

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception Class at St Gabriel's School! We hope you have had a lovely summer.

The children will become more confident and settled in their new environment as we gradually increase their time in school during this first week. We are enjoying getting to know each individual child and we are excited for the term ahead.

This term our theme will be **"Settling at School"** and **"Who am I?"** and whilst we will follow the children's lead, we are likely to explore learning rules and routines, friendships, school, ourselves, our family, and harvest amongst other subjects.



We will be using the Reception Baseline Assessment to help us get to get to know and plan next steps for the children. Please ask or have a look on our website for more information about this. The children will naturally be at different levels so they will be supported and challenged as appropriate.

Please join our 'Meet the Teacher' meeting at 3:40pm on Thursday 11th September in the Reception classroom for information about our school day and to ask any questions.

Please do help your child to have excellent attendance and to arrive at school on time, having had breakfast and to be ready to learn.

If there is anything you have a query about or any issue you would like to raise, please do not hesitate to come and talk to me or arrange for a meeting. Many thanks,

Mr S. Biles & Ms Shana

St Gabriel's Primary School

Reception Newsletter

September 2025



Uniform: Please ensure that your child's school uniform is **labelled** with their name to try to prevent items getting mixed up. We would prefer that your child's **hair is tied back**.



Water bottles: Please make sure your child brings a reusable, named water bottle filled with **plain water**, every day. No other drinks are allowed. Nothing else to be brought to school please (no toys, pens/pencils, food, drinks, valuables, money...)

Reading: After the initial settling-in period, we will begin sending home wordless books with your child. Please refer to the attached guide on how to use these books effectively. We encourage you to give your child time to "read" their wordless book to you every day throughout the week. These



books are a great way to build storytelling skills and confidence. Please record each reading session in the yellow reading record provided. Books will be changed once a week, on Mondays. As children begin learning phonics and start blending sounds independently, we will introduce books with words for your child to read to you by sounding out and blending. It is very important that your child reads the same book multiple times during the week to help build fluency and confidence in reading.

PE: On the Reception PE day (Every Thursday), your child will be able to come into school dressed in their PE kit. They will be able to wear this all day and will not have to get back changed in to their school uniform.



Weather: Please make sure your child is ready for the weather by applying sun cream before they come to school, bring a sun hat/ raincoat/ warm coat as appropriate.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

This term we are supporting your child to manage their own needs. You can help at home by showing your child how to do things for themselves and encouraging independence, talking about ways to stay healthy like eating lots of fruits and vegetables, drinking water, getting lots of sleep and exercise.

Communication and Language:



This term we are helping your child to understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important. You can help at home by promoting active listening skills: "Wait a minute, I need to get into a good position for listening, I can't see you. Let's be quiet so I can concentrate on what you're saying."

Physical Development:

This term we are helping your child to develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully like lining up and queuing, mealtimes and personal hygiene. You can help at home by encouraging patience, turn-taking and self-control.



Literacy, Reading:

We will be teaching your child to read individual letters by saying the sounds for them. We will send sound cards home weekly as we learn new sounds.

Literacy, Writing:

We will be supporting your child to be able to write letter-like shapes and give meaning to their own marks.



Mathematics:

This term we are encouraging your child to use shapes and to count objects. You can help at home by singing counting songs and number rhymes, playing games and reading stories that involve counting, numbers and shapes.



Understanding the World:

The children will talk about members of their family and community. We will also talk about different types of families. You can help by providing us with a family photo to display in the classroom for your child to talk about.

Expressive arts and design:

This term we are encouraging your child to use a range of materials and tools to create and construct with. You can help at home by talking about colours, shapes, texture and smells and encouraging your child to define these in their own words.

