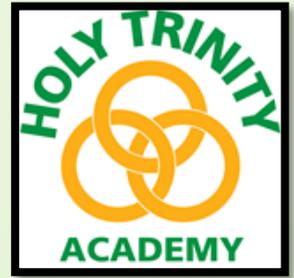


Holy Trinity C of E Academy



Welcome to Reception

Preparing to Start School



Nurturing... Inspiring... Achieving

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Welcome

We are delighted you have chosen Holy Trinity as your child's school and we looking forward to welcoming your family to our school community next year.

This booklet contains details of what to expect in the coming weeks as your child begins their transition from pre-school and of what to expect once school begins in September.

We will be inviting you and your child for a visit in the coming weeks as an opportunity to show them their new classroom, make some new friends and meet the staff. Following this there will be another visit just for children.

To help your child settle in as quickly as possible, it is important we know as much about them as we can. Therefore we will be arranging an induction meeting with you and your child so we can ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

As a Church of England school, Christian values underpin and permeate all that we do. It truly matters to us that your child is happy and excited about starting school, however we also realise that it may be daunting for both parents and children alike. Therefore if you have any questions, queries or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jackson
Reception Class Teacher

Coming to visit

Two sessions have been arranged for you and your child to visit the school before starting in September. For the first session, on **Thursday 27th June 9.00-10.00** parents stay—this is a chance to explore the classroom, chat to the staff, meet other parents and for your child to make some new friends.

The second visit, on **Thursday 4th July at 09.00-10.00** children come to visit without their parents.

As well as inviting you and your children into school, we will be visiting pre-schools to meet your child in their current setting and speak to their Key Worker.

We will also be arranging an informal induction interview with parents and children so we can discuss your child on a 1:1 basis and answer any questions you might have. **If your child already attends Holy Trinity please pop in to the Reception class and we can arrange a time and date.** If your child is new to the school we can arrange a meeting when you come to visit.

In September there will be two information sessions for parents. One focussing on the Reception curriculum, and the other about how we teach children to read.

The First Two Weeks

**Your child's first day at school will be:
Tuesday 3rd September 2019**

It is strongly recommend by Early Years experts that children be allowed plenty of time to adjust to school life. This is because the demands of starting school are considerable, for example your child will need to get used to new peers, unfamiliar adults, a different environment, new rules and higher expectations. Even if they have been at pre-school on a full time basis, it is considered best practice for children to attend on a part time basis for the first two weeks.

For the first two weeks, children will be attending either for morning or afternoon sessions. If they do mornings in the first week, they will do afternoons in the second week. If they do afternoons in the first week, they will do mornings in the second week. This is to ensure each child has the same amount of time at school (the morning sessions are longer than the afternoons). Children attending for the morning will need to bring a packed lunch.

Your child will be doing as follows:

Week 1: Morning sessions: 8.45-12.45

Week 2: Afternoon sessions: 1.15-3.30

If your child is coming in for morning sessions, please access the school via the main gate at the side. If they are coming in the afternoon, please arrive at the classroom door at the front of the building and we will let you in!

When collecting your child at 12.45 , please wait at the classroom door at the front of the school. If collecting at 3.30 please wait in the main playground.

Full Days

Towards the end of the induction period we will discuss with you whether you feel that your child is ready to start school on a full time basis. If they are, then full days begin on **Monday 16th September**. If they're not then we can be flexible about whether they attend for a mixture of full and half days.

Dropping off at school

The classroom doors open at 8.45. Please bring your child into the classroom and encourage them to “find their name” on the interactive whiteboard. They can then go to play with the toys that have been put out.

Staying for lunch

Children in Reception, Year One and Year Two are entitled to a free school meal. These are provided by Sue Brady Catering, from Marlborough. Although you do not need to pay for the meals, you do need to order what your child will have—as well as hot options various sandwiches are also available. Please look out for the leaflet and information given at out at the induction parent meeting. You need to order the lunches via the Sue Brady website www.suebradycatering.com

Collecting your child from school

At 3.30 please wait on the main playground and we will bring your child to you. It would be very helpful if you could wave to them once they reach the front of the queue! If someone else is collecting them, please let us know.

They will need...

Please make sure EVERYTHING is named!

Uniform

	Boys	Girls
Summer	Grey shorts White polo shirt	Dark green & white checked dress
Winter	School jumper White polo shirt Grey or black trousers Black leather shoes	School jumper White polo shirt Grey or black skirt, pin- afore dress or trousers Black leather shoes

Your child will also need:

- A book bag (available from With Style, in Church street)
- A PE bag (available from With Style)
- Shorts and t-shirt for PE inside and a track suit and trainers for PE outside
- A drink in a named bottle (nothing fizzy please!)
- A snack in a named container (fruit is provided free of charge, and milk is free for under 5's. It is available to purchase once your child turns 5—See Cool Milk form)
- Wellington boots
- A waterproof coat with a hood

A small stock of jumpers etc are available from the school office and the Friends also sell second hand uniform.

Our School Day

Once your child is attending on a full-time basis the structure of their day is as follows;

8.45—Gate to the main playground is unlocked. Bring your child into the classroom

8.55—School day starts, small group adult led activities and child initiated learning, snack, playtime, maths and phonics

12.15-1.15—Lunchtime

1.15-3.30—More small group adult led activities, child initiated learning, story time and show and tell

3.30—Home time. Please wait on the main playground

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 7.30-8.45 Monday to Friday. You are welcome to use this on an ad-hoc basis and there is no need to pre-book. Prices differ depending on arrival time (pre or post 8am) and whether or not your child needs to eat breakfast at school. Currently the charges are as follows: Arriving between 7:30-8am £3.50 for child care , £4.50 to include breakfast.

Arriving after 8am £2.50 for child care, £3.50 to include breakfast. There is more information available on the school website <https://www.holytrinitycalne.co.uk/breakfast-club/>

After School Sports Clubs

A range of after school sports clubs are also available so look out for details in the newsletter that will go out in September.

Get Ready for School

Your child is about to begin a crucial phase of learning. They learn more in these early years than at any other point of their education, so it is essential that we give them the best start possible. It would be hugely beneficial if your child was already:

- ♦ Familiar with traditional stories such as The Three Little Pigs and able to recite a few nursery rhymes.
- ♦ The children should be aware of key texts like The Gruffalo, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Duck in the Truck and others.
- ♦ Children starting school should know a range of stories, which will help them in their spoken language, reading and writing.
- ♦ Able to put on their coat and take it off without help
- ♦ Able to put on their shoes and take them off (velcro please! No laces unless they can tie them themselves!)
- ♦ Able to have a go at dressing and undressing for PE
- ♦ Able to ask to go to the toilet
- ♦ Able to use the toilet independently, including washing and drying hands
- ♦ Able to sit at a table to eat and use a knife and fork
- ♦ Able to recognise their own name

Get Ready to Read

Learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will learn and is essential to their future. **We will do all we can to support your child in learning to read but we can't do it alone and expect you to listen to your child read, or read to them, at home every day.** It doesn't have to be for a prolonged period, just 5 minutes makes a huge difference, but it simply is essential.

The first books your child will bring home may not contain words. These books are to encourage children to use the pictures to tell the story themselves and to use story language like "once upon a time".

In the Autumn term we put on a phonics workshop to provide more information on how we teach reading. We'll send invitations home as soon as possible, but in the meantime here are some ideas to support reading:

- * Recite nursery rhymes
- * Read, role play and re-tell traditional stories such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- * Look at picture books and talk about them
- * Make up stories together
- * Show them that you enjoy reading and value books
- * Visit the library
- * Talk to them in full sentences and encourage an expanded reply

Get Ready to Write

Learning to write is fun! Early writing involves control of lots of muscle groups so we will work on this first. Lots of big wiggly patterns drawn in chalk, paint, sand or mud help children get a “feel” for writing.

After lots of practice children will be shown how to grip a pencil properly before being taught to form letters correctly. The handwriting script we use in school is shown overleaf.

Here’s a list of some ideas you could try:

- * Let children see you writing and encourage them to try
- * Dot-to-dots, mazes or spot-the-difference
- * Encourage them to colour inside the lines
- * Show them how to use scissors safely
- * Try some “giant” writing in sand, mud, water etc.
- * Write birthday cards
- * Make models using play-dough or plasticine
- * Talk about what they’ve done, encourage the use of full sentences
- * Write your child’s name and encourage them to trace it (make sure they start in the right place!)

Our Handwriting

We teach cursive style handwriting in reception. The benefit of this is that children learn all letters start on the line (and numbers start at the top) and it makes it easier for them to learn to join letters later on.



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Get Ready for Numbers

Learning about numbers should be practical and encourage children to understand the number-system. Being able to recite numbers from 1-10 or higher is not the same as understanding what each digit represents, so we will support children in learning about the “two-ness” of two and realising that it means more than just being what you say after one!

At this age maths is all around. Spotting numbers on signs, counting chips for tea, recognising who was first or second in a race or spotting patterns are all important mathematical skills that can easily be practised at home.

Here are some ideas that will help your child develop a sense of numbers as quantities:

- * Encourage 1:1 pointing, “Can you get three forks?” “How many sausages are on your plate?”
- * Talk about quantities using words like “bigger/smaller” and “more/less”
- * Encourage them to recognise the patterns on dice or dominoes as representing numbers
- * Play games that involve counting, e.g. snakes and ladders
- * Look for house numbers, count all the red cars that pass
- * Sing number songs, e.g. “1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I caught a fish alive”, “5 little monkeys jumping on the bed...”

Learning to Learn

A major part of settling into school is learning to deal with life as part of a large group. Learning to share, take turns and wait for attention are all important life skills children need to develop and we need your help to encourage these positive behaviours. We know children respond more favourably to rewards rather than sanctions so if they come home covered in stickers, ask them what they've done, and if they can't remember, ask us! From time to time things will go wrong and it may be necessary to give a child "time out" so they can calm down and we can talk about what happened.

Every year we discuss with the children what our class rules should be. This year we decided upon:

- Be kind
- Tell the truth
- Look after our school and our belongings
- Listen to our friends and grown-ups

Our school behaviour policy can be found on our website.

We are always keen to reward positive behaviour and learning. When your child demonstrates these behaviours they earn reward points which lead to certificates being presented in Collective Worship on Friday afternoons.

Other Useful Information

What if my child is unwell?

If your child is not well enough to attend school please phone the office that morning, before 9.00 and leave a message. If your child has suffered from sickness or diarrhoea we ask that you keep them at home for 48 hours after it stops, to prevent the spread of infection.

What if my child has additional needs?

Before your child starts we will meet with yourselves and, where possible, their pre-school. All of your child's records will be passed on to us so we can continue providing the support that is required. If you have any concerns please talk to us!

What if my child is upset when I leave them?

Many children (not only in Reception) find it difficult to leave their parent. However they soon settle. It will be easier for you and your child if we work to establish a routine for saying a quick good-bye and then you go. I am happy to ring you at playtime to let you know how your child is getting on, but obviously I can only do this when absolutely necessary.

And finally...

Please make sure your child has regular hearing and sight checks to ensure any problems are spotted as soon as possible.

Useful Contacts

School office: 01249 812424

School email: admin@holytrinitycalne.wilts.sch.uk

My email: ajackson@holytrinitycalne.wilts.sch.uk

School website: <http://holytrinitycalne.co.uk/>

School address: Holy Trinity C of E Academy,
1 Quemerford,
Calne,
SN11 0AR