



St. Catherine's
RC Primary School

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage 2020-2021

St. Catherine's RC Primary School
School Lane, Didsbury, Manchester M20 6HS
Tel: 0161 445 6359
Website: www.st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk
Email: admin@st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk



WELCOME

Welcome to St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Primary School. We are delighted that your child will be starting school with us and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you. We consider collaboration between teachers and parents to be fundamental to the success of the first years of education in our school.

We want to make sure that this is a hugely positive and rich experience. We know that children learn best when they are excited and engaged, our aim is for the children at St. Catherine's to love learning.

If there are any concerns, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mission Statement

**"Be who God wants you to be
and so set the world on fire."**

- We are called to love one another as we seek to be the best in all that we learn and do
- We celebrate and nurture the gifts, talents and skills of everyone
- We commit ourselves to grow together in faith, love and service

Notes



Our Vision and Values

St Catherine's RC Primary School: Who we are and what we want to achieve

In the words of St. Catherine and our Mission Statement, we aspire to *'Be who God wants us to be and so set the world on fire.'*

Our Vision has been put together to explain our ambitions for our school:

"Inspired by the Word of God, we continually strive to be the best Catholic School we can be. Within a stimulating and nurturing environment we welcome and support one another; reach out within our community and beyond; and work together to live out the Gospel values in every aspect of our life at St. Catherine's.



St. Catherine's
RC Primary School

| More specifically this means that we aim to: | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|--------------|---|-------------|
| Shape the whole person | | Strive for excellence | | Create inspiring learning spaces | |
| <p>This means that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise and nurture the talents, skills and strengths in everyone Appreciate our uniqueness as individuals and support our vulnerabilities Encourage growth in Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural terms throughout our developmental journey Live and grow together in faith Look outside ourselves, seeing our role within the wider world Support the health and well-being of each person Grow in confidence, inspiring each other | | <p>This means that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead by example Are passionate about continuous learning Ensure every single child achieves their fullest potential Deliver a high quality, broad curriculum which results in high standards Support every member of the community to help them to flourish Never give up: building resilience and perseverance | | <p>This means that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide high quality, inspirational learning environments and facilities Meet the needs of the whole school community Listen to the needs of those who use our school Develop Stewardship - looking after what we have: appreciating, respecting and protecting the natural world created by God. Are creative in our use of resources | |
| <p>This means that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop close collaboration with partner schools and other organisations Strengthen the links between home and school - working together and supporting each other Build strong relationships with our parish and broader community Reach out to those in need with compassion and love; becoming missionaries of the Word in action. | | | | | |
| Our core values are central to fulfilling our Vision and Mission, In all aspects of school life we demonstrate: | | | | | |
| Love | Faith | Respect | Perseverance | Compassion | Inspiration |

Headteacher:
Miss J. D. Chwastek

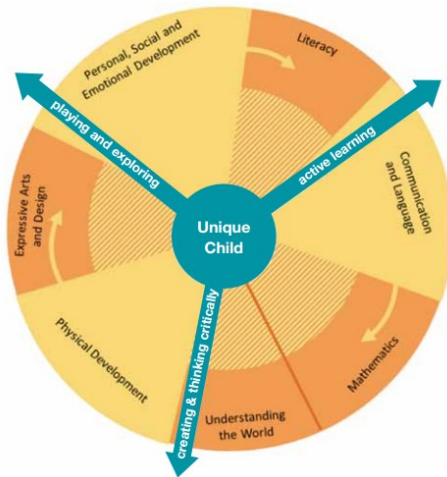
**Assistant Headteacher and Early Years
Foundation Stage Leader:**
Mrs J. McCormick

What is the Foundation Stage?

The Foundation Stage is the period of education from age three to five, which offers a play-based, child centred curriculum in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children learn best through play and exploration. During the day there will be a mixture of adult initiated, child initiated and adult led activities as well as whole class and small group activities.

There are four guiding principles that shape practice in every Early Years settings, these are:

- Every child is a unique, competent learner from birth and can be resilient, capable, confident and self assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.



More activities to share at home.

Some simple games for all the family to play:

- Snakes and ladders
- Large jigsaw puzzles with big pieces
- Snap or other matching games
- Colour or picture dominoes
- I Spy and other guessing games
- Picture lotto

More things you may like to do:

- Ball games
- Singing games
- Play dough
- Lego
- Sand and water
- Skipping games
- Cutting out activities
- Large scale mark making/ drawing with chalks and chunky pens

Remember learning should be fun and exciting and involve lots of new experiences. Spend no longer than 10 minutes per activity to maintain levels of concentration!

Always praise and reward your child's efforts in order to build their confidence and self-esteem.

Top Tips for Starting School

Activities to share at home.

- Helping you around the house, e.g. setting the table, washing up, putting the shopping away.
- Sitting together looking at a book and listening to stories.
- Visiting places together like the park, supermarket, station, bank, library etc.
- Singing rhymes and reading stories together.
- Collecting things like buttons, shells, postcards or pebbles for counting and sorting.

Talking together

A child learns a lot from talking.

Talk about:

- What happened today
- What you did today
- A television programme
- Things you like/dislike
- The games your child plays with other children

Listening Skills

It is important a child learns to listen. You can help by:

- Reading stories
- Learning rhymes and songs
- Showing and explaining how things work.



Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

Religious Education

As a Catholic School, Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum and feeds into all areas of learning. We aim to bring our children closer to God and help them to know him as a loving father.

What does the Foundation Stage involve?

There are seven areas of learning and development in the Foundation Stage, all of which are important and inter-connected.

Prime Areas of Learning

The Prime areas are fundamental, work together and move through to support development in all other areas.

- Communication and Language (CL)
- Physical Development (PD)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSE)

Specific Areas of Learning

The Specific areas include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.

- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the World (UW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Love

Faith

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Inspiration

All school communication, payments and consent are made through ParentMail. At least one parent must have a ParentMail account.

All new parents should now have had an email to register for a Parentmail account. If you have not yet had a registration email, please contact the school office.

We regularly use Parentmail to send important information regarding your child and the school.

St. Catherine's is a cashless school office and are unable to accept cash or cheque's as payment for school trips, dinner money or extra curricular activities. All payments must be processed via ParentMail.

Attendance

It is really important that the children make a good start to their Primary School career by being in school every day. We know that children pick up all sorts of bugs and colds when they start school but they soon build up their resilience.

All absences are classed as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation is received. Holidays should be taken outside term time so that this does not impact on attendance. Holidays in term time will be recorded as unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

There are many incentives and rewards for attendance. We aim for 98% attendance throughout the year as this means that the children are much more likely to achieve their true potential when they are in school consistently.

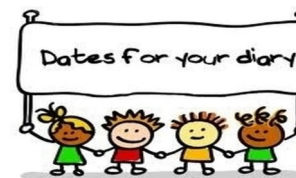
If you are late to school and the entrance door to you child's classroom is closed, you must go to the school office and sign in.

**Our
attendance
target is
98%**

If your child is ill or unable to attend school for any other reason, please notify us by Telephone on 0161 445 6359 before 8.30am.

Term Dates 2020-2021

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Autumn Term | INSET Day: Tuesday 1st September (School Closed) School Opens: Wednesday 2 nd September School Closes: Friday 23 rd October at 3pm INSET Day: Monday 2nd November (School Closed) School Opens: Tuesday 3 rd November School Closes: Friday 18 th December at 3pm INSET Day: Monday 21st December (School Closed) |
| Spring Term | School Opens: Monday 4 th January 2021 School Closes: Friday 12 th February at 3pm School Opens: Monday 22 nd February School Closes: Thursday 1 st April at 3pm |
| Summer Term | School Opens: Tuesday 13 th April Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May (School Closed) School Closes: Friday 28 th May at 3pm School Opens: Monday 14 th June INSET Day: Friday 25th June (School Closed) School Closes: Friday 16 th July at 3pm INSET Day: Monday 19th July (School Closed) |



Parking

Parking on site is for staff and visitors to school only. Please do not park on school premises as there is very limited space. This applies at the beginning and end of the school day and also at any other time, including bringing children to the Breakfast Club or picking them up from after school events or clubs. We also ask that you are considerate to our neighbours when parking on the streets around school.

Things I need for school...

- Labelled items of school uniform.
- Black school shoes
- Waterproof coat
- Wellies
- Sunhat
- Water bottle
- Book bag (after Christmas for Nursery)
- Spare clothes / underwear
-

School Uniform

School uniform items with the St. Catherine's logo are available from Gooddies online (www.gooddies.co.uk) and MCS stores. Details for both providers can be found on our website.

Other items such as skirts and trousers can be purchased anywhere, but it is essential that you buy the 'badged' items from the listed providers.

School shoes should be black, ideally with a Velcro fastening and not laces. We promote independence in self-care with children in the EYFS, so please ensure that clothing items allow your child to be as independent as possible.

Please note that no other suppliers are authorised to sell our school uniform.

Website & Social Media



The school website address is:

www.st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk

It contains lots of useful information on the curriculum, classes, events and many other areas of school life. The fortnightly newsletters are also available via this link.

It is constantly being updated and if there is any important information to share this will be posted on the site. For example, if school needs to be closed because of bad weather, or if tickets are available for the end of term production this information will be displayed.

We now also have a Facebook account which are also used to keep you informed of things in school and to celebrate all the fantastic things we do.

Jewellery

Jewellery cannot be worn in school.

In particular earrings must not be worn. If, at any stage you wish to have your child's ears pierced please do this at the very beginning of the Summer holiday so by the time the new year begins they can be removed before coming into school.

Topics

Our curriculum is based on themed topics and during 2020-2021 we will be working on:

| Term | Cycle 2 |
|----------|----------------------|
| Autumn 1 | Ourselves |
| Autumn 2 | Superheroes |
| Spring 1 | Dinosaurs |
| Spring 2 | Food & Growth |
| Summer 1 | Minibeasts |
| Summer 2 | Journeys & Transport |

All areas of learning will be built around these topics.

Parental Involvement

Throughout the academic year, we will provide lots of opportunities for you as parents and carers to become involved in lots of different events such as 'Stay and Play' and 'Parent Craft' sessions with your child at school.

Dates for different events will be in the parent calendar and on the school newsletter.

Phonics

We follow the Letters and Sounds scheme for Phonics.

We hold a Reading and Phonics meeting in September. Please keep a look out for the date.



Snack

Children have the option of helping themselves to a healthy snack throughout the day, provided by school. Please also send in a labelled water bottle for your child. This needs to be still, unflavoured water.



Outdoor Provision

We go outside whatever the weather! Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing and footwear for all weathers: raincoats, wellies, sunhats, etc. We will happily store these in school for your child to use when needed.

PE

Children will require a PE kit after Christmas. This consists of maroon PE shorts, a white t-shirt and black pumps or trainers. No laces please! As with all uniform, please label everything.

Special Mention Worship

This takes place at the end of each week and the School GIFT Team lead part of this, sharing a message based on the Gospel for that week. As part of our worship, highlights of the week are celebrated and two children from each class receive a 'Special Mention' Award. There are many reasons your child may get an award, including hard work, behaviour, effort or their kindness to others.

Children are also encouraged to bring in any awards or certificates they have received outside of school, such as dance trophies or swimming certificates so these can be shared and celebrated.

Reception

School Day:

School starts at 8.45am, however, the doors open at 8.30am to give the children chance to come into school as they arrive.

School finishes at 3.00pm.

Please make sure we know who is going to be picking up your child each day.

Lunchtimes

Currently all Reception children are eligible for a universal free school meal.

However some children may be eligible for free school meal funding. Please see the school office for more information or visit: http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500186/education_benefits/7355/free_school_meals/1

Alternatively, you may provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.

Reading

Reading is such an important part of learning. Your children will bring books home for you to share. Please take the time to read with or to your child every day – it makes such a big difference! Please use the reading record as a communication log between home and school and record when you have read with your child. Books will be changed weekly and your child will be given a set day to change their books.

We also record when your child has completed a guided reading session in their reading records, so please ensure they are brought into school everyday.

We now have a wonderful new library. The children will access this each week and will be able to choose a book to bring home. Again, books will be changed weekly.

More information on reading in Reception will be given in September, at our Reading and Phonics meeting.



Homework

We will start to send work home after October half term. Activities will be sent home on a Friday and we ask that homework is returned to school by the following Tuesday. Homework is usually always phonics based.



Here at St. Catherine's, we use an app called Evidence Me to record the children's observations. Please ensure you provide school with an email address in order to receive observations of your child. For more information, please see the link below: <http://help.evidence.me/evidence-me-help-for-parents/>

Parental Input

We value your input as parents and encourage you to share your own observations, which can become part of your child's learning journey. Simply respond to the email sent to you with your observations. These can then be added to your child's learning journey.

Passwords

We ask that all parents set up a 'password' which is to be used in case of an emergency when you need somebody different to collect your child from school. You will receive a notification via Parentmail to provide us with this information before September.

PTA

The PTA is run by volunteer parents whose main aim is to raise funds for the school, but it also provides a forum for socialising and organising community activities. Every parent at school is automatically a member of the PTA. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and to come along to meetings. Help is always appreciated at events – the more the merrier! Further information is provided within your welcome pack.

Nursery

School Day:

Nursery A:

Monday: 8.50am– 2.50pm
Tuesday: 8.50am– 2.50pm
Wednesday: 8.50am– 11.50am

Nursery B:

Wednesday: 11.50am–
2.50pm
Thursday: 8.50am– 2.50pm
Friday: 8.50am– 2.50pm

Full Time Children:

Monday– Friday 8.50am–
2.50pm
Please make sure we know
who is going to be picking
your child up each day.



Drop Off and Collection

Children should be dropped off and collected
from the Early Years Entrance.

If you need to collect your child early, please contact
the school office.

This entrance is also used by Year 1, so please stand
clear of the door until 8.50am. Your child's teacher will
greet you on the door each morning when it is time to
go into Nursery.

Lunches

Nursery children
should bring a healthy packed
lunch into school on the days
they attend. Nursery A only
need to bring their lunch on
Monday and Tuesday.



Snack

Children have snack time mid
morning, where they are
offered milk and fruit or
vegetables.
Please let us know if your
child has any allergies.
Please also send your child in-
to school with a labelled bottle
filled with still, unflavoured
water only.



The Brush Bus

We follow the NHS scheme to improve dental
health. After having lunch, the children in Nursery
brush their teeth. We think that this is really
important to teach children about how they can be
healthy and look after their bodies. Please see the
enclosed leaflet in your packs for more information.
This scheme is started once the children have
successfully settled into Nursery.

Outdoor Provision

We go outside whatever the
weather. Please ensure your
child has appropriate clothing
and footwear for all
weathers: raincoats, wellies,
sunhats, etc. We will happily
store these in school for your
child to use when needed.
Please make sure these
items are labelled.



Spare Clothes

We would encourage
parents to provide a
spare set of school
clothes and
underwear to be kept
in school in case of
an accident.

Please make sure
EVERYTHING is
labelled.

30 Hours Funding

For those eligible for 30 hours funding, please ensure you let us know
your code as soon as possible. We will need you to re-confirm your
eligibility as required, each term. Failure to do so could mean that you
have to pay for the additional hours your child attends Nursery.

If you are unsure if you are eligible, please go to:
www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator