



St John's Church of England Primary School

Finding the light in ourselves and each other

Inspired by the Gospel according to John (chapter 8, verse 12)

Welcome to

St John's Church of England Primary and Nursery School

Parents Meeting: July 2026

A truly inclusive school that is built upon the values of

Hope – Joy – Love – Forgiveness – Faith - Goodness



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Today's Meeting

- To help your child make the best possible start to school.
- To help you to understand the curriculum that your child will be covering in EYFS.
- To understand how we teach to cover the requirements of the curriculum.
- To identify the ways in which you can help your child at home and in school.
- Housekeeping information

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What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from **birth** to the **end of the Reception year**.

It is based on the recognition that children learn best through **play and active learning**.

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EYFS Staff



Mrs Halawa – EYFS Lead and
Reception teacher



Miss Gee – Nursery
Teacher

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EYFS Staff



Mrs Wilkins – Early Years Practitioner



Mrs Tate – Teaching Assistant



Mrs Robinson – Early Years Practitioner

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Three prime areas of learning and development

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Four specific areas of learning and development

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

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The three characteristics of effective learning- how young children learn- we focus on these when we plan and guide the children's activities.

- 1 Playing and exploring
- 2 Active learning
- 3 Creating and thinking critically

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Transition - Nursery

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – INSET day **(no children in school)**

Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th and Monday 7th September - **Home visits**

Tuesday 8th September – **Children in school** - 8.40am – 3.25pm



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Transition - Reception

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Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th and Monday 7th September –
Home visits

Tuesday 8th September – **First day in school** -8.40am –
3.25pm

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Beginning school

- We will take time to get to know your children and their interests – we will play and talk to them and begin recording some 'wow' moments.
- We will be using Seesaw to record their learning journey.
- Please feel free to comment on the observations and add your own observations from home.
- Wow slips - Don't forget to send your own Wow moments in so we can share them with their peers.

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Nursery joining with the rest of the school

- In Nursery, we introduce Nursery to their Year 5 buddies in time for the whole school pantomime trip!
- Nursery attend the Church services with parents

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Year 6 Buddies - Reception

- Every child in Reception will have a Year 6 buddy. They will help them settle in and take them to lunch during their first week.
- At the start, they will play with them in the EYFS playground during lunchtime. Eventually the children will join the rest of the school on the big playground.
- Your buddy has written a letter to give to you today!
- Throughout the year, your buddy will join them for playtimes and reading.
- When we go to church, your buddy will walk with us.

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A typical day in Nursery...

8.40am - Children line up/enter the classroom and self-register (parents to stay at the door)

8.40am - Busy finger activities

9.00am – Phonics

9.15 am - Choose and learn time and adult focused activities with rolling snack (fruit and milk)

10.30am - Choose and learn time and adult focused activities (indoor/outdoor)

11.30am -Maths

11.40am - Ready for lunch

11.45am - Lunch

13.00pm - Dough disco

13.15pm - Choose and learn time and adult focused activities (indoor/outdoor)

15.25pm - Home time

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A typical day in Reception...

8.40am - Children line up/enter the classroom (parents to stay at the door) Busy fingers activities.

8.55am - Register

9.00am – Phonics

9.30am - Run the daily mile

9.45am – Input, busy learning and adult focused tasks with rolling snack (fruit and milk)

11.30am - Get ready for lunch/story/prayer

11.45am - Lunch

12.45pm – Register and input

13.00pm - Busy learning and adult focused tasks

15.00pm - Getting ready for home/Story time

15.25pm - Home time

Reception learning is not always clean! Please be understanding!

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Reading meeting and Monster Phonics – Reception

In October I will hold a meeting to explain how we teach phonics and reading.

Please don't worry if you do not have a reading book straight away, I will be assessing them throughout the first few weeks.

Formal phonics teaching will begin within the first few weeks of school.

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Permission slips and ordering milk

Seesaw – once we have received your permission slips, we will set these up ready for September

Photograph permissions on Arbor – Website, newsletter, social media display boards and Seesaw.

Milk ordering needs to be ordered before your child begins school – see form

If your child is 5 before Christmas, you will need to pay for milk.

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Medical Matters

- All of the EYFS team have paediatric first aid certificates.
- All have EpiPen training
- Please make sure we know of any medical issues that will impact your child's learning.
- A signed red form will be needed if an inhaler or medicine if they are to be administered.
- Any sickness, diarrhoea, must be followed by **48** hours absence.
- Any absences requires a telephone call explaining the reason.
- Head lice are fairly common! Please check regularly and treat as recommended.

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The daily mile and healthy eating

- Every day we run the perimeter of the playground. Exercise has proven to aid concentration and help children to learn.
- We hold a healthy eating school status. Please be aware that if you are sending in a home packed lunch then we encourage healthy food options and no nuts.
- Remember to book your meals in advance (School Grid)
- Water and milk are given daily
- Milk is free unless your child is turning 5 during the first term.
- Named water bottles are essential.

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Attendance

- Although the statutory school age is 5, getting into good routines is essential to ensure that learning opportunities are not missed.
- Absence in Reception class can be unauthorised
- Please ensure your child is in school on time. School starts at 8:40am
- It is important your child is in school every day.
- If your child has any appointments, please try book them outside of school hours, but if it is unavoidable then please contact the school office to let the school know.

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Uniform – Nursery

Uniform can be ordered through our website however for Nursery, we recommend children wearing black or grey jogging bottoms for ease of toileting.

White t-shirt, grey trousers/shorts/skirt and blue school jumper/cardigan.

Blue gingham dresses for the summer

Sensible black shoes not boots

PE kit to be worn on a Thursday

Black shorts/tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt trainers.

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Uniform - Reception

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White t-shirt, grey trousers/shorts/skirt and blue school jumper/cardigan.

Blue gingham dresses for the summer

Sensible black shoes not boots

PE kit to be worn for 1 day a week - Thursday

Black shorts/tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt trainers.

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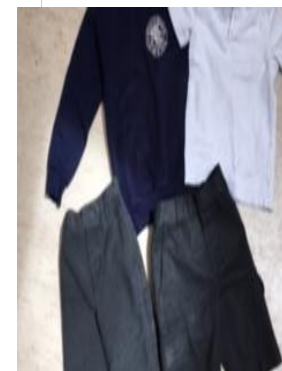


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Uniform Examples



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What does my child need at school?

Named coat

Named wellies - please leave these in school during term time.

Named book bag - please bring everyday so letters, library and reading books can be transported safely. Please refrain from rucksacks as we do not have the room to store them.

Named water bottle

Spare clothes in a draw string bag (including socks) – in case of accidents!

Named puddle suit – please leave these in school during term time.

Name all uniform/equipment

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Travelling to school

- At St John's we are working towards a travel award.
- There is a place to store bikes and scooters
- Please encourage your children to walk, scooter or ride to school.

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What can I do to help my child be ready for Nursery?

Please can you practise:

Your child using the toilet and wiping themselves

Putting on and taking off shoes

Putting on and taking off wellies

Putting on socks

Doing up buttons

Putting on their coat (we do the 'flip trick')

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What can I do to help my child be ready for Reception?

Put on their coats independently

Go to the toilet independently

Be able to feed themselves

Independently get dressed in the morning

Begin to write their name forming the letters correctly

Recognise their name

Be able to communicate their needs

Turn taking when playing games and sharing toys

Listen to stories and poems together

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Other matters

Parent Teacher Association (Friends of St John's)

friends@digswell.herts.sch.uk

Free School Meals and Pupil premium

Don't forget to sign all forms and state if there are any days you will really struggle to do

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And Finally...

If you have any worries or concerns, then please speak to myself or any of the EYFS staff, email admin or write it on a piece of paper, along with your email and pop it in the box. 😊

Thank you for coming

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