



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Information for New Parents





Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through **Faith, Hope, Love**

A very warm welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School! We pride ourselves in being part of the local parish community and value the close family atmosphere that we achieve and we welcome you into our school family. As a Catholic Primary School our faith is integral to our everyday and the ethos we have created in the school is something that we are exceptionally proud of. We believe that each child is unique and born in Christ's image and it is from this that we base our ethos. We are so lucky to have our beautiful St Joseph's church just a short walk away and Father Philip, our parish priest, involved in the school. He warmly welcomes us all to mass where parents are welcome too.

Set in stunning grounds we have developed a wonderful learning environment and we are able to offer many opportunities to our children including facilities, including wrap around care through the Out of School Club (O.O.S.C.) before and after school.

At St Joseph's, we strive to work effectively in partnership with parents. Open and trusting relationships and good communication is essential for us to work together for your child. It is essential that parents are kept informed of their child's progress and attainment so that we can work together in order to ensure that each and every child fulfils their true potential and can 'be the best they can be.' It is vital that we listen to parents and therefore it is important that any thoughts or concerns you may have about your child's education are shared with us.

We have an active Parent, teacher association (PTA) who work tirelessly together to provide funds for the school through the organisation and support at a great variety of fund raising events. In recent years this has made a big difference to the school's finances and provided a number of exciting school trips and visits, school resources and whole school activities. As a parent you automatically become a member and the PTA, however we would encourage you to become actively involved and you will be warmly welcomed by the committee.

We are so proud at St Joseph's of the learning culture that we have developed and we seek to ensure we have a well qualified, well trained staff who are committed to doing the best that they can for every child in our care.

We have developed an exciting curriculum model based around developing the 'whole child' which focusses on **Resilience**, **Empathy**, **Aspiration**, **Confidence** and **High expectations**. (**REACH**) and we encourage our children to **REACH** in all that they do to be the best that they can be.

We know that starting school is a very exciting, but sometimes daunting, time for both you and your child. We have prepared this brochure to help you to get to know our school and hopefully to answer many of the questions that you may have.

We look forward to working with you to enable your child to **REACH** their full potential.

Kind regards

Acting Headteacher

What is our school vision?

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through **Faith, Hope, Love**

At St Joseph's, we strive for academic excellence through encouraging resilience, empathy, aspiration, confidence and high expectations in all that we do. We have high expectations for ALL so that we can be 'The best we can be.' With Faith, Hope and Love at the heart of our school family, our children feel happy, safe, secure and supported.

Our values based school nurtures resilience and independence through an ambitious and faith based curriculum, where reaching for excellence is at the heart of all that we do. Through our immersive curriculum, that has been developed in conjunction with our children, they learn to transfer skills and knowledge, resulting in confident, well-rounded individuals who are proud to be part of our school.

Together we must remember that no one is too young to be important - **REACH** for the stars!

R - RESILIENCE-NEVER GIVE UP

E - EMPATHY-LOVE ONE ANOTHER

A - ASPIRATIONS-WE ARE THE FUTURE

C - CONFIDENCE-GIVE IT A GO

H - HIGH EXPECTATIONS-BE THE BEST YOU CAN

Catholic Identity

What Makes our School Distinctive?

Our Catholic faith makes St Joseph's distinctive because our faith underpins the whole work of the school. Our school mission statement is inspiring everyone to **REACH** through Faith, Hope and Love. At school we support our children in developing an understanding of and live according to these words. 'As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love.' 1 Corinthians Chapter 13

Faith

Our Catholic FAITH provides the foundations from which all that we do is built upon as a school family alongside the local community. Every Monday morning the whole school gathers together for our Gospel worship. The Gospel is shared and key questions are posed and children are actively encouraged to respond to these throughout the week. The focus is to understand God's message and how we can do His work on earth.

Hope

Our children are the HOPE for the future, to make the world a better place. They set out to achieve

this through the charity work they do, such as a 'litter pick walk' for CAFOD, looking after God's wonderful world, while almsgiving to those in need.

Love

The children LOVE one another as Jesus loves us. This is evident through the actions and words of their everyday being.

St Joseph

St Joseph is the Patron Saint of our school. He is the husband to Mary, the mother of God. Everything we know about Joseph comes from Scripture. Joseph was a carpenter, a working man who was very humble. Joseph was a compassionate and caring man, a man of faith who was obedient to whatever God asked of him. We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: March 19th for Joseph the husband of Mary and May 1st for Joseph the worker.

Reception at St Joseph's

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the Reception year. At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, children join the Reception class in the year that they turn five. In partnership with parents and carers we enable the children to begin the process of becoming active learners for life.

We endeavour to ensure that children start their school life with a positive and meaningful attitude to learn and develop well in a happy and safe environment. We aim to support children in their learning through providing a "broad range of skills, knowledge and attitudes children need as foundations for good future progress" (Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2021)

The EYFS is organised into 7 areas of Learning and Development. There are 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas. The 3 prime areas are strengthened and applied through the 4 specific areas.

The prime areas are:

- Communication and Language - focuses on children's vocabulary and listening skills through a range of stories, rhymes and songs to help to develop their vocabulary.
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development – supports children's development by helping them to interact effectively and develop positive attitudes to themselves and others – this is the main focus when children start school.
- Physical Development - focuses on developing children's fine and gross motor skills.

The specific areas are:

- Literacy – including comprehension, word reading writing and phonics
- Mathematics – including a deep understanding of number to 10, counting verbally beyond 20, automatic recall of number bonds to 5
- Understanding the World – exploring the outdoor area and natural world around them, describe their immediate environment and talk about the past and present
- Expressive Arts and Design – exploring the art area and the role play area to express their creativity and imagination

At St Joseph's, we recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, empathetic, aspirational, confident and have high expectations, "**REACH**". We also recognise that

children develop in individual ways, at varying rates. Children's attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others; we use praise and encouragement, as well as celebration/sharing assemblies and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

As part of your child's Early Years education, we are required to complete learning journeys to document your child's progress. At Joseph's we use Tapestry as our online learning journal provider which we feel is more efficient and eco-friendly.

Some of you will be familiar with Tapestry but for those that aren't, Tapestry allows you to login with a secure username and password so you can view all your child's observations, photographs and videos. You can like and comment on observations that we add for your child and it's also possible for you to add your own observations. Your comments and own observations will allow us to find out about which activities your child really enjoyed and the learning they get up to at home. On Tapestry, parents/carers can view, like and comment on the observations we make for your child. You can also add your own observations of what your child does outside of the school.

Before starting school, you will be provided with a permission form. If you give your permission, we will set you up with your own individual account using your email address. This account will be directly linked to your child's account, which means you will only be able to see observations that include your child. You will then be able to login with your email address and password to either the browser version of Tapestry (tapestryjournal.com) or to the app. Tapestry has apps for iOS, Android and Amazon Fire devices. If you choose to use the app, after you login initially, you can use a 4-digit PIN to quickly log back in.

School Day

When does the school day begin and end?

Our reception children are dropped off at the school carpark gate. Here, they are met by their class teacher and/or the Headteacher at 8.40am and collected from the school playground at 3.15pm.

What is the Reception class daily routine?

8:45 Member of staff on duty greets children as they walk into the school grounds. They walk into the Reception area to hang up their coats. Children then go into the classroom, place their book bags in the box and sit quietly on the carpet.

8:50	Registration
8:55	Guided Reading
9:20	Phonics
9:40	Literacy/Numeracy
10:25	Assembly/Class Prayers
10:45	Break time and Snack
11:00	Literacy/Numeracy
12:20	Lunchtime
1:20	Afternoon Registration
1:30	Afternoon Activities
3:00	DEAR Time
3:15	Home time

What topics will be covered over the year?

Over the course of the Reception year, your child will enjoy many different topics. These topics create the foundations for their creative, experience-rich curriculum which will inspire and enthuse the children in all that they do. Your children's interests drive the content and focus of each topic. This means that the length and quantity of topics that children will cover in reception will vary from year to year, depending on their interests.

Some of our favourites in the past have been:

- 'Knock, Knock'
- 'Roar!'
- 'Supertato'
- 'Ahoy'
- 'The Snowman'
- 'Amazing Animals!'
- 'Donaldson's Delights!'

How do you encourage my child to be the best that they can be?

We expect the highest standard of behaviour and self-control at all times where individuals respect themselves and others. This is supported by the school's golden rules:

- We follow Jesus' teaching of 'Love one another...' this means we are kind and considerate
- We use our hands and feet gently
- We listen and work hard to do our best
- We tell the truth
- We look after our school and move around safely
- We let each other learn

Rewards

All staff welcome opportunities to encourage and praise individuals or groups for following the rules and displaying expected behaviour – kindness, helpfulness, politeness, effort and achievement.

The Whole School Reward – House Points

- Each child is in one of four *Houses* – Eagles, Hawks, Falcons or Kestrels.
- Each house has a colour - Red = Eagles; Blue = Hawks; Yellow = Falcons; Green = Kestrels. Children wear their house coloured polo shirt for PE.
- House Points are awarded via the class-based marble system. Marbles are awarded verbally in and outside of the classroom and placed in the child's house pot. Each class has 4 coloured pots relating to each house.
- Any member of staff can give any child a marble at any time of the school day, e.g. holding doors open, sharing with other children, producing brilliant work, etc.
- At the end of the week the marbles in each pot are counted. Year 6 children are responsible for recording the points for each class and ensuring the totals for each house are kept up to date.

- Year 6 children announce the winning houses of the week in Celebration assembly on a Friday. (This is a time when we celebrate our children's achievements both in and out of school).
- There are House competitions throughout the year, such as House Singing. All of the children in the school are involved in these events.

Reach Points

When they start school, each child will be given a 'REACH' card. This card will move with them through the school. This is an individual reward card for which they can collect star points. Teaching and non-teaching staff may reward the children with these if they are seen making good choices, actively demonstrating the school rules and the 'REACH' ethos both inside and outside of the school environment. Star points can also be awarded for children that have acted in a way that is exemplary and for representing the school. Children collect star points to get rewarded with star badges when their card is full.

25 REACH Points	Bronze Star
50 REACH Points	Silver Star
75 REACH Points	Gold Star
100 REACH Points	Platinum Award

REACH certificates are awarded to 2 children per class in Friday's celebration assembly. They are awarded to children who have demonstrated one of our core values during the week; Resilience, Empathy, Aspiration, Confidence or High expectations. When children are given a REACH certificate their name is written into the 'St Joseph's Star Children Book', which is located at the school office, and their names are announced in our regular newsletters.

REACH Time

At the start of each day, all children are automatically given 15 minutes of REACH time. This is making the assumption that they will work hard and try to be the best that they can be in line with our school ethos. This takes place each afternoon. Children who consistently follow school rules will keep all of their time.

What happens if my child does not follow the rules?

Nobody can get it right all of the time - we all need help sometimes! If a child chooses not to follow school rules, they will be supported with this by a member of staff and encouraged to make a better choice. Sometimes, some children need a bit more persuasion. In these cases, there will be a progression of warnings before they lose some of their REACH Time. At every step of the way, children will be positively encouraged to change their behaviour before a sanction is put in place. If a child loses REACH time, their parent is informed of this on the day (either in the playground after school or by phone) and an explanation of what happened is given. For further information our Managing Behaviour Policy can be found on our website.

Reading Points

Reading is a vital skill that we need to learn and will use for all of our life. It doesn't always come easily and always requires lots of practice! We read with the children as much as we can in school but we encourage you to read with them at home as much as possible too. The more they practise,

the better they become! To encourage the children, we reward them for lots of practise at home. In order for the children to collect reading points they need to read at home five times a week on five different days to collect 1 point. This means the children reading their schools books to an adult at home, not the adult reading to your child. Points are monitored in school by staff and a record kept in your child's reading point card. When the reading point card is full, the awards will be presented in assembly and reading point cards sent home. There will be a new card per stage being worked on.

25 points – Certificate with book mark 	50 points - bronze book worm badge 	75 points – silver book worm badge 	100 points - gold book worm badge 
150 points – Reading Superstar – achiever cup badge 			

Other Rewards

Stickers and other in class rewards can be given at the discretion of the class teachers but do not replace or supersede the agreed reward system as described above.

How can I be involved in my child's first year at school?

Establishing a strong partnership with parents is incredibly important to us at St Joseph's. There will be many opportunities, throughout the school year for you to come into school and share your children's learning. Some of these events include:

- Stay and Play sessions – look at your children's books, work and play alongside them.
- Parent's Evening – look through your child's books and discuss their progress twice a year with the class teacher.
- Phonics Evening – information about the teaching of early reading and writing.
- Whole School Mass.
- Advent and Lent retreat – walking through the classrooms and listening to the stages of the Advent and Easter stories with your child.
- Harvest Liturgy – an assembly led by the children thanking God for everything we have.
- Remembrance assembly – led by Y6 and Reception to pay tribute to the service men and women.
- Listening to readers – 20 minutes each morning to help develop children's reading.
- Helping on school trips.
- Joining and supporting the PTA by attending PTA events e.g. school disco, film night, summer camp over, etc.
- Sports Day.
- Whole School picnic.
- Parent helpers – parents who can provide regular commitment to support within school.

How can I communicate with my child's teacher?

At St Joseph's we aim to develop an honest and open relationship based on trust that will encourage, recognise and support home and school as part of your child's development. The key to any successful partnership is effective communication between yourselves and the school. We believe that by working together, we can provide the support needed for your child to really enjoy coming to school – 'If a child is happy they perform better at school and in life.'

If at any time you have any concerns or issues, then please talk them through with your class teacher. Teachers are available for a quick chat on the playground after school. If it is something that may take a little more time and requires an appointment, you can either speak to the class teacher, call/email the school office admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk or email SLT slt@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk to make an appointment.

Whilst staff will be on the door in the morning, please do not try to have a conversation about your child or pass on a message to another member of staff– any messages can be passed on through the school office (in person, phone call or email).

Uniform

What should my child wear to school?

The children always look smart at St Joseph's and we pride ourselves in this. We expect all parents to adhere to and support us with this. Summer or Winter uniform is worn for Autumn term 1. Winter uniform is worn from Autumn term 2 and Spring term 1 and 2. Winter or summer uniform can be worn for Summer term 1. Summer uniform for Summer term 2. Below are examples of a summer and winter uniform for both boys and girls.

Winter Grey v neck jumper or cardigan with school badge, white shirt, grey skirt or pinafore, trousers, grey or white socks, grey tights, gold tie, black shoes (**no trainers**).



Summer White polo shirt with school badge, grey shorts, grey jumper with school badge. Golden yellow checked dress (**no playsuits**), grey cardigan with school badge, grey or white socks, black shoes (**no trainers or sandals**).



REACH FRIDAY

On a Friday the whole school come to school in their PE kit ready for an action packed day, which includes their PE lesson. These lessons are usually outside, whatever the weather. It is therefore important that your child comes dressed ready for it. If it is raining, wellies and waterproofs will be required!

Sports Navy shorts, House colour polo shirt (Eagles – red, Falcons – yellow, Hawks – blue, Kestrels – green), white sports socks, black plimsolls (KS1), black trainers (KS2). Grey school hooded sweatshirt, and/or dark tracksuit during the winter (sweatshirts and tracksuit bottoms are available with the school badge on. Alternative sports: plain coloured tracksuit bottoms/hooded tops NO STRIPES OR BRANDING PLEASE.)



All of the above can be purchased from Batemans Sports, Stroud.

<http://www.batemanssports.co.uk/>

Please ensure that **all** clothing (including gloves, hats, scarves, socks) is named. It is really important that we can identify who clothes belong to, as well as children being able to identify their own clothes. When clothing is named...it always goes back to the right classroom!

If your child has hair that is shoulder length, it must be tied back at all times. A completely shaved head would be deemed unsuitable as would partially shaved heads, tramlines/designs. Hair should be no shorter than a no.2.

Jewellery, hair accessories, nail varnish and tattoos are not to be worn at school. Anything that is worn in a child's hair should be in school colours and modest, no big bows, clips or hairbands.

Young children find laces difficult, please avoid these when your child starts school. Buckles or Velcro are often more practical solutions. Children should only wear shoes with laces when they are able to tie them themselves – this includes footwear for PE. Please label your child's school shoes and wellies. The shoes are often the same and are very difficult to tell the difference when there are children with the same shoe in the same size.

What should my child use to bring books to school?

We ask that your child brings a St Joseph's book bag to school. Because they are all the same, please attach something to their bag that will enable them to easily recognise it (like a colourful keyring). The book bag will be used to bring books and letters to and from school.

School Meals

Lunch

All Reception and KS1 children are offered a free meal each day. All meals are ordered by the children when taking the register. You will be provided with the term's menu so are able to tell you child before school. It really helps the children if they have a conversation at home prior to coming into school and where their choice has been made. Each morning, on arrival at school, the choices are explained in an age appropriate way.

If your child does not want a hot meal, you should provide them with a healthy and balanced packed lunch. This is crucial as a school day can be quite an exhausting experience. As a school with the Healthy Schools Award, we discourage foods that would be considered unhealthy. It is also important to remember not to give them too much to try to eat at lunchtime.

Free School Meal (FSM) and Universal Free School Meals (UFSM)

There is a difference. All EYFS and KS1 children are entitled to UFSM. However, children in a low income household are entitled to FSM. For every child that is entitled to FSM the school receives extra funding to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for that child. So please apply if you are eligible, even if you do not wish to take up your free school meal, your child will benefit from this extra funding in school.

You may be eligible to get free school meals if you get;

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Please follow the link for all the information about FSM and UIFSM from the County. It is important that parents/carers apply via this link

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Snack Time

We are delighted that our school has been given the opportunity to participate in the Government's Fruit and Vegetable scheme, which entitles each child aged four to six to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable daily. This supports our school commitment to healthy eating. Your child will be offered a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day during snack so they **do not** need to bring their own snack into school.

The fruit and vegetables will be fresh and of good quality. The aim is for the children to have a positive and enjoyable experience of fruit and vegetables. It is a great way to help us teach our children the benefits of healthy eating. We appreciate that your child may not like fruit and vegetables but would ask that you allow us to encourage them to at least hold it and smell it and perhaps try tasting it. It is essential that you inform us of any allergies your child may have so that we can ensure they are not given anything that might harm them.

Cool milk

Parents/carers can register online for their child to receive free milk up until their 5th birthday. After their 5th birthday they can continue to receive milk but at a cost. All you need is the school address and class name to register online on the following link;

<https://www.coolmilk.com/wp-content/uploads/School-Milk-Registration-Form-2019-1.pdf>

School Address: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Front Street, Nympsfield, Stonehouse, GL10 3TY

Class Name: St Mary's

Drinking in school

Children are expected to come to school with a named water bottle containing water (no squash or fizzy drinks) that they bring into the classroom with them. This is readily available throughout the school day. Staff are happy to help a child to re-fill their water bottle if necessary.

Out of School Club (OOSC)

We provide essential wrap around care for pupils of St Joseph's. The OOSC operates from the school hall. It runs from 7.45-8.40am, where the children are provided with breakfast. Key Stage 1 children are collected and walked to their classes at the start of the school day. After school, the club runs from 3.15-6.00pm where the children are provided with a small tea. To attend OOSC children must be registered on the following link.

<https://stjosephsoutofschoolclub.kidsclubhq.co.uk/cust#/auth>

Once registered children can be booked either on an irregular basis or through a contract for the same day/s each week. More information about the club can be found on our website.

Buddies

At the start of the school year, each Reception child is paired up with a year 6 child who becomes their 'buddy'. The children in Y6 are given the responsibility of looking out for their buddy at playtimes and lunchtimes and help them to settle into school. This has proved to be very successful and allows the Reception children to have a great role model and someone to find if they need help during playtimes and lunchtimes. This supports them while they are settling into school. The children spend time together throughout the year, these include, remembrance assembly, buddy afternoons, playtimes and lunchtimes. All of the children enjoy having a buddy and the Y6 children look forward to finding out who their buddy is going to be!

What if your child is ill?

If your child is ill, then you should call the school office by **9.30am each day** your child is absent to inform staff of the reason for the absence.

How do I pay for things in school?

At St Joseph's we use Parentpay to pay for school events/trips and dinner money although all KS1 children are Universal Free School meal so do not have to pay for dinners until Year 3. If you have come from pre-school, then you will be familiar with Parentpay. Activation letters will be sent to all families in early September with new activation instructions, including pre-school children. St Joseph's pre-school children will need to use the new activation letter to open a new primary school account. Any monies in their old pre-school account will be transferred when the accounts are closed by admin staff.

Parking

As you know, we are a village school set in a beautiful rural location. School drop off and pick up can be a bit of a challenge. When coming up to school we encourage our parents/carers to leave in plenty of time, park thoughtfully (not over our neighbours drives) and away from the main entrances and walk into school. Safe parking can be found at the village hall (past the pub and turn right on to Church Street. The Village Hall car park is on the left) or in Benton court (found just off Tinkley Lane. From here you can walk through St Joseph's Church yard into the school playground).

PTA

We have a fantastic PTA. They play an essential role in school and it is through their fundraising efforts that we have been able to enhance the learning opportunities for our children, for example, paying for transport on school trips, and accessing new reading books and musical instruments. Throughout the year they work tirelessly to provide many fantastic opportunities for the children and whole family to join in with. These include: fireworks night, Christmas Fayre, film night, school disco, park runs, family quiz night, summer camp over and many more exciting events. As a parent at St Joseph's you are automatically a member of the PTA, where your support will be warmly welcomed.

Preparing for School – Some Helpful Hints

Many parents want to know how they can help their child so that they are ready for starting school. This is a difficult question as all children are different and they are all at different stages of their development.

However, one of the most important ways to help your child is to make them ready to the challenge of independence. This may mean supporting them so that when they start school they are able to;

- Dress and undress – in preparation for PE
- Putting on and taking off gloves, hat and coat
- Using the toilet correctly and being able to flush after use
- Washing and drying hands
- Peeling their own fruit and putting in the bin
- Keeping things tidy and clearing away toys
- Sharing toys and being prepared to take turns
- Acting confidently and responsibly
- Ready to listen when asked

If your child can recognise reading their own name when starting school this will be of huge benefit. The more your child can practise holding and using pencils and scissors correctly, the better. The following link has an example of the correct scissor grip

<https://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/physical/teaching-preschoolers-to-use-scissors/>.

See below for the correct tripod pencil grip.

Dynamic Tripod Grip

The pencil is held lightly between the thumb and index finger and middle finger. The ring and little finger curl gently into the palm of the hand. Usually develops before the age of seven.



The hand rests on the table. Movement comes from the fingertips. The wrist, elbow and shoulder remain in a fixed position.

Even if they are mark making on a page, colouring or just cutting paper into small pieces. This will stand them in really good stead for starting school.

Transition

How will my child start school?

Contact your child's current setting

During this term we will be making contact with your child's pre-school setting. This will either be through a visit, if possible, or a telephone call which will enable us to obtain valuable information about your child, prior to them starting school.

New Parents Evening

A New Parents Evening will be held in the school hall. This will give us an opportunity to share information about your child's first year at school, for you to visit your child's new classroom and allow you to ask any questions that you may have. The date for this meeting is Tuesday 14th June 2022 6.30pm. Further information will be sent out about this meeting shortly.

Individual Parent Meetings

During the New Parent's meeting, we would like to offer you the opportunity to sign up for a meeting with Miss Berry. This will enable you to discuss your child on a 1:1 basis with her. The aim of this meeting is to begin to build a good working relationship, for you to share any worries and important information about your child and to get answers to any questions that you might have. You will be able to sign up to this at the new parents evening – so don't forget to bring your diary and a pen!

Transition afternoons

Your child will be invited to two transition afternoons, during which they will have the opportunity to explore their new classroom and spend time with their new teacher and their teaching assistant. When you bring your child to school for the transition afternoons, you will drop them off at the School carpark entrance at 1.30pm where our staff will be waiting to welcome them to their new school. The staff will hand your child back to you from the same entrance at 3pm (unless they are already at St Joseph's pre-school, then they will be brought across by the pre-school staff).

Transition 1	Thursday 23rd June 2022: 1.30 - 3pm
Transition 2	Thursday 30th June 2022: 1.30 - 3pm

Starting School

When your child starts school it is really important that you and your child get the right support and attention from us to ensure a smooth transition. All of the children will need time to become familiar with the many different aspects of school life – the school building, the staff, their new friends, their new routines and expectations. The children will find this very tiring.

With this in mind, we stagger the children's start to school to ensure your child feels happy, safe and secure as they start on their school journey.

The children will come into school and will start with half days (without lunch) for week 1. Followed by half days (including lunch) for week 2. For week 3, the children will be in school full time.

Week 1 Tuesday 6 th September – Friday 9 th September	Tuesday-Friday 8:40-12:00	All children
Week 2 Monday 12 th September – Friday 16 th September	Monday-Friday 8:40-1:30	All children
Week 3 Monday 19 th September	Full time	All children

Week beginning **Monday 19th September** will be your child's **first full week** of school.

On your child's first day of school, please line your child up near the car park gates. Their teacher and teaching assistant will be waiting to help and get ready to bring the children into school.

We are confident that this carefully planned entry to school will mean that the children settle in to full-time schooling without any problems. Once the children have settled into their new school life, it is normal for them to become tired (particularly at the start of their first term). You can help them with this by ensuring that they get lots of sleep and have a good breakfast ready for a fun packed day of learning!

Children also have different reactions to starting school. Some are eager to talk about everything that they have done during the day whilst others may prefer to keep it to themselves! Both are perfectly normal responses – some children need time to think through what they have done before they share it with others. If this is the case and you wish to know what your child has been doing, please come in and ask or alternatively look at our class blog, which is updated on a weekly basis.

Parent curriculum meetings/workshops

Early in the Autumn Term you will be invited to attend a phonics evening. This will be led by our reception teacher and will be an opportunity to talk in more detail about phonics and reading.

We hope that this booklet has answered some of the questions you may have about your child starting school. Children's education is a partnership based on trust between the teacher and the parent. We look forward to building good working relationships with you where we will value your support, as we hope that you will value our teacher's hard work and professional judgement.

We look forward to you and your child becoming part of the St Joseph's School family!