



Welcome to the
Early Years Foundation Stage, EYFS,
at
St Christopher's School



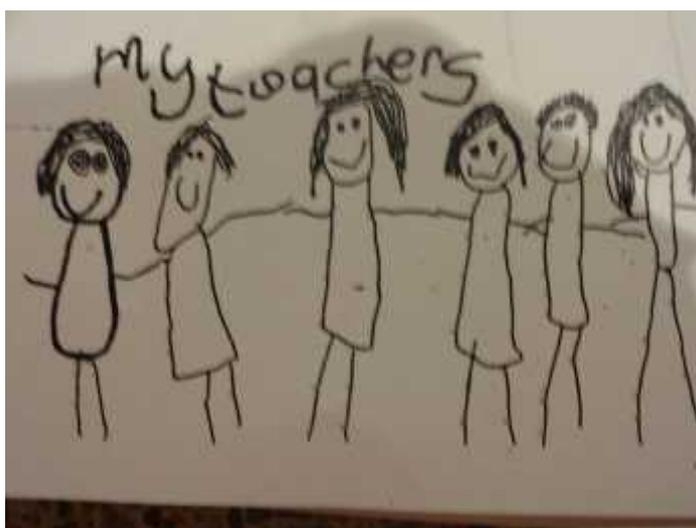
Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Ms Bhadresa - Head of EYFS and Reception Teacher
and Key Person

Reception School Times

Children start to arrive at 8.40am and registration is at 9.00am. They come in through the side door where a member of staff welcomes them every day. Please say good-bye to your child at the door and allow them to hang up their coats on their peg. If your child needs help one of the older children will be happy to help them. Children must be collected promptly at 3.20pm from the main door. We will need to know who will be bringing your child to school and picking them up. There is a password system whereby all Reception parents will be given a permanent password which should be used if another family member is picking up your child.

Please try and bring your children to school before 9.00am as they have several little 'jobs' to do before registration and Reception children do not like to be rushed! They need to put their lunch box on the trolley, their water bottle in the tray, give their link book and reading book to Mrs Asim, the Teaching Assistant, and put their book bag in the box! They also need to put their healthy snack in the basket.



We go outside in all kinds of weather so wellingtons are a necessity. Please leave a pair under your child's peg on the first day. The children love splashing about in puddles!

Our Aims

At St. Christopher's we believe that each child is special and every day is important. In Reception we work hard to provide a stimulating environment where your child may learn from new experiences and make good friendships with ourselves and other children. We get to know your children really well so we can cater for their individual needs. We value all cultures, religions and languages and aim to provide a happy inviting place for children and parents.

We aim to create a caring, welcoming environment in which the potential of each child can be fully developed. We believe that the early years are crucial in terms of his or her physical, intellectual, emotional, social development and well-being. We encourage your child to learn to cooperate with others (e.g. share toys and equipment, play together and make things) and share their experiences with them. We provide them with suitable materials and opportunities to enable them to make a positive start to their education at St. Christopher's.

Nursery and Reception are known as the 'Early Years Foundation Stage'. We recognise the essential role of parents in their child's education. Nowhere is this more important than at the Early Years Foundation Stage. Therefore we invite parents to work as partners so as to ensure that your children make the best possible start at St. Christopher's.

Information about the Reception Class

The children will attend school until 12.00 noon for the first few days and then stay for lunch the next two days. They should be picked up at 1.00pm from the main entrance. On the final day the children will stay for lunch and play and should be picked up at 1.30pm. This ensures a gentle and gradual transition into school life. They may bring a little family picture if they wish ('people in their pockets') which helps some children during the very early days. On the first Friday after the children have started school there will be a brief meeting after school to discuss class routines. A helpful reminder sheet will be given.

Please make sure your child wears the full school uniform as outlined in the school handbook. All uniform should be labelled. Jewellery should not be worn, (apart from tiny studs), as it can be dangerous and easily lost.

The children have two PE lessons a week, Mondays and Fridays. Please always send full PE kit in the bag on Monday. The children will bring it home for washing on a Thursday. Please make sure everything even socks are clearly labelled. Tuesday is computing day with Mrs Kaye and the children have a thirty-minute lesson in the computer suite, where they become familiar with the mouse and keyboard. Music is on Wednesday and Fridays with Mrs Pott for twenty minutes. We do our Literacy and Mathematics every morning and in the afternoons the children are given opportunities to follow their own interests. On Tuesday afternoons Reception and Year One play together

sharing the bikes, trikes and scooters which ensures Mrs Graham, the Year One teacher, gets to know the Reception children. The day finishes with a story before home time.

Key Person

I am your child's teacher and key person. That means I am responsible for making sure I deliver a curriculum to your child that is tailored to their individual needs. I will get to know all the children really well so I can do this. I am responsible for keeping them safe and well and settling them into school life. It is my responsibility also to support you to develop your children at home, so if they need a little extra support in a particular area I will let you know. It is important we work together to make sure your child reaches his or her full potential.

Special Educational Needs

All children and their families are valued at St Christopher's. Children are treated as individuals and have equal access to the curriculum. All children are encouraged to achieve their potential and planning is adapted to meet the needs of all the groups and abilities. Some children may need extra support and if I have any concerns I will share them with you so we can move quickly to support your child. Sometimes we can put strategies into place in the classroom and that is all that is necessary. However, it may be necessary to contact Brent who can help me to support children who have more specific needs. It is important that any special needs are identified early so interventions can be put into place. If a child has already been identified at Nursery as having a particular need I will have a transition meeting with parents and Brent's Inclusion team. All policies are available for parents to view just simply ask at the office.

Health and Welfare

If your child is poorly please inform the school by telephone and send a note when he/she returns to school. Please make sure your child is completely recovered before sending them back to school. Sometimes young children wet themselves so please send in a spare set of underwear, which can be kept in their book bag. It is important that children start school being able to take themselves to the toilet.

The children have milk and story every day after first play. They have two short play times every morning and one after lunch in the afternoon. We teach the children about the importance of exercise, eating a healthy diet and getting lots of sleep. They eat a little snack every day at 10.00am so please send in a piece of fruit, bread stick or vegetable. Nuts and nut-based foods are not permitted, as some children may be allergic to them. Please do not send in biscuits or chocolate, we teach the children all about healthy living and by the end of Reception your children will be able to talk about foods which are healthy or unhealthy. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day so a bottle of water should be provided. Fresh water is also available throughout the day.



We need to know if children suffer from any allergies or other health problems, in order that we may care for them properly. You will be given a number of forms, including one about your child's medical history to complete.

Assessment

During the first six weeks in Reception pupils will be assessed through on-going observations and CEM Baseline assessment. This enables an 'on entry assessment' to be made. There will be a meeting with parents to discuss how the children have settled into school after six weeks. Assessment will continue to be on going so the teacher can complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. In order to build up an accurate picture of your child, parents and carers are requested to contribute information about their children's achievements. This important information will be put in their Learning Journey, which parents can look at from time to time. There will be an EYFS meeting in early September to explain about how your child will be assessed and how you can contribute to this.

Reception Curriculum

Activities vary from day to day and season to season, giving children as wide a variety of experience as possible. Everything we do helps your child to learn. It may look like play to an adult but it has a serious purpose for your child. All the activities are derived from the 'Early Learning Goals', which form the Reception curriculum. The seventeen Early Learning Goals are organised under the following seven headings:

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

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children are provided with experiences and support which will help them to develop a positive sense of themselves and of others. They are encouraged to develop their social skills and respect others. At St. Christopher's children are given opportunities to; develop independence, play, dress/undress, manage personal hygiene, participate in activities which are imaginative and enjoyable. They are also helped to work as part of a group, understand what is right and wrong and why and to treat others with respect.

Communication and Language

Language is an essential part of learning at the Early Years Foundation Stage. In addition to all the stimulation, talking and discussion that goes on we regularly have stories, rhymes, songs or musical activities. Once a week we have 'Show and Tell' where children are encouraged to listen attentively to each other talking about a favourite toy or object of interest.

Physical Development

Children are encouraged to improve their skills of pencil control, coordination, manipulation and movement. They are supported in developing an understanding of the importance of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food. They have PE lessons on a Monday and Thursday with Mrs Kaye a PE specialist. PE bags will be sent home every Thursday for washing and should be returned on a Monday. Please label all items of uniform and provide white trainers.

Literacy

This involves reading and writing. At St. Christopher's we follow the Letters and Sounds phonics programme daily. Children bring home a reading book every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and parents are encouraged to make a comment in their reading record book.

Children will also bring library books home to enjoy with you. These may have words or pictures or both. It helps children a great deal if you read or tell them stories. All stories help a child towards reading and writing. Please do tell your child stories in your home language if this is not English. All cultures and languages are valued and children are encouraged to use their first language at school. During singing time some children will sing songs in their home language. We also use different greetings at register time.



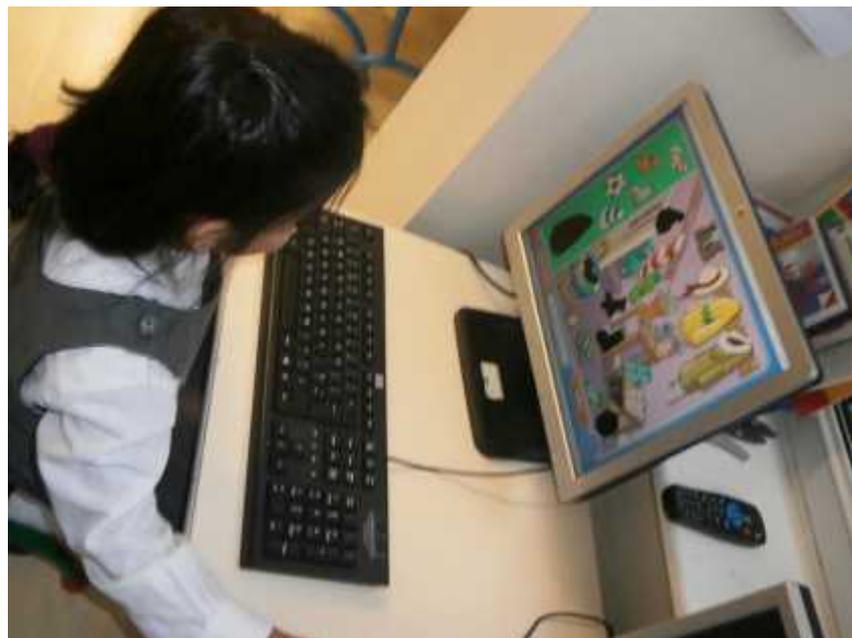
Mathematics

This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, patterns, working with number, shapes and measures. Mathematical understanding is developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play. By the end of Reception some children will have exceeded their goals in Mathematics and have commenced work on the National Framework for Numeracy. Others will be ready to do so in Year One and perhaps a few will be nearly ready.



Understanding the World

Children are given opportunities to find out about living things, look at similarities and differences, ask questions, build and construct with a wide range of objects, find out about their environment and use technology to support their learning. We arrange for a number of interesting visitors to visit the Reception class and the children go on lots of trips to widen their experiences.



Expressive Arts and Design

Children will be given opportunities to explore texture, colour, shape, form and space. They also explore sounds, sing songs, respond in a variety of ways to their senses and use imagination in art, music, dance, imaginative and role-play. At St. Christopher's we endeavour to support children's own interests so, for example, if they pretend to be firemen in their play we may do a topic on people who help us.

All seven areas of learning are equally important and all support your child's development.

If you want to access further information about the EYFS go to www.education.gov.uk

How to help your child with the Early Years Foundation Stage

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to go to the toilet by themselves, wipe themselves and wash hands after going to the toilet and before eating.
- Teach your child to dress themselves, put on/ take off coats, jumpers, trainers and socks.
- Develop concentration by doing activities such as puzzles and model making.
- Encourage turn taking and sharing by playing games.

Communication, Language and Literacy Development

- Learn Nursery Rhymes.
- Play games such as I Spy, make up rhyming words.
- Read every day to your child talking about the book and which parts they enjoyed.
- Read environmental print – shop signs, labels on tins and packets, road signs.
- Reinforce sounds learned in Reception.
- Visit the library looking for fiction and non fiction books – finding out about topics of interest.
- Encourage your child to have a go at writing – mark-making, making lists, cards.
- Practise handwriting – lowercase.

Physical Development

- Develop fine motor skills and coordination by cutting cards, magazines, drawing, painting, threading, and using play dough and plasticene.
- Make sure they can use a knife and fork.
- Go swimming, ride a bike and go to the park.
- Play ball games.
- Talk about keeping healthy

Mathematics

- Recognise numbers -door numbers, telephone numbers, etc.
- Look at everyday shapes both 2D and 3D.
- Estimate and then count groups of objects.
- Sort a variety of objects – old buttons are ideal.
- Measure and weigh objects – cooking activities are ideal – using cups or scales and reading the numbers on the dial.
- Add 2 groups of objects, taking away from a larger group.
- Find one more/ less.

Understanding the World

- Operate simple equipment e.g. TV, DVD, PSP, CD players.
- Make models and talk about them.
- Help them become aware of changes in the weather and the seasons.
- Look at old family photos talking about how life has changed since you or grandparents were a child.
- Investigate the local area – looking at road signs, different types of houses etc.
- Learn the names of body parts.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Listen to a range of music.
- Make own music.
- Explore a variety of media – paint, collage, clay and fabrics.
- Encourage imaginative and role-play.

Transition

There is a smooth transition from Reception into Year 1. On one afternoon a week, Reception and Year 1 join up for self-initiated activities. This enables the younger children to have more opportunities to make friendships, use their imaginations and share resources. It also gives the Year 1 teacher the opportunity to get to know the children and vice versa. The Year 1 teacher contributes to the profile and moderates judgements alongside EYFS practitioners. Towards the end of the summer term the Reception children have a short meeting with the Year 1 teacher and bring her one of their paintings which will be on display when they arrive in September. This makes them feel welcome and secure. Parents are also offered the opportunity to meet with their children's new teacher to discuss any concerns and talk about possible expectations. Reception and Year One often go out together. Here we are at Golders Hill Park.



Information for Parents and Carers

We are looking forward to welcoming your child and are sure he or she will have a happy time with us at St. Christopher's. If at any time you want to talk to us then please do not hesitate to do so. Furthermore, you are always welcome to make an appointment to discuss your child's development and look at their records. Details of our policies and procedures are available upon request at the school office.

You can contact the school on 020 8902 5069.
Email: admin@stchristophersschool.org.uk