St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Foundation Stage (Nursery) Welcome Pack



To love, serve and learn as Jesus shows us



Welcome to St Vincent's Catholic Primary School where children are at the heart of all we do.

Our Mission Statement:

To love, serve and learn as Jesus shows us

guides all that we do as a school and through this Mission and our Catholic ethos, we encourage our children to build strong morals and values as we aim to create a learning environment which cherishes individuals and provides opportunities for all to blossom in a spirit of love and understanding.

Our Foundation Stage class comprises of Nursery and Reception aged children (3-5 year olds). The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is the curriculum for all children from birth to 5 years old. It builds the foundations of a child's learning and ensures that they are ready to start the National Curriculum when they enter Year 1.

St Vincent's is a happy and friendly school, staffed by a dedicated team of teachers, teaching assistants, office staff and support staff. In addition, we are supported by a proactive

Governing Body and an active PTA, (our "Friends of St Vincent's").

At St Vincent's, we firmly believe that a key factor in helping children develop lies in the relationship between home and school. We work hard to ensure there are as many opportunities as possible for parents/carers to work with us and share experiences alongside your child in our setting. Parents/Carers are welcome to meet with teachers both formally and informally; we aim to keep families informed though our weekly bulletin, our school website, Tapestry App and social media via Facebook.

As your child starts St Vincent's Nursery class, the purpose of this pack is to provide you with information about the school, procedures that you need to be familiar with and suggestions of ways you can support your child in making this important transition.

We look forward to working alongside you to support your child to fulfil their potential and grow into wonderful individuals!

Mrs A Norris

Headteacher

Our Foundation Stage Team

Our Nursery children will join Reception children as part of the Foundation Stage Class which is led and managed by Mrs Norris.



Mr P Towey

Class Teacher



Mrs Nicola Gallagher
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Christine Sheehy
Teaching Assistant

Nursery Session Times

Children will be able to attend morning, afternoon or all day sessions and you will be able to apply for up to 30 hours government funded places.

Children can attend for 15 funded hours or for up to 30 funded hours from the term following their 3rd birthday.

Foundation Stage (Nursery) Sessions begin at 8.30am and the school day ends at 3.00pm.

The document 'Nursery Funding Explained' details how your child's funding works and how sessions can be booked.

Please indicate the sessions that your child requires on your application form, which can be chosen as part or full days to suit the needs of your child and family. We can also accommodate hours beyond the funded hours as required, charged at £5 per hour, via invoice.

Wraparound care will be provided by Kool Kids out of School, who currently provide breakfast and after-school clubs for the children of St Vincent's.

This provision is based in our school so children are picked up and dropped off directly from their classroom. Session timings are:

Breakfast Club	From 7.30am
After School Club	until 6.00pm

Please note that you are unable to use government-funded hours for breakfast and after-school club. You can however make use of other government childcare schemes and vouchers. For more information, please contact the link club directly: **KoolKidsstvincents@hotmail.com**

Transition Visits

Starting Nursery is exciting, however, both parents/carers and children can sometimes feel apprehensive about the changes ahead. At St Vincent's, we aim to make this transition as smooth as possible.

What does transition look like?

- We will contact you to arrange a visit to our setting with your child.
- We will invite parents in to speak to the class teacher during the half term before the child's start date to share any relevant information.
- Your child can attend a shorter session before their start date. We will work with you on the best timing for this.

There are documents on our school website which support the transition of children into Nursery.

As parents/carers, you can help prepare your child for the move to Nursery in the following ways:

- If your child has not been apart from you before, try to arrange for them to spend some time with relatives or friends so they can get used to being with others.
- Share books about starting school with your child and talk about how the characters are feeling about starting school. This will help your child to talk about their fears or concerns they may have and allows you to reassure them. Some examples are: 'Elephant Comes to School' by Jan Ormerod and 'Starting School' by Janet Ahlberg.
- Support your child to tidy up their own games/activities at home.
- Provide paper and pencils or pens for your child to draw or make marks on. They could write messages or shopping lists. Let them have a go at this on their own – it doesn't matter that it looks like scribble – this is very important! Help your child to become as independent as is possible by encouraging and helping them to:
    - Use the toilet and wash their hands
    - Put on and take off their coat
    - Use a tissue to wipe their nose
    - Share toys and take turns
    - Use a knife and fork
    - Put their toys away

As parents/carers, you know your child best so we are happy for you to help your child settle on their first morning.

Once children are settled, nursery staff welcome children at the start of each session. On arrival, children hang up their coats, put away their bags and then choose which activity they would like to do.



Clothing

Children in Nursery wear school uniform and the school PE kit.

Winter Uniform consists of:

- Pale blue polo shirt
- Grey trousers with grey socks or Navy pinafore/skirt with navy sock or tights
- Navy v-neck sweatshirt or cardigan (School logo)
- Sensible shoes (Black – no branded trainers or boots)

Summer Uniform:

- Pale blue polo shirt (School logo optional)
- Grey trousers or shorts with grey socks or pale blue gingham dress with white socks

- Navy v-neck sweatshirt or cardigan (School logo)

PE Kit:

- Navy blue sports top with pale blue detailing on the sleeves and the school's crest (available from Touchline and Warrington Uniform Shop)
- A plain navy tracksuit (available from Touchline and Warrington Uniform Shop)
- Navy shadow stripe shorts

School uniform is available from Warrington Schoolwear Centre (Alphaschoolwear.com), Touchline UK, Warrington or from most supermarkets

While at Nursery your child will take part in a range of messy and creative play activities both inside and outside. We do have some suitable clothing for such activities however, if you are able to provide a waterproof, coat, trousers and wellies for your child which can be kept in school, this would be helpful.

Children are encouraged to manage their own coats and shoes, so styles which are easy for children are encouraged. Please ensure that all items belonging to your children are clearly labelled with their name.

For safety reasons, jewellery is not permitted. This includes: necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

Learning and the Curriculum



Our Foundation Stage classroom is divided into separate learning areas so that all areas of the curriculum are catered for. These areas will be carefully planned and resourced in order to provide the children with as many different learning opportunities as possible in their play.

The prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Expressive arts and design
- Understanding the World

Sessions give children the opportunity to take part in a range of play based activities which encourage the development of skills, knowledge and understanding in all seven areas of learning. These could include:

- Sand and water play
- Using construction toys
- Creative activities
- Role play
- Listening to music, songs and rhymes
- Using technology
- Playing with small world animals, vehicles or people
- Completing puzzles and games
- Tactile play with materials such as pasta and jelly

Our classroom allows the children to move freely around during child-initiated learning times, both inside and outside. We are fortunate to have a large outdoor area which will be available for all children to access and enjoy, where they will take part in

activities to develop their physical skills and coordination.

As well as having access to a wide selection of picture and story books in school, the children will bring home a book each week to share.



Special Educational Needs

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School is committed to providing equality of opportunity and to meeting the individual needs of children. Where required, we will liaise with other agencies to ensure that all children can access the curriculum and receives appropriate support where this is necessary.

Parent/Carer Helpers

We welcome volunteer support across the school. If you are able to commit to a regular volunteering time, please speak to the school office. Many opportunities are planned throughout the year for parents/carers to 'Stay and Play'. We also ask for volunteers to assist on some trips.

If you are able to help regularly in school, then please contact our school office who can provide further details.

Drinks, Snacks and Lunch

The children have access to free fruit and milk throughout the day. In addition to this, we can provide children with a morning snack consisting of toast (30p) and/or juice (35p).

If your child is staying in school for lunch, you can provide a packed lunch from home, or can order a school meal at a cost of £3.20. Snack and school meals payment will be collected through our online payment system, ParentPay.

Please send only water in water bottles, no juice.

Snack time is a valuable experience for young children. They learn to take turns in selecting what they would like to eat, learn about healthy eating, develop good personal hygiene habits, talk to one another in a group situation, and become familiar with foods and customs from other cultures.

Special Dietary Requirements and/or Allergies

If your child has any special dietary requirements or allergies to food and drink, please let our office staff know. In specific circumstances, care plans are created for children in order to manage individual needs. School is a 'Nut Free Zone'. Please ensure that no items are brought into school that contain nuts.

Finding out about your child's progress

We operate an 'open door' policy at St Vincent's so parents/carers are able to talk to staff briefly when they drop off and pick up their children. If you need to talk with staff for a longer period or in private, please arrange a meeting with the appropriate member of staff.

We encourage parents/carers to share any concerns with us as early as possible so that we can work to resolve matters and offer support. Staff make regular observations of children in the Early Years and keep a

record of their progress and development. These are recorded in an app called Tapestry. Parents/carers are invited to download the app so that learning can be shared as it happens.

Parents/carers also have an opportunity to meet with staff to discuss their child's progress twice a year through parent/teacher conferences. Finally, in the final term, you will receive a written report.

Online Communication and Payments

In order to communicate swiftly and effectively with parents/carers, we use an online service called ParentPay to ensure:

- Messages are received reliably
- We can tell you more about what is going on at school. To use the system, we need parents' email addresses and mobile numbers.

Please be assured, under the new data protection laws, GDPR, that all information you provide is kept confidential and will not be passed onto any other organisation. Please see our Privacy Notice on the school website for more information.

Sickness and Absences

If your child is unwell, please telephone school by 9am, informing us that they will not be at school, the reason for this and the expected date of return. If your child has a medical appointment, please inform the office and provide a copy of the appointment card or letter.

Regular attendance is essential and provides routine and pattern in preparation for primary school.

Medicines in School

Prescribed medicines are administered in school, in line with the Medications Policy. Please see the school website for a copy of our policy. Medicine forms can be collected from the school office or downloaded from the website.



Collecting your child

If you are unable to collect your child from Nursery and have asked someone else, please let staff know so that arrangements can be made to ensure the safety of the children. If it is a 'last minute' arrangement, please telephone school as soon as possible. Please do not be offended if we challenge the person collecting the child as we have a responsibility for the safety of all children and we must be confident that we have met all their safeguarding needs.

Security

In order to maintain high levels of safeguarding and security:

- Children accessing breakfast and after-school club with Kool Kids out of School will be dropped off and picked up down the side of school at the Link Club door.
- Children being dropped off and picked up directly from our Foundation Stage classroom will do so through the main playground

gate and Foundation Stage outdoor area.

- A member of our team will be there to greet you.

Holidays

Changes in legislation by the Government mean that leave in term time may only be granted in 'exceptional' circumstances for school aged children. Leave of absence forms can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our website.

Our school policy can also be downloaded from our school website. Holidays for children below school age will be granted, but charges for sessions will still be incurred should children be absent for holidays.



Archdiocesan Levy

In order to have our own Catholic schools, with the right to appoint our own teachers and our own religious instruction we are required by law to contribute part of the cost of any new building improvements or major repair work and though it is a price we gladly pay, even 10% of such costs can be a considerable expense.

As you are aware, your choice is a Catholic school, based within the Archdiocese of Liverpool, and therefore we request your help in meeting the cost of our school commitment to the Diocesan School Levy, which is a voluntary contribution of £15.00 per family, paid via ParentPay.

Friends of St Vincent's

Our school is supported by a thriving PTFA who organise a range of social and fundraising events for both parents/carers and children throughout the year. All parents/carers are automatically part of the Friends of St Vincent's and are welcome to help out with events.

Our School Website

For more information regarding our school please visit our school website:

www.stvincentsprimary.org

or contact us:

office@stvincentsprimary.org

01925 726544