

Welcome to SS Osmund & Andrew's RCPS Foundation Stage



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I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher;
The tools he used were books, music and art.
One was a parent,
With a guiding hand and a gentle loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled
With a touch that was loving and sure;
While the parent laboured by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last the task was done.
They were proud of what they had wrought
For the things they had moulded into the child
Could neither be sold or bought.
And each agreed he would have failed,
If he had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school, and behind the teacher,
The home.
An unknown author from Ireland.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Foundation Stage. Our unit consists of 2 Reception classes and a 52 place Nursery. The Reception and Nursery classes together form our Foundation Stage. To help your child settle in we have compiled this booklet to provide information you may need.

Our Aims

- For school staff, parents, priests, governors and children to work in partnership with each other to build a Catholic community of worship. Through assemblies, celebrations, lessons, collective worship, class and school Masses we will have the opportunity to celebrate God's love, as a family, in an atmosphere of forgiveness, tolerance and mutual support and respect.
- To value every child as a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- To respect every child's right to grow up safely and healthily, to enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution and to develop economic well-being.
- For children to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships where parents work in partnership with the Early Years Team and more closely with their allocated key person.
- To provide an organised and happy environment that is safe from prejudice and discrimination.
- To recognise that in their play children learn at their highest level.
- To value and respect children as unique individuals.
- To offer a broad and balanced curriculum that is fun and exciting offering a range of experiences that enable a child to develop emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically.

Child Protection

The school has a Child Protection Policy (see school website) and recognises that, under the 1989 Children Act, schools have an important and valuable part to play in child protection. Staff have been trained in child protection procedures. The Headteacher is the Designated Teacher for child protection issues.

Parents need to know that schools have legal obligations with regard to child protection. If a member of staff has reason to believe that child protection procedures should be activated then the matter **must** be reported to the Designated Teacher who **must** contact Social Services immediately.

The school has no discretion in this matter.

A copy of the Child Protection Handbook is available in school and may be viewed on request.

How to Prepare Your Child for Foundation Stage

We want each child to have the confidence, desire and opportunity to fulfil their potential. It is therefore important to establish a close working relationship between home and school.

A positive first impression of school stays with you and as such it is essential for us all to lay firm foundations for future success.

Here are some ideas on how you can help. We appreciate your help and encouragement in addressing areas that relate to your own child.

Try to enable your child to:

- Manage personal toileting requirements.
- Dress and undress for P.E.
- Put on and fasten their own coat.
- Fasten shoes - Velcro is advisable.
- Have experience of using a knife and fork.
- Learn to share and take turns in play situations.
- Gain experience of familiar songs, stories and rhymes.
- Make the most of different opportunities for counting and interacting with the world around them.



The Key Person

Your child will be allocated a 'Key Person'. That person will have special responsibilities for your child and will help them to feel safe and cared for during their time in the Foundation Stage. The Key Person is also there for you as parents and we hope you build up a good rapport with them.

Learning Journals

The Learning Journal is a record of your child's experiences in Foundation Stage. We will use it to record and celebrate new achievements, and understand the significance of what your child is doing now, what they will do next and how they can be helped to move on. Parents can add to this journal through photographs of days out, activities at home and comments.

Library and Key Person Time

A special time will be available each week for you to come in and choose a library book with your child. During this time you will have the opportunity to talk with your child's Key Person and look at your child's Learning Journal. This time will be at the beginning of the session when your child comes into class. We will tell you which day this will be once your child starts school. If you will not be bringing your child to school, for example if a childminder will be dropping your child off, you are welcome to call and talk about your child's progress any time.

Settling in to Foundation Stage

We want all our children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to share with their parents the new learning experiences they have enjoyed. We also want parents to feel welcomed and involved from the beginning and throughout the Foundation Stage.

When starting the **Nursery Class** your child will be invited to visit their classroom and meet their teachers. In addition your child will be visited at home by their teacher and another member of the Early Years Team. We encourage parents, where appropriate to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences. Any special needs/requirements can be discussed at this time. Children coming into **Reception Class** will be able to visit in the Summer Term to meet everyone before starting in September. Children who have not attended our school Nursery will be visited at home by their teacher and a member of the Early Years Team.

The relationship between school and home is very important to us. We are available for you to discuss any information about your child throughout their time in Foundation Stage. Our settling in procedures aim to help parents and children feel comfortable in Foundation Stage and to ensure that children can benefit from what we have to offer.

General Information

We have a 52 place Nursery Class. This means that 26 children attend the morning session and 26 children attend the afternoon session. The sessions run in the morning from 8.45am - 11.45am and in the afternoon from 12.30pm - 3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

In the Reception Class the day starts at 8.55am and ends at 3.30pm.

The Nursery door will be locked at 8.55am and the Reception Class doors will lock at 9.00am. If the doors are locked, please register your child at the school office.

We ask that you bring your child on time so that they can be involved in activities which will help them to feel settled, for example finding and posting their names, register or song time etc. It is also important that you arrive promptly when collecting your child. Please inform us if your child is to be collected by someone who is not the usual collector as we cannot release your child to someone new without prior instruction. We cannot release your child to an unfamiliar adult or person under 16 years of age.

At **home time** your child will be sitting on the carpet. A member of staff will call your child's name and your child can then leave the carpet. This is to make sure we know exactly who each child has left with.



Absences and Illness

If your child is **absent** please contact the School Office to inform us, so we can authorise the absence. If your child is ill at school we will inform you as soon as possible. To ensure we can contact you, please inform the School Office of any changes to your contact details.

Lunch

Children in both classes can have a freshly cooked school dinner or bring a packed lunch from home. However in the **Nursery Class** your child may only stay for lunch **if** they receive Lunchtime Supervision offered by Little Ozzies Community Nursery. If your child has a packed lunch please write your child's name clearly on their packed lunch box and send drinks in a plastic flask or bottle rather than a glass bottle. Dinner money must be paid every Monday and placed in an envelope labelled with your child's name and class teacher. You can pay by cash or cheque (please make cheques payable to Bolton MBC). You can also pay for school dinners on a $\frac{1}{2}$ termly basis. If your child is absent you will receive a refund for any meals missed. Some children will be eligible for free school meals. Application should be made to Pupil and Student Services, Paderborn House, Bolton. If you wish to change your child's lunch time arrangements, for example from packed lunches to school dinners, we ask you to give two weeks notice in writing to the office.

Snack Time

We operate a self service snack system in Foundation Stage where children are encouraged to develop skills of independence through sitting and enjoying sharing something to eat and drink with their friends in a friendly and informal situation where adults have the opportunity to encourage talking and conversation. Snack is served during the continuous provision session and is monitored carefully to ensure all children receive a snack - even if they are 'too busy' to go and get something to eat or drink independently.

We provide a healthy snack for your child of fruit and vegetables. We also serve milk or water with the snack. We always try to encourage the children to try fruit.

Uniform

We have a school uniform because it looks smart, wears well and contributes to a sense of belonging to SS Osmund and Andrew's RCPS. In keeping with Foundation Stage requirements your child will have ongoing, all year round opportunities to go outdoors. For this reason we recommend your child wears the following clothing:

Boys	Girls
Winter trousers or comfortable, warm jogging pants in black, navy or grey.	Grey Skirt or Pinafore
Gold polo shirt	Gold polo shirt
Navy blue school sweatshirt (Nursery style/Reception style)	Navy blue school sweatshirt or cardigan (Nursery style/Reception style)
Summer Shorts	Yellow gingham dress
Waterproof coat	Waterproof coat

PE/Games boys and girls (Reception Class)

Plimsolls
Navy or black shorts
White t-shirt

PE/Games boys and girls (Nursery Class)

Plimsolls

It is important that your child is sensibly and comfortably dressed. Please dress your child in clothes they can cope with independently. Although aprons are worn for messy activities accidents do happen and clothing can get stained. We sell school sweatshirts, polo shirts and PE kits in the School Office. We also sell book bags, PE bags and back packs in the School Office. Your child will need a book bag for reading books and books borrowed from our library.

EVERY ITEM OF YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING INCLUDING SHOES AND COATS MUST BE NAMED. PE KITS IN LABELLED BAGS - WE HAVE OVER 100 CHILDREN IN OUR FOUNDATION STAGE AND WITHOUT NAMES WE CANNOT MATCH BELONGINGS TO CHILDREN. THANK YOU.

Medication

If your child is recovering from an illness and is well enough to return to school, but needs to complete a course of medicine we are willing to give your child their medicine when necessary. You will be asked to complete a consent form, detailing the dose and when the medicine should be administered.

If your child suffers from asthma and requires an inhaler a **second** inhaler should be left in school so that it is available all the time - this will save you bringing the inhaler to and from school. Your child's name will be added to the asthma register and reviewed termly.

Allergies and other Important Information

We need to be aware of any allergies your child might have. The Foundation Stage curriculum is very practical and your child will be involved in cooking activities and food preparation on a regular basis. We need to know which foods your child may not be permitted to eat or to come into contact with, for example nut allergies, intolerance to dairy products etc. Other medical information would also be beneficial, for example if your child suffers from glue ear or if they attend speech therapy, or have to wear an eye patch etc.

Sickness

If your child vomits or has diarrhoea they must be kept at home for at least 24 hours to allow them time to recover and also to prevent passing on any 'bugs' to the other children.

The Curriculum

In Nursery and Reception Class your child will be following the Foundation Stage curriculum. The curriculum is play based - however this does not mean your child will be left to simply 'play' on their own during their time with us. The curriculum is very carefully structured with planned and purposeful activities that provide opportunities for learning both indoors and out. The curriculum allows children to learn and develop individually. Learning for young children is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Gradually the challenge increases to include home/school reading, class guided reading and adult guided Literacy and Numeracy activities.

There are seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage Curriculum, they are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children need to have experiences and support to develop mutual respect and a positive sense of themselves and others, social skills and a desire to learn. Personal, Social, Emotional (PSE) development is integral to our school day however we also plan times to focus on PSE themes through group assemblies and activities. Successful PSE development is important for young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning

Communication and Language

This area of learning includes communication, speaking and listening, being read to and beginning to read and write. Children need opportunities and encouragement to use these skills in different situations and for different purposes. Early experiences, including lots of rhymes, stories and games should be enjoyable and supportive to develop children's confidence.

Mathematics

This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns, making connections and solving problems; and also working with shape and measures. Mathematical understanding is developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play so that children begin to make links and enjoy solving problems, investigating and using numbers.

Understanding the World

In this area of learning children are developing the knowledge, skills and understanding to make sense of the world. Opportunities are provided for children to use tools safely, encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments and in real life situations, undertake practical experiments and work with a range of materials.

Literacy

Please support us at home to teach your child to read. A phonics session is delivered daily in our setting. Children have the opportunity to write about stories they have read and we encourage reading at all times.



Physical Development

Physical Development is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. It also covers aspects of being healthy, including healthy eating. It helps children gain confidence in what they can do and therefore has a big impact on their self esteem. Children can feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active. Physical activities are embedded in our continuous and specially planned provision. This includes mark making, playing with dough, bikes and our tyre garden as well as many other activities.

Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning must be extended by the provision of support for curiosity, exploration and play. Children need to become absorbed in action and exploration of their own ideas. Opportunities must include art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role play activities, ICT and design and technology.

Religious Education

We teach Religious Education across the Foundation Stage. We provide a Catholic, Christian setting in which children grow in understanding the faith, acquire positive attitudes and values, whilst respecting the values and beliefs of others.

Our School Prayer

This is our school
Let it be full of love.
Love for one another
Love for life itself and most of all,
The love of Jesus Christ Our Lord
Amen

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of grace
The Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus
Holy Mary Mother of God
Prayer for us sinners now
And at the hour of our death
Amen

Our Father

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
Amen



AND FINALLY.....

Please do not hesitate to ask about anything that might be worrying you about your child as your child begins and progresses through the Foundation Stage - we are here to help.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS BOOKLET AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOUR CHILD AND WELCOMING HIM OR HER TO OUR SCHOOL FAMILY.