



St Giles C of E Academy

EYFS Nursery New
Starter Information

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you to the Foundation Stage of St Giles C of E Academy. Our aim is to help you and your child settle into school life so that your child's first experience is good. We aim to work with you as partners in the education of your children. You will, from time to time, be invited to the school to discuss your child's progress and also hear about our approach to the curriculum. As a Church School we see every child as a unique individual and aim to bring out the very best from each child within a caring Christian environment. Our main aim is that children, parents and carers feel happy, secure and valued so our children can progress confidently and happily through their school life. We hope this booklet will provide you with useful information about the school, but please do speak to us if you need any more information at any time. We look forward to meeting you and hope that your time at St Giles will be a happy time for both you and your child.





Our Vision Statement

St Giles is not just a place, it's a feeling.

A feeling that is part of you
and stays there forever.

A feeling of respect: a hope for the future.

A feeling that fills you with confidence to
achieve anything.

A feeling of faith, love; where we grow
together.

Staff at St Giles



Your child will come into contact with a number different of staff within the EYFS team on a daily basis. For details of our St Giles team, please see our school website.

Times of Our EYFS Sessions

Nursery

A range of attendance options are available using either the 15 hour Universal or 30 hour Working Parent childcare codes:

(Please contact the school office for further information, including costings)



AM only 8:30 - 11:30



PM only 12:15 - 3:15

Monday & Tuesday 8.30-3.15 and Wednesday 8.30-11.30

Wednesday 12.15 - 3.15 and Thursday & Friday 8.30-3.15

Monday – Wednesday 8:30-3:15 or Wednesday – Friday 8:30-3:15

Monday – Thursday All Day and Friday 8:30-11:30

Monday – Friday 8:30 – 3:15

(Alternative attendance patterns to those listed above may be an option, please contact school to discuss this further!)

Reception

8:40 - 3:15

Please ensure you drop off and collect your child promptly to ensure an easy transition into school and a settled home time.

Our Start of Session Routine

Your child will have their own peg labelled with their name and a picture. They will also have a name card for self-registration. Children are placed in small family groups with a key worker. This is to help them feel safe and develop friendships.

First Days...

Nursery

Coming to Nursery is a really big step as it may be your child's first time away from you. You and your child might be worried about the initial parting from one another. You may need to gradually build up the time your child spends in Nursery, this is quite usual. We would ask you to be aware however, that your child can quickly expect you to always stay with them, and this can lead to longer term difficulties all round. Sometimes, it is best to tell your child that you are going and then to leave calmly and decisively at our cloakroom door. The Nursery staff will contact you if your child is unwell or upset.

To ensure a happy start for your child, we are staggering the entry as recommended for three & four year olds. This means that children will start school on different days so that we can spend quality time with all children during their first few days. We hope that this way of settling children into school will make their first few days easier and enjoyable.

When your child does start Nursery, you will be given details of their start date and transition session timings, well in advance of their start date.

Reception

To ensure a happy start for your child, we are staggering the entry as recommended for four year olds. This means that children will start school on different days so that we can spend quality time with all children during their first few days. We hope that this way of settling children into school will make their first few days easier and enjoyable.

When your child does start school in Reception, they should arrive at 8.40 and will stay all day until 3.15. They will be full time from their start date.

Attendance



Staff welcome children into School every day at the beginning of their session. Please ensure your child arrives on time for every session, it is important that your child arrives with their friends to help them to feel more secure. Any latecomers must enter through the main school entrance. Regular attendance at school helps to give your child a secure everyday routine and enables them to obtain maximum benefit from the school. Please ensure that staff are made aware of the reason for any absence your child may have from school. This should take the form of a telephone call on the first day of the absence or a message via dojo.

Collecting your child

Always collect your child promptly at the end of session as young children can easily become very upset if they are not collected at the same time as their friends. When your child starts school, we ask for the names and contact details for people who may collect your child. If someone different needs to come, you must inform the school either by telling a member of staff or by phoning the school office. These people must be known to the child, responsible and over 16 years of age. Their name must be on the list of trusted adults for your child. If an adult arrives to collect your child whose name is not on their list, we will not allow that adult to take your child. As I am sure you will understand, this is for safeguarding reasons.

Learning in the Foundation Stage

During the early years, children learn through play. Throughout the Foundation Stage, emphasis is on learning through purposeful play activities, rather than whole class teaching. Foundation stage provision is based upon the seven areas of learning.

Communication and Language.



Speaking and listening skills are encouraged and developed throughout the Foundation Stage. Talk, which arises during play, develops appropriate vocabulary and language. Children are always encouraged to talk about their experiences and interests. Children are given opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Literacy

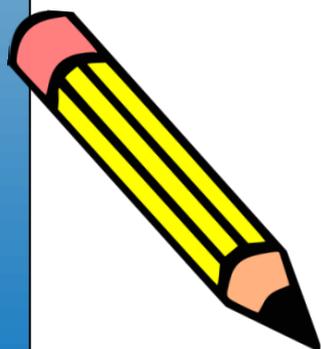
Reading

Children enjoy a range of rhyme, rhythm and other sound awareness activities following the 'Little Wandles' phonics scheme. A quiet reading area is provided and children are encouraged to look at books, tell stories to each other, recite nursery rhymes and handle and care for books correctly. They will begin to learn high frequency words and develop strategies for decoding words as appropriate for their age. Your child will also visit our Nursery Library every week.



Writing

Mark- making occurs in many different areas of the Foundation Stage. For example: shopping lists in the home corner, recipes in the kitchen and labels for models. There is also a writing area equipped with a variety of tools and materials to develop their drawing and writing skills. Children are encouraged to write their name using correct letter formation. It would be helpful if you could practise name writing at home in order to prepare your child for beginning school. From the simplest line or circle to a more detailed and recognisable picture, each child's efforts are recognised and encouraged.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development



One of the most important aspects of a child's development is how they interact and relate to those around them, both adults and children. We try to foster and promote an atmosphere of caring, self-control and co-operation. Children are encouraged to talk about their problems and find solutions together. We understand the importance of a child's self-esteem in the learning process and we work with each child to promote the development of their self-esteem.

Maths

A lot of early counting skills are gained through singing number songs and rhymes. These skills are supplemented in our Maths Area with a selection of games, activities and resources. These explore areas such as matching and sorting, ordering, shape recognition, counting and number sequencing, pattern recognition, measures and much more. Most mathematical activities occur naturally throughout the room. We count pieces of fruit and cups at snack time, cut cakes and pizzas into halves and quarters, match cups and plates in the kitchen, complete tricky jigsaws and make our own pictures from a variety of shapes! By relating these simple activities to our everyday life, children come naturally to an understanding of early maths concepts. Our Nursery children follow the 'Master the Curriculum' maths scheme, whilst Reception follow 'White Rose Maths'.



Understanding the World

We love to go outside whatever the weather! Our own outdoor play area is used in a variety of ways for digging, planting, watering and watching things grow. We encourage children to make observations about the world around them and to be aware of changing seasons and weather. Visits from people of different occupations also extend the children's learning. Areas for sand and water allow children to explore the properties of wet and dry sand, water and ice. They handle natural materials such as dough, clay, stones and shells. Children are encouraged to construct models using a variety of wooden and plastic blocks and crates. Every child has the opportunity to use ICT equipment, including simple computer games to promote early ICT skills and support learning. Everyone enjoys baking and tasting different types of food. We like to bake as often as we can. Parental contributions (Monetary or in the form of ingredients) are requested on a half termly basis.



Physical Development

Children are given frequent opportunities for their physical development. Children can choose to play with large and small scale construction toys. We also place great importance on our sand, water and play dough areas. These areas provide excellent opportunities for children to increase their manipulation skills. These areas change their role to follow the children's interests. All these activities encourage children's imaginations to develop and they love working together in these areas. As an extension to indoor physical activities children have access to a well-equipped outdoor area where bicycles and wheelbarrows help promote confidence, balance and an awareness of space. Our gravel pit, mud kitchen and garden also allow them to develop their muscles and strength. From September 2022, all EYFS children, inclusive of Nursery, should wear a school PE kit on their allocated PE day which is a Wednesday.



Expressive Arts and Design



Most children love role play. We have a range of exciting role play areas which change throughout the year for the children to explore. These areas reflect the children's interests. All children are encouraged to use a variety of materials and tools to create and represent what they see, hear and feel. Music is an important part of our daily sessions. Children are encouraged to develop a love of simple songs and nursery rhymes and are able to accompany themselves on a range of percussion instruments.

Outdoor Play

As part of our continuous provision, children have the option to be outdoors every day, so please provide suitable footwear and send a coat with your child every day, even if the sun is shining when you leave home! Please ensure that coats, hats, gloves and scarves are all labelled with your child's names. In the summer months, please also apply sun cream to your child before school and send a sun hat to protect them from the sun.



General Information

Uniform

There is a uniform for all children. Wearing the uniform gives the children a sense of belonging to the school community.

<u>School Uniform</u>
Charcoal Grey trousers / skirt / pinafore dress
Red Polo shirt (logo available)
Grey sweatshirt / cardigan with school logo
Full black school shoes (no sandals)
<u>Optional for summer</u>
Charcoal Grey school shorts / Red gingham dress
<u>PE Kit</u>
Plain red PE t-shirt with logo and plain black or navy shorts / joggers. Plain black sweatshirt with logo. Children will also require trainers for outdoor PE (where possible) in the Spring and Summer terms.
<u>Nursery</u>
To support and aid toileting, please ensure that your child wears tights / trousers / shorts that they are able to manoeuvre as independently as possible. Grey joggers with elasticated waist bands are therefore acceptable for this reason.

School uniforms can be purchased from Better and Bright in the Indoor Market Hall, Pontefract. Please support your child in becoming independent. Few children will be able to manage to fasten shoelaces, so if you can find shoes with easy fastenings and no laces this will be a great help. **Please label all clothing / shoes / bags & water bottles clearly with your child's name.**

Jewellery

Please could you remember that children are not allowed to wear jewellery for school. The Health & Safety guideline is issued for the safety of all pupils. Stud earrings are allowed, however they need to be removed or covered with plasters for PE lessons. Some parents choose to remove earrings at home before their child comes to school in the morning on the days when their child has PE. Alternatively, you may cover your child's ears with plasters or send them to school with some. Please help us by adhering to the school rules.



Snack

Children have access to drinking water throughout the day and they are provided with a healthy snack. Reception and Nursery children receive free fruit from the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Nursery children are also provided with free milk at snack time and a piece of toast.



School Dinners

School dinners are now free for all school age children up to the age of 7. Alternatively, you can provide your child with a packed lunch if you wish. School dinners are now ordered online via Parent Pay, so you have ownership at home. If on a particular day your child would like to bring a packed lunch, simply don't order their dinner that day. **From September 2022, Nursery children will also be able to have a school dinner, but as they are not funded by the government, a charge of £2.75 per meal will be charged.**



ParentPay®

Wrap Around Care

From September 2022, Breakfast Club and an After School Club will be available to all children throughout school, including EYFS. (Nursery places are limited due to staff ratios for this age group of children.) Please contact the school office for further details should you need to arrange this additional provision for your child. Wrap Around is bookable through Parent Pay.

Holidays

We would ask you to encourage good attendance habits. In school, we encourage that children are not taken out of school for holidays or any other reason, unless it cannot be avoided. Our attendance policy states that all holidays during term time will be unauthorised absences.

From September 2022, Enhance Academy have made the decision to incur fines for bouts of absence, lateness and holidays in term time.



PE

On your child's PE day, they should come to school wearing their PE kit and will stay in it all day. We have found this has reduced lost learning time getting dressed and undressed. Their PE kit will be black joggers and a tracksuit top or shorts with a red t-shirt with the school logo on.

Nursery's PE day is a Wednesday!

Educational Visits

From time to time, educational visits are organised for which you are asked to give a voluntary contribution. Sufficient money needs to be collected to ensure that the visit can go ahead, so please remember to fill in the necessary forms and send your contribution in as soon as possible. Without sufficient funds, sadly, educational visits will not be able to go ahead.

Illness

If your child becomes ill at school, you will be notified immediately, so please make sure we have your emergency contact and telephone number. If your child has, or develops, any medical problems please ensure we have full details.

Please keep your child at home in the case of an infection. Parents should inform the school about the nature of the infection so staff may inform other parents and make observations of any child who seems unwell. In the case of vomiting or diarrhoea your child must be clear for 48 hours before returning to school.

Medication

Only prescribed medicines can be administered at school. The office staff will administer any medicines required at the times specified by parents. For us to be able to administer medicines, parents must fill in the required paperwork beforehand.

Children's Behaviour

At St Giles, we aim to support our children in achieving good standards of behaviour as well as learning. We positively encourage children to share and take turns with each other. We aim to develop each child's ability to consider others, and through discussion make them aware of the consequences of their actions. Details of this are outlined in our School Behaviour Policy. We ask for your help in supporting our work with children's behaviour.

Toys

Please leave all toys at home in case they get lost or broken.



Additional Belongings

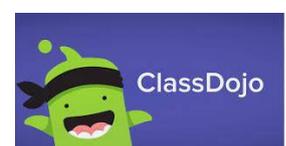
All children should bring a water bottle to school daily for their session in Nursery. These may contain water or juice and will be filled at regular intervals throughout the day. They can also bring a bag containing a change of clothes should a change of clothes be required. If your child is not fully toilet trained, their bag should also include products for changing such as pull ups, wipes, nappy sacks. During winter/wet months, your child is welcome to bring a pair of wellington boots into school which can be kept on their cloakroom peg so they can be worn as needed. Likewise waterproofs can also be kept in school.

Parental involvement

Towards the end of each term, we will invite you to a 'Stay and Play' session. These will be themed around an area of our curriculum so that we can show you ways to support your child's development in the different areas of learning.

We hold Christmas and Easter workshops where you are welcome to join us too.

We use a fantastic app called **Class Dojo** in school. It allows us to stay connected and maintain communication with all parents. It allows parents to message their child's teacher and school to send updates and information directly to parents, so you never miss a thing. We will register you on this once we have your email address.



Preparing Your Child for school

Ways in which you can help:

Talk about school It is an important step, so make it a positive one. Talk about all the new and exciting experiences they will have once they start school. The early years staff work hard to make the transition from home to school easy and enjoyable.

Develop independence Your child needs to dress and undress with reasonable independence. (Coats, shoes, hats, gloves, jumpers & cardigans included)

Please make sure all clothing is marked with their name to avoid confusion. There are several weeks left for you to help your child to practise the skills needed in managing clothes independently.

Using the toilet Your child should be able to go to the toilet independently and cope with trousers or tights. You can help by teaching them to manage their own needs, to be able to flush the toilet and wash their hands afterwards. Accidents happen and sometimes we do need to change children. Some parents of children who have frequent accidents choose to keep a change of underwear or uniform on their peg.

Ways in which you can support your child's learning.

Home and school both play a vital role in the education of children. We like to work alongside parents to teach children the skills that they will need throughout their life.

Reading

In Nursery children will visit our Nursery library on a weekly basis. They will be given the opportunity to choose a book, on their allocated library day, that they can bring home to share together with you. Please take this as an opportunity to talk about the story, exploring and using the pictures as appropriate.

In Reception we will provide your child with a book bag and reading book when we feel that they are ready, please share this book at home with your child and record comments in the reading record provided. We will change this book weekly.

We recently bought a whole new set of reading books to enhance and extend our reading scheme. We would like children to respect and care for these books so that we can provide them with quality texts.

Phonics

All children in EYFS will take part in a phonics session or activity as part of their learning experience. At St Giles we have adopted and implemented the phonics scheme 'Little Wandles' which is consistently used throughout school.

Writing

When learning how to write, it is important that children learn the correct formation of the letters as well as the correct way to hold a pencil. It would be very beneficial for children to practise this at home alongside school.

Maths

Maths is not just counting. Maths includes learning about the number system, shapes, size, measuring and looking for patterns. Children's early number skills begin with being able to say numbers in order up to 10. Children will then need to develop an understanding of counting. It would be beneficial if you could practise counting small groups of objects when your child is ready. Another element of Maths is number formation and recognition. It is important for your child to learn the correct formation of numbers when learning how to write them. We use a 'Maths Mastery' approach as part of our Nursery curriculum.

Some more ideas for helping your child at home:

- Share and discuss stories: talk about your favourite character, the most exciting part or what happens in the beginning, middle and end.
- Encourage them to draw, colour, write and use scissors.
- Help them in beginning to recognise their name.
- Share music and songs with your child.
- Begin to teach them how to put on and take off their coat, socks, shoes and other clothes.
- Talk to each other about events of the day and ask questions about what they have enjoyed.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and talk about what they are doing.
- Play spot the number or letter in your environment.
- Sing Nursery rhymes and number songs and make up silly rhymes.

Some useful websites that may help you to prepare your child for school:

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/early-years/shape-monsters>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m001c1gq/colourblocks>

We look forward to welcoming your family to our school community!