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 their first weeks. We are enjoying getting to know each individual child and we are excited for the term ahead.

This term our theme will be **'Marvellous Me'** and whilst we will follow the children's lead, we will be learning our class rules and routines, building friendships, getting to know our school, and confidently talk about ourselves and our family, amongst other subjects.



Weather and Spare clothes:
We will go into the Reception Garden in all weathers, so please make sure your child comes into school with all they need. Please also send in a bag of spare clothes in case of accidents.

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)**

Please join our 'Meet the Teacher' meeting at **3.40pm on Thursday 10th September** in the classroom for information about our school day and to ask any questions. A creche will be provided for your child during this time.

Please help your child to have excellent attendance and to arrive at school on time, having had breakfast and 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,
Miss Day and The Reception Team

Reception Newsletter Autumn 1 September 2026

Marvellous Me





PE: Our PE Day is **Thursday**. Children come to school in their PE kits on this day. Please speak to Michaela or Ashlin in the office to order your PE kit.

Homework: From the middle of this half term, children will start to receive homework. These will be activities to support our learning in class. The book will go home on a Friday and be returned on a Wednesday.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:
We will be learning what makes each of us unique and celebrating the similarities and differences within our class. We will talk about our feelings and learn strategies to help us recognise and manage our emotions. We will also be developing friendships, learning to share and take turns, and becoming more confident and independent as members of our school community.

Communication and Language: We will be developing our listening and speaking skills as we talk about ourselves, our families and the things that make us special. We will learn new vocabulary to describe feelings, family, community, likes and dislikes. Through stories, conversations, songs and group discussions, we will practise listening carefully, taking turns and expressing our ideas and experiences.

Physical Development: We will be learning about our amazing bodies and developing our gross and fine motor skills through a range of activities. We will practise moving in different ways, balancing, climbing and developing our coordination. We will also strengthen our hands and fingers through activities such as mark-making, cutting, threading and using tools, helping us to develop the skills we need for writing and becoming increasingly independent.

Phonics: We will begin our phonics journey by developing the essential listening skills needed for reading and writing. We will revisit parts of Phase 1 exploring rhyming words, songs, poems and patterns in language. We will listen carefully for sounds, join in with rhymes and develop our awareness of the sounds we hear around us. As the children become confident with these skills, we will move into **Phase 2**, where we will begin learning letter sounds and how to blend them to read simple words.

Mark Making & Early Writing: We will be developing our confidence and enjoyment of making marks and giving meaning to what we create. Through a range of exciting, hands-on activities, we will strengthen our fingers and hands and practise making different shapes, lines and patterns. We will explore drawing pictures of ourselves, writing our names and using marks to communicate our ideas. As our phonics knowledge develops, we will begin to apply our letter-sound knowledge to early writing and simple words.

Reading: To begin the term, the children will take home a story book on a Friday and a different one on a Wednesday. This will be children's choice and it will be for all the family to read together to promote a love of reading. Please sign your child's reading record after reading the book. As the term progresses, the children will begin to take home levelled phonic reading books based on the phonic phase we are on.

Mathematics: We start the year exploring patter, colour and matching games. We will be developing our understanding of numbers through counting, recognising and representing numbers, and exploring quantities. We will compare groups of objects using mathematical language such as *more, fewer and the same*. We will also begin exploring patterns, shapes, sorting and measuring through practical, hands on activities linked to ourselves and our everyday experiences.

Understanding the World:
We will be learning more about ourselves, our families and the world around us. We will explore how we have changed since we were babies and talk about our families, homes and experiences. We will investigate our senses, notice similarities and differences between people, and begin to understand that everyone is unique. We will also explore our local environment and the people and communities that are important to us.

Expressive Arts and Design:
We will be exploring different ways to express ourselves through art, music, movement and imaginative play. We will create self-portraits, experiment with colour, texture and different materials, and explore how we can use our bodies and voices to express ideas and feelings. We will also develop our imagination through role play and small world experiences.