



# Welcome to Criggleshstone St James CE Primary Academy

New Starter Information  
September 2025-26



# Senior leadership



Miss Minor – Headteacher



Mrs Dent – Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Armitage – Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Butterworth – SENDCo



# Our Reception Team



## Class Teachers



Mrs Anderson – RA

Miss Ingham – RI





# Our Reception Team

*Education Support Assistants*

*Mrs Drewell*

*Tuesday - Friday*





# Transition

- We have been carrying out visits to the children's nurseries and speaking to the staff that work with them, as well as saying hello to the children.
- The children are then invited to spend the morning with us on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July and will stay for lunch. Please collect at 12.40pm.
- We will ensure that your child has the best possible start to their journey at St James' Academy.





# What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- Reception Class is otherwise known as Upper Foundation, Foundation Stage, or EYFS.
- The Early Years curriculum is based on the recognition that children learn best through **play and active learning**.
- Pupils will learn through a mixture of adult-led activities (whole class, small groups and one to one) and independent self-initiated activities.
- Throughout the year, pupils will build up a 'Learning Journey' of work, photographs, videos and written observations.

# The Early Years Framework



- We follow a framework called 'Development Matters', which is guidance that sets out the learning, development and assessment requirements for all children until the end of their reception year.
- Activities are planned to support your child to meet the Early Learning goals in 7 areas.
- All Early Years' practitioners are required to pursue daily rich activities to support each child's educational development across seven areas of learning (Prime and Specific).



# The Early Years Framework



- The Prime areas are Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development.
- The Specific areas are, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.
- At the end of the academic year, the class teacher will complete an EYFS profile for all children. All information collated through previous assessments, observations and formal teaching will inform our final judgements against each of the 17 Early Learning Goals. We will only use the terms 'emerging' or 'expected' to describe our final judgements.



# The Early Years Framework



- The EYFS framework has never prescribed a particular teaching approach and the framework holds true to this value. Our philosophy of early year's education remains the same with play and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.



# Tapestry

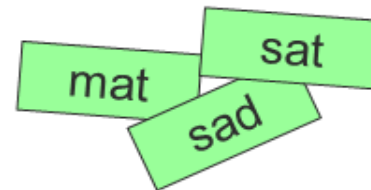
- The children's progress throughout Reception is regularly monitored via observations. 'Remark on the remarkable.'
- We use the online learning journal system [Tapestry](#) to collate assessment information.
- Information will be fed back to parents and can be accessed on mobile devices and computers.
- Parental observations can be logged using a secure login system.



# Phonics and Reading



- At St James', we aim to foster a love of reading, therefore, the development of reading skills is a priority.
- A key focus of our teaching is the development of phonic skills.
- We follow the Read Write Inc programme.
- We teach the sounds first – in a specific order.
- We then teach your children to blend those sounds together in order to read words.





# Our Topics

*Autumn Term – Marvellous Me (includes all about me and superhero adventures)*

- We spend the first half term getting to know the children and settling them into the new routines and structure of school life.*
- Photograph from home – We would like to create a 'Family' photo display. We ask for one photo per child that shows them with their immediate family or important people in their lives. We reference these photos throughout the year and it can provide comfort to many children. We ask that you to bring a photo to school by Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, so that we can have this ready for September.*



# Typical Day in Reception



- 8.40am: Doors Open – Mrs Anderson and Miss Ingham will be on the door ready to welcome the children.
- 8.50am: Morning task and morning routine
- 9.00am: Phonics
- 9.40am: Children will work in provision areas (Indoor and outdoor). Snack is open
- 10.50am: Collective Worship
- 11.05 Children will work in provision areas – focus/group work
- 11.35am: Whole class input – carpet session (Maths/English)
- 12.00pm: Lunchtime
- 1.00pm: Whole class input – carpet session (Maths/English)
- 1.20pm: Children will work in provision areas – focus/group work
- 3.00pm: Story time
- 3.20pm: Hometime – Children will be released once a member of staff has seen the parent/carer

# Useful Information



- Your child will be given a plastic book bag when they start school. Inside this will be a number formation card, name writing card, sound/letter chart and a whiteboard pen (to be used on laminated sheets). The contents of the plastic book bag can stay at home but the bag will need to come to school everyday.
- Please send in a water bottle that is clearly labelled with your child's full name. The water bottle will be sent home daily.
- Fruit is provided every day (free of charge). We also provide an alternative snack. To cover the cost of this and any cooking we may do throughout the term, we ask for a voluntary donation of £5 per term.
- For water and mud play, children will need a waterproof jacket, a pair of waterproof trousers and a pair of wellies. These items be labelled with your child's name and left in school.



# Reminders



- PE kit – come to school in kit on PE days
- Waterproofs – leave in school
- Wellies (a pair to stay in school for water/mud play)
- Spare clothes
- Sun hats in the summer
- Hat, scarf & gloves in the winter
- Book bags (every day)
- Fruit (every day if preferred)
- Water bottles (everyday)

**ALL CLOTHES, SHOES AND BAGS must be clearly labelled with your child's name.**



# Homework



- Phonics homework will be set every week. The children will come home with sounds to learn each week.
- Reading book
- During Autumn term, children will be assessed to decide which reading book they bring home. We have a range of books that progress from picture books to books with words.
- Children can use the items from their book bags to complete activities at home. Such as, number recognition and formation, letter formation, writing their names and counting.
- Tapestry can be used as a way of recording activities at home – photographs of practical activities, or special things you do at home.
- Half termly information sheets will provide you with information to identify the topics and activities we will be carrying out in school. Information will also be shared on Tapestry.



# Useful Skills



To ensure that your child has the basic skills to make them independent and to thrive at school, here are some of the things that will aid your child's development:

- Go to the toilet independently and wash their hands afterwards.
- Eat lunch without help, using a knife and fork, where appropriate.
- Put on and fasten a coat and put on gloves.

# Getting school ready...



*Ideas and activities for home:*

- *Colouring books*
- *Chalking*
- *Playdough*
- *Picking up small objects – coins for counting, snack raisins*
- *Playing small world to tell stories about school*
- *Games which include taking turns*
- *Ideally 1 hour max of screen time which includes facetime or educational games.*





# Parents as Partners

- We value any contribution that you would like to make to your child's journey in Reception, through discussions with your child's teacher and by inputting them onto your child's Tapestry account.
- Parents Evenings – twice a year (the first one is a settling in conversation).

# Finally...



Over the next two weeks, we will update our school website with any further information.

If you have any questions or you require further information, please email the following address:  
[admin@stjamesacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjamesacademy.co.uk)

We all look forward to welcoming you and your family to St James' Academy.