



Saint James Church of England Primary



Starting School in Year R September 2024



A Warm Welcome!

We are thrilled that you are joining the Saint James family and look forward to getting to know you over the coming months.

Starting school is a very exciting and busy time in a child's life and we will make this transition as smooth as possible. This booklet provides you with the key dates and information you will need and aims to answer many of the questions you are likely to have, as your child starts school.



Important Dates before Starting School

Please come to as many of these events as possible. If your child sees you being confident and happy about them starting school, they will learn to trust and like school, which will make it much easier for them on their first day in September. Please arrange an appointment with your child's teacher if your child has needs that you want to discuss in greater depth.

DATES	DETAILS OF TRANSITION EVENTS 2024
Thursday 6th June 5pm – 6pm	Starting school induction meeting for parents only to be held in Saint James school hall. Come along to get important information about starting school, try our school dinners and ask lots of questions! You will find out your child's class teacher at this meeting.
Thursday 20th June 3.30pm-4.30pm	Children only. Please bring your child to their classroom door, where they will enter on their own without parents. 'Stories and Rhymes'
Thursday 27th June – 9.20am to 11.15am (Children) 9.30am - 11.00am (Parents School Readiness Workshop)	Children only Another opportunity for your child to meet their teacher and see how happy they are when playing at school. You need to bring a snack for your child for a small class picnic. Parents please drop off at class then head to the hall for our School Readiness Workshop.
Wednesday 3rd July 3.30pm-4.30pm	Children only 'Getting ready for school - Stay and Play' session in the classroom. Please bring a picture that you have drawn and coloured at home for us to display in the classroom. Please bring your child to their classroom door, where they will enter on their own without parents. You do not need to stay on site.

This information was correct at the time of printing.

STARTING SCHOOL IN THE AUTUMN TERM

We will be welcoming in half the class at a time:

Group A – Child's surname A - K

Group B – Child's Surname L- Z

We will not be able to change the group your child is in.

Week 1:

Tuesday 3rd September and Wednesday 4th September Arrive 8.30 – 8.55, Pick up 15.00 – 15.20
(Group A)

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th September Arrive 8.30 – 8.55, Pick up 15.00 – 15.20 (Group B)

Week 2:

Monday 9th September all the children will be full time every day. Arrive 8.30 – 8.55, pick up 15.00 – 15.20 (The Whole Class)

What will my child need?

If your child is the eldest in the family, one of the biggest shocks you may have, upon them starting school, is how easily children lose their belongings! Please **name absolutely everything** clearly, so that your child is able to read it themselves.

Please practise putting it on and taking it off during the summer holidays, particularly coats, jumpers' cardigans and shoes.

School Uniform:

- School trousers, pinafore dress, knee-length shorts or skirt grey
- Shirt with collar or polo shirt white
- Jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan (not fleece jackets) royal blue.
- Socks – plain grey or white
- Tights – plain grey
- Summer gingham dress blue and white gingham
- Shoes Black, flat, practical school shoes (boots are not permitted at school; trainers are only permitted for PE)

In Year R:

- Waterproof coat and trousers in a kit bag
- Welly boots

PE kit

- White t-shirt and navy or black shorts (navy is the school preference)
- Jogging bottoms for colder weather – navy or black (navy is the school preference)
- Royal blue sweatshirt / jumper / cardigan for colder weather (as worn with regular school uniform)
- N.B. Zipped / hooded tops are not permitted e.g. 'hoodies'.

Bring to school daily:

- A school book bag
- A filled water bottle (with water only, no squash or flavoured water)
- Reading Diary (this will be given to your child after their first few weeks at school)
- Reading books which will be changed weekly. (these will be given out after the first few weeks at school)

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- Socks (no tights) and trainers.

Food and Drink – ASPENS

School meals are provided free of charge for Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. Aspens - Offers a variety of choices, including a vegetarian option. Meals are ordered on the Aspen's website in advance Alternatively children can bring a packed lunch from home.



The children are also provided with a fruit snack every day and you can register your child to receive milk. Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Children over five are entitled to milk at a subsidised price of around £17 per term. Please visit www.coolmilk.com to register.

School's opening hours

Core hours:	8.55 – 15.00.
Staggered start:	8.30 – 8.55
Staggered exit:	15.00 – 15.20



See Hampshire County Council's website for term dates. There is also in this pack, which shows our inset days.

Tapestry

All children attending Year R have a personal on-line Learning Journey which records photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, to build a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. You will receive a secure login for you and your family to see what your child has been learning about in school and to tell us about the wonderful things they have been doing with you so that we can build a full picture of their interests and achievements.

Keeping your child safe!

Your welcome letter contained a link for you to provide information which will help us safeguard your child by looking after their health, wellbeing and safety. This will also give us the permission to ensure your child can participate in all aspects of school life. Please complete the form in full as soon as possible.

Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 sets out the statutory requirements regarding the learning, development, and welfare of

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your child. The profile works towards children achieving 17 Early Learning Goals across 7 areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

At the same time, we will also nurture positive learning behaviours and attitudes in your child that will stand them in good stead throughout their education. These are called the characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and thinking critically

The environment and learning activities will be designed in such a way to promote independent learning and creative thinking. We plan from individual children's level of development and interests and know the depth of learning that can be achieved when children learn through play with carefully pitched adult support.



We know that **outdoor learning** has an enormously positive effect on children's health, well-being and development. The children keep their own waterproof trousers and wellies in school in order to enjoy our outdoor learning environment in all weathers.

Pupil Premium

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, your child may qualify for Pupil Premium funding. The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families to succeed. If your child qualifies for this funding, they will continue to receive free school meals beyond KS1, and registering could raise an extra £1385 to help the school fund services such as ELSA support. This money can only be unlocked by completion of an online application form, and each year we miss out on thousands of pounds because parents are not aware that they qualify for this support.

If you receive any of the following benefits, please visit <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/> to apply. **You will need your NI number to apply.**

- Income Support
- income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance

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- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income, of no more than £16,190 as assessed by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (Parents who are made redundant or start working less than 16 hours per week, may find their children are entitled to free meals for a limited period.)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

No other benefits qualify for free school meals from Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5, 6) or for the pupil premium for Reception Year and Key Stage 1 (years 1, 2).

Other Useful Information.

Attendance -Children should attend school every day unless a valid reason for absence has been given e.g. illness, hospital appointment. If attendance falls below 95% the school begins monitoring more closely; attendance below 90% is considered 'persistent absence' and action will be taken to help families improve their child's attendance.

Birthdays – We will celebrate children's birthdays in class but please do not bring any cake or sweets as we are unable to share food from home with other children at school. We cannot give out class lists for birthday invitations.

Confidentiality – confidentiality and data protection are taken seriously at school. We will not discuss your child with other families, and likewise we will not discuss other people's children with you. Anything you tell us will be kept confidential in school or shared with other external professionals if appropriate.

Fruit – All the children are offered a small piece of fruit every day as part of a Government funded scheme.

Head Bumps – if your child has a minor head bump at school they will bring home a head bump note.

Keyrings – please attach a keyring to your child's bookbag so they know it is theirs!

Medicine – ALL medicine must be prescription & be handed in directly via the office and a medical form completed. The class teacher is not able to take any medicine from you to hold in book bags or class.

Nits – please make sure all longer hair is tied up to avoid the spread of nits.

Nuts- we are strictly a nut free school – no nuts please in any lunchboxes and this includes hazelnut flavour e.g. in chocolate spread or kinder biscuits.

And Finally!

We recognise that children are not the only ones who are anxious about them starting school. Please ask all the questions that you want (none are too daft!) There are also some helpful information leaflets about starting school on our website. If you have any questions you would like answered before we meet, please do not hesitate to ring the school office on **023 8090 0995** or email j.hobbs@st-james-westend.hants.sch.uk

Mrs J Hobbs (EYFS Leader)