

# Welcome to Reception

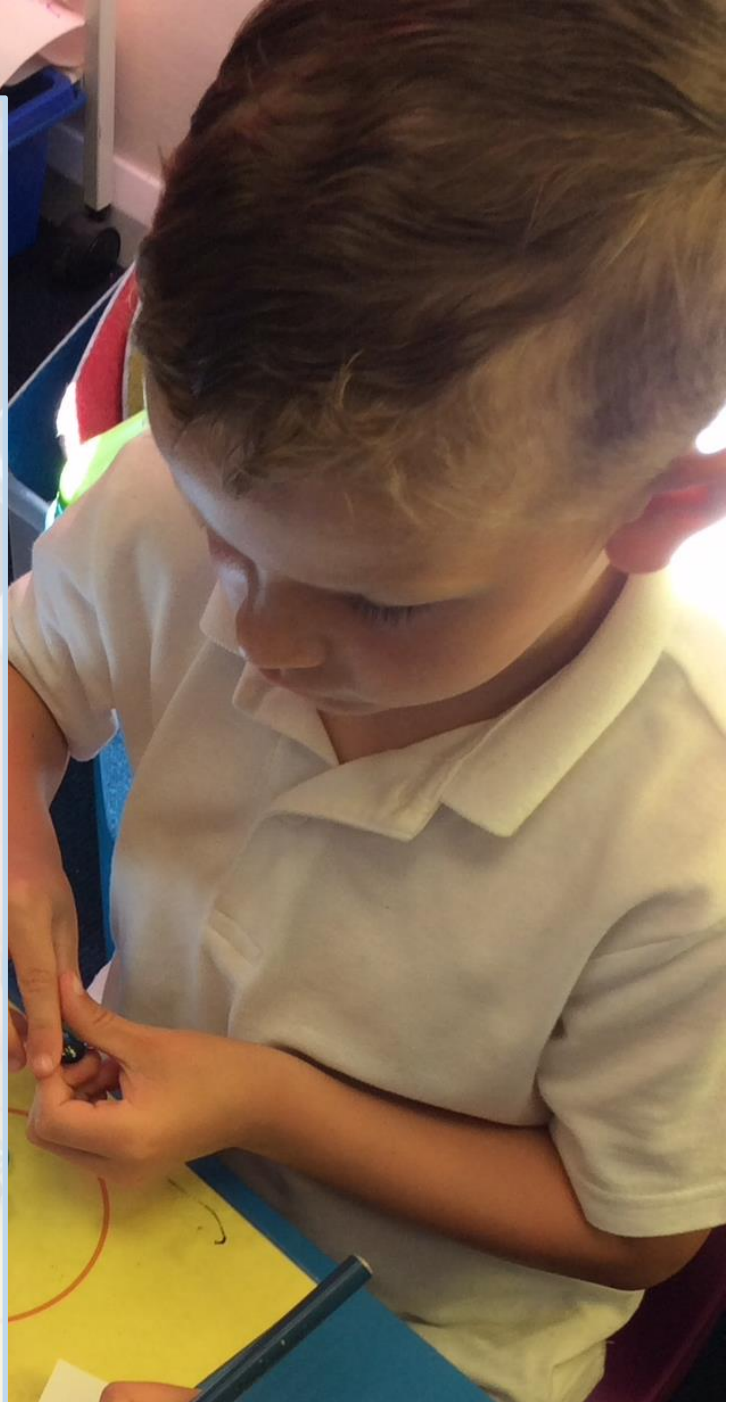
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St. Peter's CE Primary Academy, Hednesford

# Reach for the Sky!





Resilient in the face of challenge

Happy, helpful and ready to contribute

Excellence in all they do

Reach for the Sky

Captivated by a love of learning

Ambition for their future selves



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# Contents Page

Contents Page.....	3
Welcome to St Peter’s .....	4
Starting school in September .....	5
Your first days at St. Peter’s .....	5
Holidays:.....	6
Illness: .....	6
Milk, fruit and meals.....	6
Free milk and fruit .....	6
Universal free school meals .....	7
Free school meals .....	7
School uniform .....	8
P.E kit .....	9
Expectations .....	9
Administration.....	10
Learning in Reception class .....	10
Literacy.....	11
Language: .....	11
Reading:.....	11
Writing:.....	12
Phonics: .....	12
Maths .....	13
Numbers & Shape space and measures:.....	13
Preparing for your child’s first day .....	14



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# Welcome to St Peter's

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*“Do good, be rich in good deeds and be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:18-19*

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We would like to welcome all our new children and parents to St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy. We believe you have made an excellent choice in sending your child to our academy and we will do our very best to ensure that they flourish in a caring supportive environment where they can achieve the highest standards. We truly want your child to Reach for the Sky!

We hope that this booklet explains how we organise our Reception classes and what will happen at the beginning of the term. If for any reason you need to talk with us, please contact the school office. We believe that we need to work in partnership and we value the opportunities to share and discuss your child's experience.

Our Reception staff: we have two teachers, Mrs Brown and Mrs Hayward, and two teaching assistants, Mrs Evans and Mrs Grimshaw, who work with groups and co-ordinate the day to day running of the two reception classes. Your children will get to know these staff very quickly and they are always on hand to help in any way they can. Our Early Years provision is led and overseen by our Early Years leader, Mrs Yates.



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# Starting school in September

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*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart" Colossians 3:23-24*

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## Your first day at St. Peter's



In September all pupils will begin full-time Reception from the first day of term. On the first day, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, please bring your child to the Reception entrance door between 9.30am and 10am where they will be met by their teacher. You will then be directed to the cloakroom, to help your child to find their named peg to hang up their coat, bags, and wellingtons.

After the initial introduction to school we prefer you to leave your child at the reception entrance door each morning where he/she will be greeted by the class teacher and a teaching assistant. This is to ensure the safeguarding of our pupils and enables your child to become more independent. From Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September, children will need to arrive between 8.45am and 8.55am.



At the end of the school day, at 3pm until 3:10pm, your child will be brought out to you.

If your child is in REB (Mrs Brown's class) please wait outside the main Early Years entrance door where your child will be brought out to you.

If your child is in REH (Mrs Hayward's class) please go through the blue gate and wait outside the classroom exit, where your child will be brought out to you.

No child will be allowed to go until we see that their parent or carer is there to meet them. Please let your child's class teacher know if someone different is going to collect them.

Although we are opening Reception classes full-time, we appreciate that different children will have had different experiences prior to starting. As parents you know your child, and if you feel that a more gentle, phased introduction would be appropriate please contact us to discuss arrangements.



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## Getting to school:

We always encourage parents to walk their children to school. Traffic outside school at the beginning and end of the day is always congested and so walking is the safest and healthiest option. If this is not possible, you can park on St Peter's Church car park or the surrounding streets and walk the last bit to school.

## Holidays:

We encourage parents to organise holidays during the school breaks. The headteacher is not permitted to authorise absences for family holiday during term time. Request for leave during term time forms are available on our school website for extenuating circumstances.

## Illness:

If your child is ill please keep them at home and let the school know on the first morning by emailing [contact@stpetersprimary.academy](mailto:contact@stpetersprimary.academy) or by calling 01543 227205 (The school has an answer machine). When your child returns please send in a note explaining the absence. If your child is ill at school, we will contact you and arrange for your child to be collected. Further information is in our prospectus.

## Medication:

If your child needs to be given prescribed medication (4 doses per day, as per the prescription) whilst at school, please see the school office who will ask you to fill out a consent form with you. Please refer to the school's policy on medication for further information. The academy is unable to administer non-prescribed medication apart from in exceptional circumstances, as agreed at the discretion of the headteacher.

# Milk, fruit and meals

## Free milk and fruit

Every child is entitled to free milk every day until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Your child is also entitled to receive a free piece of fruit every day. This is funded by the NHS and is done to promote healthy eating habits. Once your child is 5 years old, milk can be purchased for 35 pence per day.



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## Universal Free School Meals

Under a current government scheme, meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided daily, free of charge. If children would prefer a packed lunch, you can send your child with their own packed lunch. Dinners and sandwiches are eaten in the school hall, supervised by the Lunchtime Supervisors who also look after the children on the playground before and after they eat their lunch. It is important to note that Universal school meals is different to the free school meals programme that has been operating for several years (details below).

## Free School Meals

If you fulfil certain criteria you may be entitled to claim for free school meals for your child. The entitlement criteria for Free School Meals entitlement from 1 April 2018 is for those on -

- \* Income Support
- \* Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- \* Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- \* eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. Please note: anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- \* The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- \* Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- \* In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- \* Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

Each pupil who is registered for free school meals attracts extra funding to our school budget. We would therefore encourage ALL parents to apply for free school meals, whether you think you are eligible or not, as this will have great benefits to our school and the resources we can provide. You can apply online at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

**Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 but you are eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please do apply as it enables the school to access six years of additional funding for your**



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**child under the Pupil Premium scheme.** This additional funding enables school to provide wider opportunities, experiences and invest in resources to raise pupil attainment.

## School uniform

We encourage our children to wear smart school uniform and hope that parents feel they can support us in promoting this. We feel it gives children pride in their appearance and a sense of belonging. All items of St. Peter's branded uniform can be ordered online. Please note that delivery times vary depending on the time of year.

You can now order and pay for school uniform online via [www.a4jdesigns.co.uk](http://www.a4jdesigns.co.uk) or <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StPetersCECPrimarySchoolWS121BE>

There are no minimum order quantities and your uniform will be delivered directly to your chosen address. Other ordering information including sizes, delivery information and the returns procedure is also available online.



All children are asked to wear V neck sweatshirts, cardigans or fleeces with the academy logo, white collared shirt with school tie or white polo shirt with school logo.

We also ask children to wear grey or black pinafore dress, skirt, shorts or trousers, and suitable shoes (not open toe sandals or trainers). During the warmer months, a blue/white summer dress can be worn, or grey/black shorts with a white polo shirt.

Please encourage your child to wear school uniform. There will be special times throughout the school year when your child can express their individuality and wear clothes other than the school uniform.

**\*Please also provide your child with a suitable weatherproof jacket and pair of wellington boots to enable them to access the outdoor learning areas in all weather.**





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# P.E. kit

Physical Education is another very important area for your child on entering school. An appropriate kit helps prepare your child for physical experiences that are enjoyable and developmental. When children start in September they will not require a PE kit straight away. This is because some children can feel quite overwhelmed about PE in the hall initially. PE kit will be required ready for the start of the second term in January.

Children sometimes get upset if they are the only one in class without a P.E. kit. Again help your child to settle by providing the correct kit (if you have any problems speak to the class teacher.)



- White T-shirt
- Dark blue or black shorts
- Trainers (for outdoor use only needed in the summer term)

Pumps are not needed as PE is either barefoot indoors or outside wearing trainers.

Please put names in ALL clothes, bags, purses, shoes, wellingtons etc.

## Expectations

We have clear expectations of all our pupils which are easy to follow and help to make our academy a calm, positive and enjoyable place to learn in. Often these expectations are ones you already instill at home.

We have a clear behaviour policy consisting of rules, rewards and sanctions. Your child will be made aware of our expectations and rewards during the first few weeks in school using our school weather system. Your child will receive plenty of praise and rewards. A variety of rewards are available for good behaviour and hard work. These include stickers, written comments on work and receiving certificates. We will always praise and reward your child's positive behaviour.

As well as their behaviour, we try to have expectations for your child's independence. Your child should be ready to have a good try with buttons and zips and putting on gloves and outdoor clothes. Try to



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provide clothes which children will find easy to deal with. They must also be able to say clearly when they need to go to the toilet and be able to manage this by themselves. They should not fear new situations when they arise, such as eating away from home. Please don't worry if your child might find some things difficult, we will always be on hand to help.

Encourage your child to:

- Play happily with other children of roughly their own age
- Play out their ideas rather than merely copy other children
- To ask lots of questions because they are alert and curious
- To try and follow a task through
- To talk and show trust in other people
- To show an interest in handling books (for example by visiting the children's library)
- To talk freely and expressively
- To understand and follow instructions
- To share people and things with others; and most of all, be happy with the other people around them

## Administration

It is important for your child to arrive at school on time every day. Young children can often find it stressful when arriving late and they also miss valuable learning experiences. If your child does arrive late for school, please take him/her to the academy office where a member of staff will escort them to class.

If your child is absent, please telephone school on the first day of absence and send in a note or email [contact@stpetersprimary.academy](mailto:contact@stpetersprimary.academy) upon their return.

Please do not allow your child to bring precious toys/items into school. The school cannot be held responsible for lost items or the upset that this may cause.

If your child is worried or has any problems, please come into school to see your child's teacher so that we can sort it out for you. A member of reception staff is also available at the door when you bring or collect your child from school.

If you have any worries about your child's speech, sight or hearing you should discuss these with your doctor or health visitor well before starting school. Should there be any difficulties identified, please inform the school so that it may be kept in mind by your child's teacher and any other appropriate adult.



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# Learning in Reception class

In Reception, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which covers three prime and four specific areas of learning:

## Prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

## Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We also complete the Early Years Reception Baseline assessment with each child in September and an Early Years Foundation Stage Profile on each child throughout their Reception year, which is reported to parents in July along with each child's academic report.

## Literacy

### Language:

The learning of language takes place in everything we do in school and we give great importance to language skills: speaking and listening, reading and writing.

Think about what your child can do:

Can your child?

- Make him/herself understood?
- Speak clearly (to other children and adults)?
- Speak in sentences?
- Follow simple instructions?
- Listen to the teacher?



### Reading:

We believe that stories and books are a very valuable learning experience, one that children enjoy. Share a book with your child, talk about the picture, think about how the characters in the story



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might feel, talk about words and letter shapes. Remember sharing a book is the most important part of preparing your child for reading.

We use a phonics-based reading scheme in school, so expect your child to bring a book home to share with you. Each child learns to read at their own pace and each child is different. In the Autumn Term, we will invite all parents in to school for a workshop on reading and phonics to explain how the academy teaches the children these skills and how parents can support their development at home.

## Writing:

Learning to write is complex and needs to be developed by practicing and giving children confidence to write. This can only be done through practice. You can help by ensuring children hold pencils correctly – give assistance when necessary and remember always give praise. Encourage your child to use pencils and crayons to draw and pretend to write.

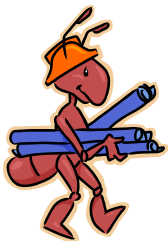
It helps if your child can recognise and write their own name. Don't worry if your child forms letter shapes back to front or upside down, this is normal development. It would be helpful if children did not use only capital letters when writing their own name.

## Phonics:

We teach phonics which helps children with reading and writing skills, recognising and matching written letters to sounds. Children will be taught letter sounds through rhymes and actions. They may come home practicing these, so please encourage them. Together, think of words beginning with certain letter sounds.

The phonic scheme we use is called Little Wandle and this is used for the teaching of phonics and for reading. There is a guide to the scheme and resources available for parents at

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



**A a is for ant**



# Maths

## Numbers & Shape space and measures:

We use mathematics in everyday life. Whenever you are with your child you can focus their attention in such a way that they will begin to develop mathematical language and ideas.



Your child will learn basic number skills through practical experiences. Firsthand experiences will ensure that your child gains the appropriate foundation in mathematics, later development will include recording, drawing and simple sums. Numeracy is about number, but it is also about sorting, colour, matching, order, position, shape, pattern, and measurement.

How can you help?

- Count out-loud with your child
- Sort objects by colour – oranges, apples
- Match objects that are the same – plates and cups
- Order things by size – look at their toys
- Measure short and long objects – use wool or string, pencils or rulers
- Sort into sets by twos, threes etc. – a set of cars, dolls or animals
- Search for numbers – look on houses, buses, car number plates
- Count with them, encourage them to point to each object as they say a number and they will soon learn from your example

Remember – what you do at home already makes all the difference!



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# Preparing for your child's first day

When children start school the day to day routine is very different from that of home. You can reassure your child by talking happily about school each day and showing no anxiety yourself about the new venture. Remember that your child's attitude towards school will be led by you. You can assure them that all children go to school when they are old enough and speak of school as something they will really enjoy. Have a little walk past school and talk together about making new friends and having lots of fun learning. If you know children who will be in the same class as your child, you may be able to arrange a time when they could meet and make friends before they start school.

Help them to understand that you are very proud of them now that they are old enough to be at school. Help them to understand that you want to share this whole exciting adventure with them. Remember that they may come home from school tired and without much to say about the day; they will tell you when they are ready. Try to develop a true partnership between home and school, and you will have begun a relationship which will benefit your children throughout their entire school life.

