

**Welcome to  
St Joseph's Catholic  
Primary School  
RECEPTION**





## **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Marie Graham  
Head of School: Mrs Adele Toward

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) consists of Nursery and Reception.

The EYFS team are:

Mrs Sarah Stennett– EY Lead/ Nursery Teacher

Miss Lauren Hall– Reception Teacher

Miss Donna English – HLTA

Miss Katie Lomax – Teaching Assistant

Mrs J Catcheside – Teaching Assistant

# Reception Staff

	
<b>Miss Hall</b>	<b>Miss English</b>
	
<b>Miss Potter</b>	<b>Miss Harris / Mrs Osenton</b>

## Session times:

Monday – Friday (8.45am – 3.20pm)

## School day:

Morning session: 8.45am – 11.50am

Lunch time: 11.50am-1.10pm

Afternoon session: 1.10pm – 3.20pm

All children will receive free school meals as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals funding. The menu can be viewed at [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk). The children will be looked after by our school lunchtime supervisors during lunch time.

# EYFS Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) is based around seven areas of learning as follows and takes place both inside and in the Outdoor Area.

## PRIME AREAS

### Communication and Language



Speaking and listening skills are developed through this area of learning. We will look at how children listen and respond, maintain attention and how confidently they communicate in groups.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development



This is one of the most important aspects of your child's development as it sets firm foundations of how children interact with and relate to those around them. At St Joseph's, we promote a caring, friendly and co-operative environment. We encourage children to become more confident and independent.

### Physical Development



Children are given frequent opportunities to develop their large and fine motor skills. Their manipulative skills are also enhanced through enhancements to the sand, water and dough areas. They enjoy throwing and catching and using wheeled toys in the Outdoor Area.

## SPECIFIC AREAS

### Literacy



This area incorporates reading and sharing stories and books with adults and children. It also encourages mark making in many forms such as writing shopping lists in the role play area. It will also incorporate phonic skills and using their phonics effectively to read and write.

### Mathematics



A lot of early number skills are developed through singing number songs and rhymes, number games and activities. It explores areas such as number recognition, calculating, shape, measuring, sorting, ordering, time, and pattern. It is also addressed through our daily routine, such as counting the number of children in Reception.

### Understanding the World



This area is often further developed through our outdoor area where children explore the world around them. Using technology, construction and discussing experiences from the past also build into this area.

### Expressive Arts and Design



Creative skills are developed through all areas of learning. Children have the opportunity to select and use a range of tools and materials independently. They are also encouraged to join in with singing songs and rhymes and using musical instruments.

## **Additional Information**

### **Uniform**

Uniform is grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress, a white polo T-shirt and a purple jumper or cardigan. The children need to wear black school shoes and we ask that these have Velcro fastenings, rather than laces or buckles so that the children can change them independently. The children also need a pair of black sandshoes to change into for indoor use and a book bag which must be brought daily. We must stress that all uniform must be labelled with your child's name. Jumpers, cardigans, polo T-shirts, coats and book bags with the school badge on can be purchased from Little Gems, either online or in the shop. We also ask that you provide a full change of clothes (trousers, top, underwear and socks) in a drawstring bag that can stay on your child's peg (this does not have to be uniform).

### **Outdoor Play**

As children will regularly be accessing the curriculum outdoors, we ask that they bring in a pair of wellies with their name in each to be kept in school.

### **Parental Links**

In order to keep you as up to date as we can with your child's development, share information and to enable you to see your child in their Reception environment, we regularly invite parents to join us for informal Stay and Play sessions. There are also opportunities to attend Parents Evenings throughout the year to discuss the individual progress of your child.

### **Daily Snack**

The children have access to a piece of fruit each day and we also provide other snacks and cooking opportunities. Milk is available and children are encouraged to bring in a named bottle of water to school each day to access as they choose. We are unable to accept any snacks from home due to some of our children having severe food allergies.

### **Voluntary Contribution**

We ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week. We ask that this is brought on a Monday and will contribute to activities such as cooking, additional snacks, enhancements for new topics and other interests.

### **Homework**

Children are given a short piece of home work each Friday to be returned on Monday. Their reading books will be changed weekly and should be practised regularly at home.

### **Learning Journal**

We use online system of recording your child's learning in Reception, including photographs and observations by staff. Tapestry is a website and app which can be accessed on a computer or laptop, and also on any device such as a tablet or smartphone. We will be able to instantly upload photos,

videos and observations of your children and you are then emailed to alert you that something new has been added to your child's Learning Journal. You are also able to add your own photographs, videos and comments about your child's learning experiences from home.

### **Parent Pay**

As a school, we use ParentPay for electronic transfers of money to pay for school trips additional activities in school and special visitors. You will receive a log in to enable you to set this up, in September.

### **Pupil Premium**

Although every child in Reception, Year One and Year Two receive a free school lunch, if you are in receipt of certain benefits you will need to make an application for free school meals. This will ensure that your child receives additional funding in school to support their education. Please see the information about how to apply via the Together for Children Family Portal.

We hope this makes everything a little clearer for you. Any questions you may have, staff will be happy to answer for you. We understand that starting school can be a big step for children and we want to make this as smooth and supportive as possible. All children are different and will adjust at different rates. We are here to try to make this step as easy as we can for your child.

We look forward to working together with yourself and your child as they begin their learning journey at St Joseph's!

## Thank you!



## Our Mission Statement

**St Joseph's is**  
**a happy, welcoming community, enriched by**  
**our diversity, where we strive to be better**  
**than our best.**

**A place where we love one another,**  
**love learning, love Jesus and love life.**