



# Welcome to Reception

My name is Miss Barnes and I am the Reception Class Teacher here at St Michael's. I absolutely love my job and am very excited for the year ahead as you trust us with your most important possession – your child.



I am very much looking forward to meeting you and your child in what I am sure will be an incredibly exciting year ahead. We are joined in class this year by the wonderful Mrs Longstaff and Mrs Gardner.

Our curriculum information evening will be held soon (see the calendar for timings) where we shall be sharing more specific information about Reception. We learn through play in Reception because learning should be fun, inquisitive and exciting!

Our door is always open, therefore if you ever have a concern or worry, please come and let us know.

This page will be updated throughout the course of the academic year so keep looking at this for updates. For now, enjoy reading all about Reception!

Regards,

*Miss Barnes*



## Key Information



**Punctuality:** It is so important that pupils arrive at school on time and ready to learn. Pupils need to be lined up at 8:45am as the bell rings. If you are late, the gates will be locked and children need to go through the main entrance. We expect all of our pupils to come in quietly and sensibly and of course, ready to learn!

**Pegs:** In Reception class, you now have your very own peg with your name on it. You will hang your coat on here at the beginning of day. Can you find your peg on your own?



**Toilets:** We have toilets just outside of the classroom, so no need to worry where you will need to go!

**Pastoral:** Being safe and indeed feeling safe, is at the very heart of our school. At St Michael's we are very lucky to have a superb pastoral team in place. The children are all aware of who and where in school they can go should they need support or someone to talk to. The pastoral team have drop in sessions each term which are open to any parents who would like to discuss their child's needs. The dates for the drop ins are added to the parent calendar so please watch this space. If however, you would like to meet with one of the team before the drop in, then please contact them. Our door is always open!



**Pupil Drop Off:** We know that drop off can be rather stressful when the children are so young! But rest assured, as soon as you have left, your child will be absolutely fine! Children should be brought to and collected from the classroom door. We strongly encourage them to sort themselves and their own belongings out, however hard this may be. This is so very important and therefore we kindly ask that as parents and carers you support us with this.

**Passwords:** We have a password system in school for collection of children. The passwords progress through school with your child so if your circumstances change and you need to change the password please let the school office know. It is likely that this password will only be used on rare occasions, in unexpected circumstances and not for normal collection





## Reminders



**PE:** Our PE Day in Reception is Friday. Please ensure your child has appropriate kit consisting of navy shorts, trainers and their house T-Shirt. Any watches must be removed as well as stud earrings.

**Uniform:** We are very proud of how smart our pupils look at school. Please ensure your child has correct school uniform. **In Reception, we also ask that you send a spare set of uniform with your child, just in case there is a little accident or that they get wed or muddy through having so much fun!** The PTFA hold a used uniform stall quite frequently, where you can pick up good as new pieces for a tiny amount.



**Water & Snacks:** Your child is encouraged to bring a fillable bottle to school containing water. This can be replenished during the school day. We also encourage your child to bring a healthy snack for them to enjoy at playtime.

**Celebration Assembly:** In Reception we reward our pupils against our core values; information on these can be found on the school website. Every week, a child will be chosen who has demonstrated a specific value and this will be further celebrated in our celebration worship on Friday.



**Waterproofs/Wellies:** In Reception we try and get outside as much as we can! As we know, the British weather can often be a little temperamental. We want to be able to access the outdoors at all times of the year. Please ensure your child brings a pair of wellies and some waterproof clothing that is all named! These are then kept in school so that we can access them at any time.





# EYFS



**Curriculum:** Our curriculum is called the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). There are 7 areas of learning:-

Prime areas: Personal and Social Development • Physical Development • Communication and Language

Specific areas: Literacy • Maths • Understanding the World • Expressive Arts and Design

We are working towards achieving the Early Learning Goals (ELG) by July.

For more information on the whole of the EYFS Curriculum, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>



# Reading & Phonics In Reception



**Reading:** Children will bring home a reading book and a blending book. Please share this with your child and support them with their phonics and reading. They can bring their book into school every day and we can change them frequently. Our library day is on a Friday. We are very lucky at St Michael's to have a fantastic library. On a Friday, the children have the chance to browse the books and can bring one home to share.

**Phonics:** Phonics is how we teach children to read and write. It is a crucial element of reading and it starts in Reception. We will have a phonics lesson daily (15 mins approximately) with your child.

Additionally if you look on the Class Reception Page of our website, you will see the phonics scheme broken down by term. These documents are a really useful tool for parents and carers.





## Specific Things In Reception



Tapestry: Tapestry is a system we use to share children's work with parents/carers in Pre-School and Reception. We take photos of children working and link them to statements from the Early Years Curriculum Development Matters. We will also use Tapestry to inform parents/carers of the next steps in their child's learning.

Parents/Carers will be able to upload pictures of their child at home, at the park, in the woods or at the beach, at family celebrations, using technology, singing, dancing or playing imaginatively, as well as their independent work such as drawings, writing and maths.

More information about Tapestry can be found on the main Reception Class Page on our website.



# How Can You Help Your Child At Home?



There are so many ways that you can help your child develop their learning at home. Here are just some things that you can do:

- ✓ Read your child's reading book and blending book daily.
- ✓ Practice name writing with a capital letter at the beginning
- ✓ Recognising numbers – games like snap or pairs
- ✓ Colouring books to strengthen pencil grip
- ✓ Encourage independence around the house e.g. making their bed, laying the table, dressing themselves or tidying up
- ✓ Create a rhyming string e.g hat, cat, mat
- ✓ Play with play dough to strengthen finger muscles
- ✓ Read stories together.