☐
recognise spot patterns on a dice	☐	tap a beat	☐	zip up my coat	☐
recognise some common 2D shapes	☐	move to music	☐	fasten buttons on my clothes	☐



I can...		I can...		I can...	
eat with a knife and fork	☐	tidy away my toys	☐	say please when I ask	☐
pour myself a drink	☐	clear away things I've used	☐	say thank you when I get	☐
taste different foods	☐	put my clothes away	☐	ask to go to the toilet	☐
wash my hands before and after meals	☐	help at home	☐	take turns talking in a group	☐



I can...		I can...		I can...	
wash my hands	☐	walk up and down stairs using the handrail	☐	cut along a line	☐
dry my hands	☐	hold hands on the street	☐	cut 'snips' into paper	☐
go to the toilet when I need to	☐	take turns when playing	☐	cut out a shape	☐
wipe/clean myself when I've been to the toilet	☐	share toys with a friend	☐	cut out shapes to make a picture	☐

