

Introduction

The Reception Year is a time for transition from Nursery to year 1. The children are getting used to a more structured learning environment, while still being allowed to explore and learn through play.

At St Matthew Academy we follow the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and the National Strategies for Literacy and Numeracy.

During this term children in Reception class are learning the routines of the school day: the focus is centred on listening and responding appropriately to the teacher and other children, taking turns and sharing, lining up and walking sensibly across school grounds. They learn to explore and discover independently, to express thoughts and emotions and talk in front of the class.

Our focus is on developing secure sociable, emotional and happy children, who are ready to learn through independent and group activities.

Organisation

Thank you for clearly labelling all your child's clothing, including the white shirts and ties, all PE clothing and shoes. This will prevent children from putting on someone else's clothes when changing before and after PE and lost property can easily be located.

Weather allowing, PE is held outdoors, so please ensure your child has long tracksuit trousers with the St. Matthew emblem.

For health and safety reasons, we would advise that your child does not wear jewellery to school. However ear studs may be worn, except on PE days.

Could we also remind you of the importance of arriving on time in the morning. Late arrivals are very disruptive to your child's and other children's concentration and learning.

School ends at 3:20. If, for any reason you are delayed, please inform the school office as soon as possible. Children who are not collected by 3:25 will be brought to the office.

The Curriculum

The Reception Year is part of the foundation stage, which begins in Nursery and lasts from 3 to 5 years old. All subjects are important for the balanced development of the whole child. The areas of the curriculum include: personal, social and emotional development; knowledge and understanding of the world; creative development; physical development; communication, language and literacy; and mathematical development.

Over the last few weeks the children have settled in to their first topic called 'All about me'. This unit is part of the Early Years programme of the International primary Curriculum.

This programme is set out in four groups or 'strands' – these are called 'Independence and Interdependence', 'Communicating', 'Exploring', and 'Healthy living'.

The next topic, which takes us up to Christmas, is called 'Family and Friends'.

Please send family photographs in for our display.

Handwriting is also an important part of the curriculum. Children are encouraged to develop their fine motor control, to hold a pencil correctly and to form all lower case letters appropriately (a guide to the letter formation that we use at St. Matthew is attached for your information).

In Numeracy the initial focus is on counting from 1 to 10 and to become familiar with simple mathematical vocabulary like 'more than/less than'. Most of our mathematical investigations at this level involve the use of concrete materials (such as cubes and counters). We use 'Maths outdoors' resources that encourage physical movement while counting and grouping and solving problems.

Children in Reception receive specialist instruction in:

Music with Teresa Freeburn
PE games with Danielle Bell
PE gymnastics & dance with Lorna Smith
ICT with David Cregan
Drama with Georgia Dobbs

Expectations

The aim of Reception is to develop independence, confidence and a range of basic skills including eating, using the toilet, changing for PE and playing outside in the playground cooperatively.

Communication with parents

If you would like to discuss issues or concerns about your child with us please don't hesitate to contact us and we will always be happy to listen.