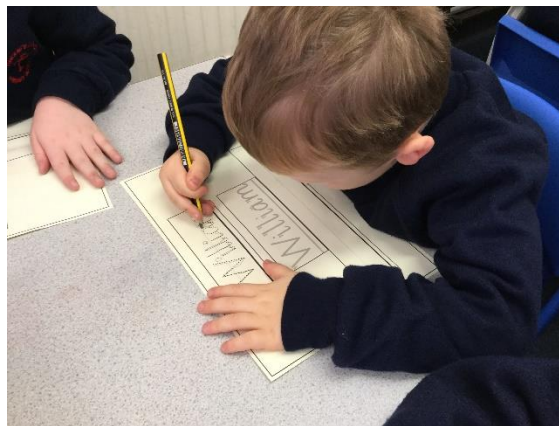


Dear Children and Parents,

Welcome to Reception! We are delighted that the children are settling in well and getting to know their new environment and teachers. These early weeks are very important as the children make their transition from nurseries, childminders and home and start to make new friends at St. Vincent's. We are amazed at how quickly they are adapting to their new routines, especially at tidy-up time!

Thank you for your continuing support – we know that this is an important time for you too.

### **Structure of the day**



When children arrive at 8:45am they settle down to an activity set up in the classroom for them to complete as the class arrive. Following this they have a 5 minute exercise session in the classroom (called 5 a day) where the children exercise to music.

The children will then have a 20 minute phonic input and they will complete a follow up activity at their table. Additional support of a teacher or a teaching assistant is rotated throughout the week.

After morning play there is a 15 minute maths or writing input. Children will then complete a follow up activity at their table. Additional support of a teacher or a teaching assistant is rotated throughout the week.

We also have 'freeflow opportunities' (where the children can extend their learning in our 'Main Area' or in the 'Outside Learning Environment'). In

the afternoon, we focus on other areas of the framework such as R.E, PHSE, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Expressive Arts & Design, PE and Computing. On Fridays, we take part in our 'exploration afternoon'. This consists of Art, Science and Forest School activities in a carousel.



## **Curriculum and Phonics**

There will be a Curriculum Evening for Reception parents on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The evening will start at 5.00pm when you will be invited to the hall for a Phonics Workshop. After this, a presentation will start promptly at 5:45pm and will include information about the curriculum along with how to support your child with the Early Years Curriculum. Please do come along to this important evening.

## **Individual Reading**

Your child will take part in regular Individual Reading sessions with their class teacher, in a one-to-one setting. Children will also take an independent reading book or reading activity home. We ask that you support him/her by practising daily at home and by writing a short comment and signing the reading record book, once you have heard your child read or complete the activity. Please ensure both books/activities are kept in the plastic wallet provided and replace the plastic wallet when necessary. This will start the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Reading books/ activities will be changed every Monday and Thursday.

## **Library Visit**

We will visit our school library in the junior school once every fortnight. Reception's allocated library day is a Thursday. The children will be able to choose a book independently and return it two weeks later, changing it for a new one.

## PE

Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit on Wednesdays and that all items of uniform are clearly labelled. Please note that children will also need to bring trainers for the PE lesson on a Wednesday. If at any time you wish your child to be exempt from a PE lesson for medical reasons a letter must be sent.

We also have a wide variety of activity opportunities such as;

- Outdoor Provision
- Bikes during Continuous Provision
- 5 a day
- Sports Day
- Yoga
- Circuit with a Paralympian
- Teacher led Bootcamp

## Topics for Autumn Term

Our topics for Autumn are 'All About Me' and 'Seasons and Celebrations.' Within these topics we will cover the following areas as part of the Foundation Stage Curriculum:

**RE – God's World** – In this topic we will be looking at the creation of God's beautiful world and learning about how we are all part of God's family. The children will also take part in a special performance of 'The Nativity'.



**Physical Development:** The children will practise their throwing and catching skills and coordination whilst travelling with the ball.

Circ

**Collective Worship-** Throughout the year, the children will take ownership of taking a Prayer Bag home and leading their own Collective Worship with help from their teacher. We would be grateful if you could support your child at home in planning their session.



**Understanding of the World** – We will be learning about special celebrations such as Bonfire Night and Christmas. We will also discuss Chinese New Year and share our own experiences of it, talking about cultural differences and similarities.



**P.S.H.E.** – The children are settling really well into school life and will discuss rules and routines, how to be a good friend and healthy living – for example eating healthily and the importance of exercise. We will also be following our 'Jigsaw' scheme. This half term will have a specific focus of 'Being me in my World' followed by 'Celebrating Difference'. We will also be exploring friendship and anti-bullying themes.



## **Lunchtimes**

We are thrilled to see how well the children have settled into life here at St. Vincent's. This includes during our lunchtime transitions. The Reception children have learnt where they sit, how to line up sensibly at the hatch when waiting for their lunch and how to hold their trays independently. We are especially impressed with how hard the children have worked to learn to use their knife and fork independently and using their manners at every given opportunity!

## **Other Information**

The children will be taught Music, Computing and P.E. on a Wednesday morning on a carousel rotation. These will be taught by specialist teaching staff, Mrs Mackenzie, Mrs Patinott and the Soccerwise Coaching Team.



The Teaching Assistants who will be working with the Reception teachers are as follows:

Mrs Conway      Mrs. Hudson      Mrs Berry      Mrs Heaton

Thank you for your anticipated support and we look forward to meeting you all in the next few weeks.

Miss Sheppard      Mrs Jennings      Mrs Gerrard      Miss Hollins