

Transition into St Anthony's Reception Classes

At St Anthony's, we feel a smooth transition into Reception is incredibly important for our smallest children. We know it is an exciting and special milestone starting school, but it can also be an anxious and scary time for our little ones and for their parents. Therefore, we have a number of transition steps in place to help with this. Our EYFS co-ordinator, teachers, teaching assistants and school INCO (Inclusion Co-ordinator), as well as our children's families are all involved at every step of the process.

Gathering Information:

In April the work starts to begin getting to know your children. Pre-schools and Nurseries begin to share information with us about your child. If your child does not go to a Preschool or Nursery, then we will contact you directly. The EYFS co-ordinator and INCO will then visit your child at their setting (or home). Questionnaires are sent home to gather information about each child and their family. This information helps us to better meet the needs of each child and tailor our resources, activities and environments to their interests.



Welcome Stay and Play

In May, all children who are new to our school are invited in with their parents for a Welcome Stay and Play visit. This is an opportunity for children and their families to explore the whole of the EYFS building, its outdoor areas and meet all our staff.

Nursery Play sessions

For those children who already attend our Nursery, we hold small sessions during the school day where they can play and explore in their new classroom and meet their new teacher, with the support of the Nursery staff. Their new teachers will also visit them in Nursery several times over the course of the summer term.

Lunch Visits

In July, all children are invited to attend a lunch visit. Before having lunch, children spend time in their new classroom to play, explore and meet their new teachers. We encourage mums and dads to leave their child at these visits to give children an opportunity of exploring setting independently. However, if needed, parents are welcome to stay to help settle their child. Children will be served lunch in our school dining room and get the chance to take part in story time.

Parent Meetings:

In July, parents are invited to attend a New to Reception Meeting. This meeting is run by the EYFS co-ordinator, Reception teachers and school INCO. At the meeting staff are introduced, routines, expectations and the curriculum are explained, along with everything you will need to start Reception. Further meetings are held in the Autumn Term to help with specific topics such as phonics. Information from these meetings can also be found on the school website.

September Staggered Starts:

In September, Reception children come into school on alternative days for the first few weeks of September. This is so that children get a chance to settle into their new school in smaller, quieter groups. We also find that spending the whole day in school can be a big jump for some of our children, and quite exhausting. During the first week of term, Nursery staff are on hand to help in the Reception classrooms.



Transition Booklets:

If we feel a child would benefit from a little extra support, or if a child has Special Educational Needs, we will send home a transition booklet. This booklet contains several photos and visual aids that can be used at home to prepare children for the move.

Soft Starts:

Only if we feel a child would benefit from a 'soft start' – meaning attending school for a few hours to begin with each day and then building up over time, then this is also a possible option that we can discuss with the school's INCO.

Welcome Assembly:

Once children are settled into Reception, both children and parents are invited to a special Welcome Assembly, where each child and family are officially welcomed into our school community and given welcome cards designed and created by our older children.