

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage @ St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Foundation Stage Staff



Mrs Carter

Meet
the
teachers:



Mrs Moreton

...and our
teaching
assistants:



Miss Bonshor



Mrs Dewis



Miss White

In 2019, the government proposed changes to the EYFS. These changes have now been made and all early years settings and schools will follow the new EYFS from September 2021.

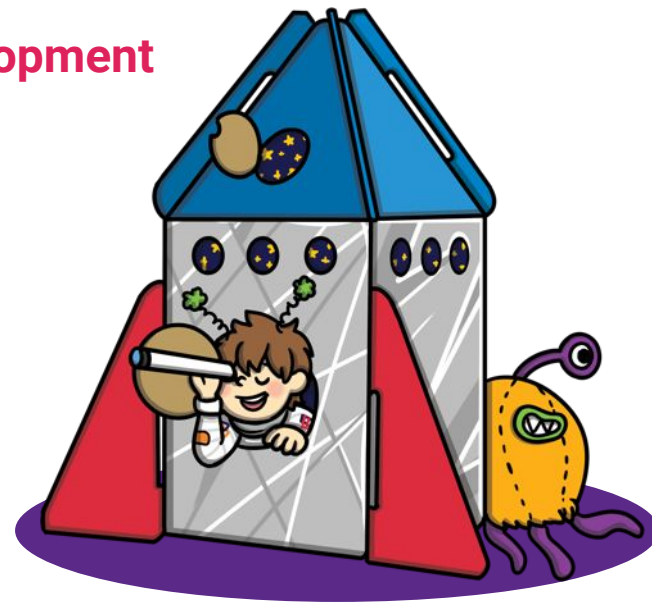
The Early Years Foundation Stage covers the first stage of a child's care from birth to five years old. It sets the standards to ensure that all children learn and develop, as well as keeping them healthy and safe.

All schools and Ofsted registered early years providers in England must follow the EYFS.

Also included in the EYFS are the **seven Areas of Learning**. They are:

- **Communication and Language**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Physical Development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

At the end of the EYFS, there are **17 Early Learning Goals** that children are expected to achieve.



New EYFS - Some Key Changes:

Reduced the amount of unneeded written recordings and assessment of children by staff.

- This means staff do not need to keep a large amount of written evidence that proves children are able to do lots of things.
- Staff still know the abilities and skills of each child, and know how to support them to develop. However, now they do not need to write this down unnecessarily.
- This frees up more time for staff to spend directly with the children.
- By taking away the need for constant recording, it helps to develop more natural play, conversations and interaction between adults and children.



We will use Target Tracker - details to follow.

Some Key Changes:

Communication and Language

There is more of an emphasis on the importance of developing communication and language skills.

- Children should be supported in building up vocabulary by increasing the amount of words they know and can use.
- Encourage more conversations between adults and children, but also children and their peers.
- Good language skills are the basis for all other learning and social interaction, so this is vital to focus on.



Some Key Changes:

Healthy Lifestyle

There is a focus on encouraging healthy choices overall and an understanding of oral health.

- Required to teach children the importance of brushing teeth.
- Supervised toothbrushing is not expected in settings and schools.
- Focus on helping children to understand which choices to make that will help them to be healthy, for example which foods to eat and why.
- Getting into good routines from a young age is important as these often continue into adult life.



Religious Education



We pride ourselves on the way our pupils live out their Christian faith. R.E takes up 10% of our curriculum. We teach it through stories, with puppets and through real life experiences. We also teach 'other faith' weeks to help children learn tolerance and mutual respect.

Assessments

- We do a 'baseline' assessment at the beginning of the year.
- Individual learning journeys are electronically kept on 'Target Tracker' – parents and carers are able to login to keep up with children's learning.
- We assess children's progress in phonics every half term.
- We use assessment to plan next steps and how to help children move forward.
- A key change to the new EYFS documentation is that children no longer assessed at an age band.



Reading

We teach children to read through the Read Write Inc phonics scheme.

Find out more here:

[illegible]

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

We send reading books home that are closely linked with our phonics teaching. PLEASE support your child with reading. We also send home a reading diary. Please record your child's regular home reading in this book. This needs to be at least 3 times per week.

New EYFS Key Changes

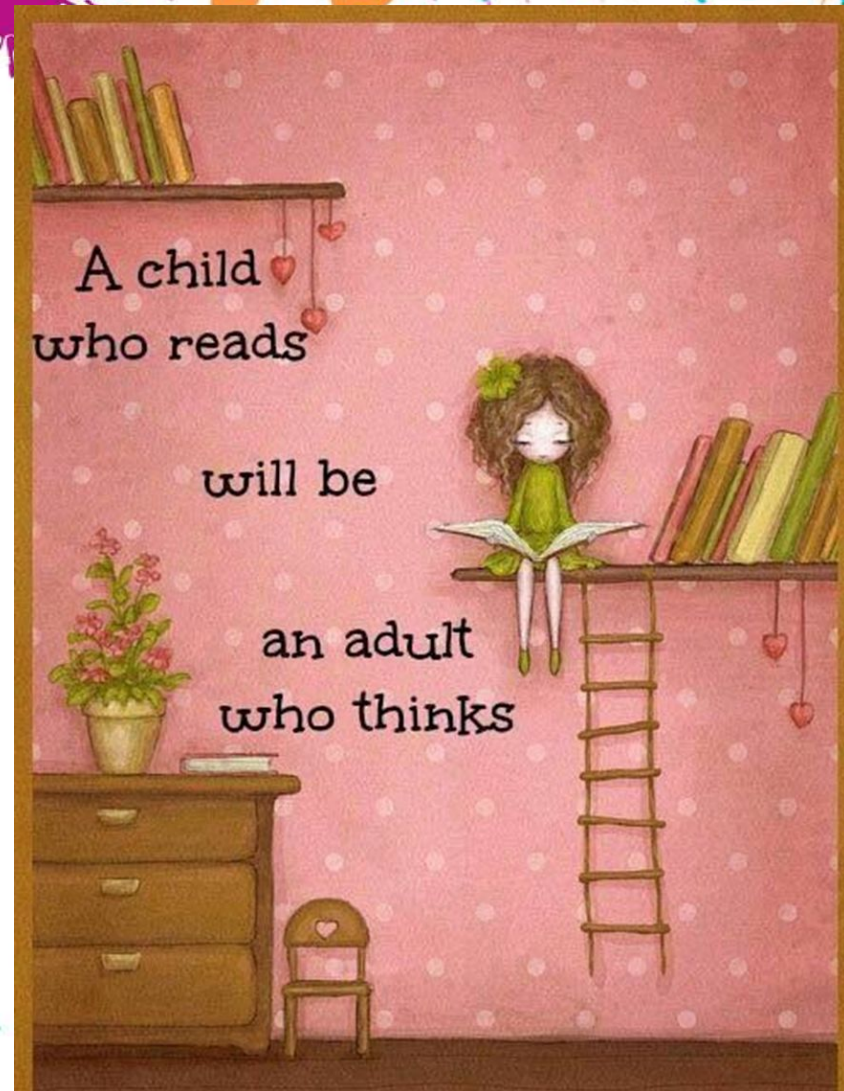
Reading

- 3. There is a focus on how reading stories is important to help children develop in all of Areas of Learning.**
- Daily reading of stories encourages an enjoyment of reading from a young age.
 - Lots of other learning opportunities happen when looking at books, for example comparisons of culture or the past.
 - Listening to stories develops imagination, ideas and language.
 - Reading is an essential skill and so should be shown to children, as well as practised by them regularly.
 - Children are also encouraged to use story ideas in their play.



**A child who reads for
20 minutes per day
experiences almost 2
million words per year!**

**Please read to your
child and let them to
read to you.**



What will the New EYFS Curriculum look like at St Peter's?

We have spent a lot of time and money preparing for the changes in the curriculum. Our classroom has been redesigned with new furniture and resources. We are VERY excited! Keep an eye on Class Dojo for updates on our progress.



Behaviour expectations at St Peter's....

- We manage behaviour positively
- We reward with verbal praise, stickers, dojo points, reading awards and headteacher's awards.
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- We have one set of rules that apply in every area of the school.



General Information – the important bits!

- The school day: 9am-3:00pm. (subject to change if restrictions aren't lifted).
- School dinners are funded by the government until Year 2 – a sample menu is available here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-food> along with forms to download if your child needs a special diet for medical reasons. If you believe your child is entitled to free school meals - even beyond Year 2 (usually based on family income) then here is the link.
It may mean you are also entitled to support with school trips.
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>
- Most children take up their funded school dinner offer. If you decide to make packed lunches, lunch boxes need to be 'healthy' and nut free.
- Children are entitled to free milk up to the age of 5 but this must be applied for. www.coolmilk.com After age 5 it can be paid for.
- Children are able to have toast in the mornings at a cost of £1 a week. (MUST be paid for a term at a time.) Fruit and water are always available.

General Information – the important bits....continued!

- Once they start school, look out for details of clubs your child might be interested in joining.
- Our school is 'cash free'. Monies must be paid via our online payment system, Parentpay. You will get an email with a password enabling you to activate your account when your child starts school with us.
- Our AFTER SCHOOL CLUB runs every day from 3.15pm until 5.15pm at a cost of £7.00 per session. BREAKFAST CLUB runs from 7.45am until 8.45am and costs £4.00 per session. These clubs are available to pay through Parentpay, and must be paid at least a week in advance. Please contact the school office to be added onto the registers.
- You will get a weekly class newsletter – with details of events, dates, current learning and homework etc. on it. We always like to keep you well informed!
- We use a text messaging service and CLASS DOJO to communicate with parents. We'll show you how, soon!

Uniform

- Our supplier is 'Hole in The Wall' in Hinckley.
- Please label all uniform (including PE kit, coats, lunchboxes, bookbags.....)
- If you have a spare pair of wellies then please bring them in so that the children can wear them for gardening/outdoor play.
- Children wear black pumps inside school, these are what we refer to as their 'indoor shoes'.
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- Coats need to be black or navy, as do hats, gloves and scarves.

What will the transition into school look like?

- We are much hoping for something resembling 'normal' this year!

We have a 'welcome book' for each child and will deliver or post these this week.

We are holding 'zoom' calls with nursery settings.



We will use several days at the start of term in August to do transition meetings with each family. (26th, 27th and 28th).

We are offering a bookable 'stay and play' for your child on either Monday 12th July or Tuesday 13th July from 10 until 11am. You can book this via the link on Class Dojo (after this meeting).

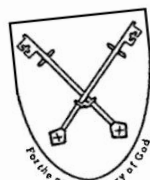
- We start children with either afternoon or morning sessions on 31st August, then swap the over the following week before they are full time in their third week. You will get a letter with full details on it, along with your 'welcome book' in the next few days.

Is my child 'school ready'?

Getting Ready for School Checklist

I can...		I can...		I can...	
recognise my name	<input type="checkbox"/>	hold my pencil carefully	<input type="checkbox"/>	put on my socks	<input type="checkbox"/>
write the first letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	draw a face 	<input type="checkbox"/>	find my shoes	<input type="checkbox"/>
copy my name	<input type="checkbox"/>	colour in carefully	<input type="checkbox"/>	put on my shoes	<input type="checkbox"/>
write my name 	<input type="checkbox"/>	name the colours I use	<input type="checkbox"/>	do up my shoes 	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can...		I can...		I can...	
count from 1 to 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	sing simple rhymes	<input type="checkbox"/>	find my coat	<input type="checkbox"/>
recognise each number	<input type="checkbox"/>	sing and clap to a song	<input type="checkbox"/>	put my arms into my coat	<input type="checkbox"/>
place 1 to 5 in order	<input type="checkbox"/>	tap a beat 	<input type="checkbox"/>	do up a zip to the top	<input type="checkbox"/>
write 1 to 5 in order 1 2 3 4 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	move to music	<input type="checkbox"/>	do buttons 	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can...		I can...		I can...	
eat with a knife and fork	<input type="checkbox"/>	tidy away my toys	<input type="checkbox"/>	say please when I ask	<input type="checkbox"/>
pour myself a drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	clear away things I've used	<input type="checkbox"/>	say thank you when I get	<input type="checkbox"/>
taste different foods	<input type="checkbox"/>	put my clothes away	<input type="checkbox"/>	ask to go to the toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>
wash my hands before and after meals 	<input type="checkbox"/>	help at home 	<input type="checkbox"/>	wait my turn to talk 	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can...		I can...		I can...	
clean myself 	<input type="checkbox"/>	use the stairs hand rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	cut along a line	<input type="checkbox"/>
wash my hands	<input type="checkbox"/>	hold hands on the street	<input type="checkbox"/>	cut 'snips' into paper	<input type="checkbox"/>
dry my hands	<input type="checkbox"/>	take turns when playing	<input type="checkbox"/>	cut out a shape	<input type="checkbox"/>
go to the toilet when I need to	<input type="checkbox"/>	share toys with a friend 	<input type="checkbox"/>	cut out shapes to make a picture 	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check this letter too.....



St. Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy
(Part of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust)

Mill Lane, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, LE9 7AW Tel: (01455) 843840 e-mail: admin@stpetersprimary.org



It can be an anxious time preparing your child for school. Please don't worry! We are always here to answer your questions and help with any concerns you might have. There is no definitive list of things that a child should be able to do before they start school but there are lots of things you can do to help get them ready.

We have prepared this list of ideas (many of which they might be able to do already!):

Helping your child get the best of their first year of school:

- Give them a good breakfast each day.
- Make sure they've had a good night's sleep.
- Make sure they are physically active in their spare time– proven to raise IQ and help children retain their learning.
- Make sure their attendance is good and they are punctual.
- Support them with reading and homework.





On the first day....

Please be positive with your children in preparing them for school and explain to them what will happen ~talk about the teachers, other children, break time, sitting down, tidy-up time and lunchtime. Use the 'welcome book' to help with this!

Most children, even if initially upset soon become distracted by their surroundings and settle down. Don't worry – we promise to look after them!

Bring your child in uniform, with their PE kit and book bag.



**Visit the website - you can get a LOT of information
about school life:**

www.stpetersprimary.org

Join our PTFA!

- The PTFA work together to enhance the school and the children's experiences in school.
- They raise a lot of money and host lots of fun events throughout the school year.
- They welcome new members and new ideas – come and get involved!

• *Facebook page: St Peter's R C Primary PTFA*

**We look forward to
welcoming your child at our
school and making their
first year at school a special
one!**

