



Welcome to
Our Lady and St Patrick's RC
Nursery and Primary School



Induction Booklet 2018-2019
Foundation 2



“Living, Loving and Learning Together in God’s Way”

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Our Lady and St Patrick’s Primary and Infant School Foundation Stage Unit, reception class – Foundation 2 (F2).

We want this to be the beginning of a happy and successful time for your child and a supportive partnership with you. However, we recognise that starting school can be an anxious time for both children and parents. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with practical information and some useful advice to help make your child’s transition into the F2 as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs. J Day
Class Teacher and
Foundation Stage Leader

Mrs. S. Barreto
Headteacher

Admission and Induction

Reception year children are invited to start school full time from Wednesday 5th September 2018.

We recognise children have different needs and if you would like to discuss your child's induction to F2 any further, please contact Mrs Day, the class teacher. Some parents do worry the longer days are a problem for the children, we support the children and have a lot of quiet time and time for settling and just chatting.

Most of the children coming into F2 are aware of the unit, the behavioural expectations, the routine and the staff. However, they will be full time and it is still a big step for some. We hope to make this time full of fun in their learning but also settling them into a longer day. Any new comers to the unit will be given plenty of support and reassurances from not only the staff but the children too. New children will be invited for the last 2 weeks of term for our moving up week to enjoy some taster sessions and get used to the routines and behaviour expectations, as well as the staff getting to know the children.

God Matters

The Catholic Faith and the principles of the Gospel are central to the daily life of Our Lady and St Patrick's School.

We are committed to:

Living, Loving and Learning Together in God's Way

Your children will be receiving the highest possible quality of education with a strong ethos of Christian love rooted in the Gospel. We would like everyone who enters into the school to feel welcomed and valued. We will celebrate the uniqueness and giftedness of each individual and everyone involved in the life of the school.

The Foundation Stage Unit builds on your child's journey with God in partnership with you as parents and carers. We provide the basis for prayer and understanding of the Gospel in order for them to understand this journey.

Your child will join in and learn some daily prayers (copies included in this pack) as well as becoming accustomed to the rituals of Mass and other celebrations. We will follow the 'God Matters' RE program which allow the children to discover and learn the way in which Jesus lived and died for us.

The program also leads us into other religions to discover and experience the rich tapestry of world life. We like to think we are globally aware and eager to discover; your child will look at similarities and differences in other cultures, religions and their traditions. This allows early learning behaviours such as reflection and higher thinking skills.

We will be happy to talk through any area of this which you may feel you need to discuss.

Learning Together

Being a parent is one of the most rewarding jobs in the world. We believe that you are your child's first and most important educators.

Learning before school

By this time of year, many children are ready to begin school. They may already have experienced Pre-School education and will have learned many skills and will understand a great deal.

During their first years of life your child has already learned skills that will help them to make a flying start at school:

- Feeling good about themselves
- Listening carefully
- Talking about their thoughts and feelings
- Knowing many stories, songs and rhymes
- Knowing what their own name looks like
- Recognising and knowing about letters and numbers
- Knowing about the different reasons for writing
- Wanting to learn

All these things continue to be important at school, especially the '*wanting to learn*'. When your child starts school, the support you give them and continue to give them over the years will have an enormous influence on their achievements.

Here are some of the things that will make a real difference right from the start:

- Lots of songs and rhymes
- Listening games
- Playing with shapes
- Drawing and colouring

And perhaps the most important:

- Sharing a book everyday

Making a flying start

Getting ready for school

Opportunities

You can provide opportunities for your child to find out, to try new things, to do things successfully.

For example:

- Going out together – talking about experiences
- Helping your child to succeed in something new

Visiting the school together really helps, so that your child knows:

- Where the toilets are
- What the teacher's name is
- Where to hang his/her coat

Interaction

You can interact with your child by listening, talking, making and doing things together. When your child starts school he/she will need some special attention from you. It helps to make a quiet time at home where you can:

- Listen and encourage
- Talk to each other about what they expect, how they feel, how to behave.

Modelling

Another important influence adults can have on the way that children learn comes from the way children see their adults learning. It helps if your child sees you as people who learn as well as people who know.

Expectations

Because they need the love and support of the adults they live with, children are very much affected by what is expected of them.

If very little is expected, then there is no need for them to try. They may get bored and lack the enthusiasm to try their best.

If too much is expected of them, then children may fail. They are likely to lose confidence and often choose not to attempt something new.

Your expectations need to be not too high, but not too low. It helps to think about what your child can almost do as well as what they can already do.

Recognising effort

Children's confidence and wish to learn is based on their knowledge of what they *can do*. When they can nearly do something, a bit of encouragement and enthusiasm can make a big difference. This is much more helpful to children than doing something for them. If they are successful in the end – then the effort is worth making and they will get into the habit of trying hard.

It is, therefore, important that you recognise, value and praise your child's efforts as well as their skills and achievements. Positive statements can raise your child's self-esteem and their desire to learn.

“You listened so carefully”

“That's good writing”

“Well done for trying”

Ready for School?

Your child will be well on their way to being ready for school when they are comfortable with:

- Sharing books
- Communicating well
- Listening carefully
- Talking to other people outside the family
- Respecting and getting on with other people, with good manners
- Asking questions
- Accepting a routine
- Saying what they would like
- Coping with surrounding noise and activity

You can help your child to practise these things at home.

Children find starting school easier when they have:

- Parents who have found out what to expect at the new school
- Parents who encourage their growing independence
- Parents who give reassurance and encouragement

Remember that your child needs to understand that you know and trust the class teacher and the school, that you expect things to go well and that you can talk to the school about any problems.

Carry on helping

One of the best ways for you to help your child do well at school is to take a positive interest in what happens there. When children know their teachers and parents are interested, they are more likely to be successful learners.

This will be important throughout their school lives. Your child will attend school for many years. It will make a big difference if you remember to:

- Keep on doing things together
- Keep on noticing and praising progress
- Keep on talking and listening together
- Keep on being a good example
- Keep on sharing books everyday



Useful Skills

When your child starts school it would be helpful if he/she could do these things:



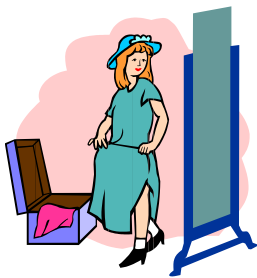
Take off coat
and hang it up



put on coat and
fasten it



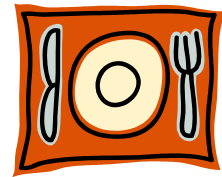
change shoes



Dress and undress



Use a handkerchief



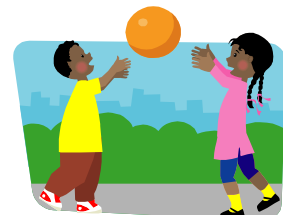
Use a knife and fork



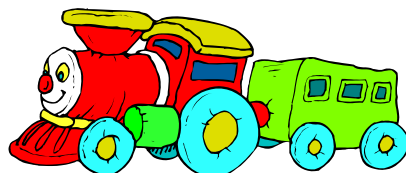
Use the toilet
Properly and flush it



wash and dry
hands



share toys and take turns



Help to tidy toys away

PE Lessons

The children will have at least two P.E. sessions per week. These may occur at different points during the week; however we do not start changing them into their kits until after January. When they do have a kit it can be left on their peg during the week.

P.E. Kit includes:

- ✓ Black shorts
- ✓ House coloured T-shirt
- ✓ Pumps

Please ensure that all items are named – it helps enormously when getting changed!

Please be aware that jewellery is not allowed to be worn in school and cannot be worn during P.E. lessons under any circumstances.



A typical school day in Reception Class

8.40am	Parents bring the children in and can have some shared time – a good time for reading with your child, looking at their work and organising their lunch.
8.55am	Children share any 'news' and the register is taken.
9.10am	Phonics – followed by 'Wakey Shakey' time.
9.30am	Children go to their Key Groups
9.40am	Continuous Provision across the whole unit – children will be able to choose from the activities available. They will also be called over for any 1:1 sessions or guided group work. Snack is available on a café basis throughout any continuous provision sessions (with reminders from staff).
10.20am	Monday - Whole School Act of Worship, Tuesday - Prayer and Praise, Thursday - FSU/KS1 assembly Friday - Whole School Celebration Assembly
11.00am	Continuous provision over 2 rooms while the sunshine room is used for focus teaching, usually with a Literacy or Maths focus. Guided reading – Small groups will work with the teachers or TA PE – We have a PE slot each day at this time – if your child is not in a guided session they may do PE.
11.40am	Toilet and wash hands ready for lunch.
11.45	Lunchtime
1.00pm	Registration followed by 'Little Maths' a time for songs, rhymes with number focus to embed number learning followed and an adult led input usually on Topic or RE.
1.30pm	Continuous Provision (see above)
2.40pm	Tidy up and story time
3.05pm	Prepare to go home
3.15pm	Parents come to Foundation 2 door and wait for the children to be called to come out.

Please Note: This is a guide – if the timetable *does* change we will be letting you know before the children start.

Making a mark



Learning about writing

The process of learning to write is a gradual one which takes a lot of effort and concentration.

Children must learn:

- How to hold their pencil
- How to use the piece of paper
- How to make their marks go in one particular direction

These basic skills help your child to become a fluent and effective writer, especially when they are younger.

Drawing and colouring is an important part of this process, which helps to develop the strength and co-ordination needed to control the pencil as well as confidence in making marks.

For a long time children's writing will be no more than squiggles and marks. This is a very important first stage of early writing and needs lots of praise and encouragement, BUT during this time they are also developing an understanding:

- That their own names can be written down using these marks.
- That parents can use writing to make shopping lists and send cards and letters.
- That different letters stand for different sounds.
- That they themselves can make shapes that look like writing.
- That the marks have particular shapes and that these turn up in different words.
- That these shapes and marks can be put together to make words to write stories and give messages.

How parents can help

Parents can help by:

- Praising and encouraging your child's attempts at writing
- Showing an interest in what your child has written. Ask them about it. Join in.
- Listening seriously when they explain what their writing says if they want you can scribe their message next to their own writing.
- Drawing attention to letters and words all around them, eg. Mail through the door. Letters and words in shops, in books, on videos and the television.
- Letting your child watch you writing: reading what you have written to them and telling them who the letters and messages are intended for.
- Encouraging them to add their own writing to your letters, cards, or make their own labels for toys, possessions and friends.
- Looking at alphabet books together
- Making an alphabet scrap book

Playing with sounds

Books and stories which play with words and rhymes will help children to discriminate between sounds, an important skill for reading and writing. Children love listening to these sounds and rhymes.

Repeated words and phrases can encourage children to join in. Children who have heard a lot of story language will start to use it in their play and in their writing once they start to write their own stories.

Joining the library

Public libraries have many wonderful books for young children and always welcome young members for free. Children have their own library ticket and borrow picture books, story books, information books and CDs. Libraries often have a free story time and special events.

Joining a library early in a child's life can make a real difference to their later learning.



Some Practical Bits and Pieces

School Uniform

Please look at the school prospectus to see the uniform list. We have enclosed a leaflet with full details of where to buy our range of uniform.

Shoes All children must wear black shoes suitable for the active life in school (no trainers or open toed sandals please). Socks; white, grey or green.

Please ensure that all clothing is permanently labelled with your child's name.

Ongoing medical issues/Allergies- Please confirm in writing to school office – we will require a Health Care Plan from school nurse team for severe allergies (Epipens) etc.

Administration of medicines

We can only administer prescribed medication. If required, please complete form at front office. Alternatively, parents may come in at lunchtime and administer un- prescribed medicine.

It is the Parent's responsibility to ensure children attend school. If children are absent we need a Parent signature of some form. If ill, phone on first day then provide sick note on return. If planned absence e.g. Drs Appointment; complete and sign S2 absence request form. If on school trip, then parent signature will be requested on permission slip, unless it is a local trip where you will have completed a walking consent form.

We hope that you have found this booklet informative. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us in school.

Contact information

School: 01626 773905

Email: mrsday@olsp-rc.devon.sch.uk
office@olsp-rc.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.olsp-rc.devon.sch.uk

Please visit our website to find out about what goes on in other areas of school life.

All school and class newsletters along with class timetables are also posted on the website.

The Foundation Stage Unit uses an Online Learning Journal called 'Tapestry' where you will be notified of the children's observations and achievements. You will be emailed a link in September – please ensure you have given an email address for you to be able to access your child's learning journal.

We also have a parent wall in the unit – take a look at this from time to time to see what is happening or incentives and schemes we are running.

Please 'like' our Facebook page:
Our-Lady-St-Patricks-RC-Nursery-Primary-School