



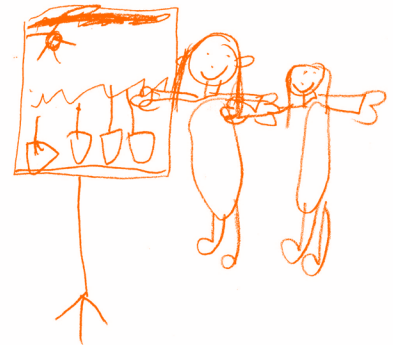
Starting School



Preparing for School

We look forward to welcoming your child and you into our classroom. Hopefully, we will have answered most of your questions during our New Parents meeting. If you have any further questions or queries please come and speak to us before your child starts school.

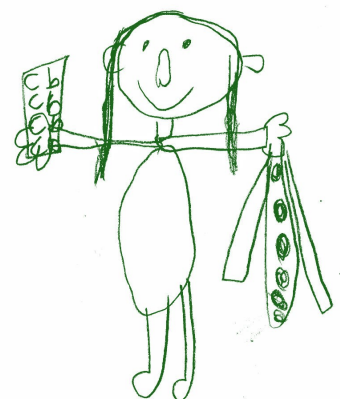
Here are a few things that will help prepare your child for school that you could perhaps devote some time to over the holidays. We are sure you probably do many of these anyway but here is a reminder!



- Talk to your child about starting school
- Share your positive experiences of school with them
- Listen to and tell stories
- Conversation about everything and anything!
- Looking at books -sharing stories about school
- Make books about school
- Listening to story tapes
- Singing Nursery Rhymes
- Painting, drawing and colouring
- Cutting and sticking
- Jigsaws
- Play dough
- Role-play, play schools with your child



We will encourage your child to be as independent as possible in school and there are some things which we hope your child will be able to do, with little or no support.



Learning in the first few months

During the first year at school we follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This includes 7 areas of learning; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

When your child joins us they will have already had a great deal of learning experiences with you and in the Nursery/Pre-School Setting. To help your child settle, in the first few weeks there will be both familiar and new experiences to stimulate and excite. We will strive to follow your individual child's interests. In line with the EYFS Practice Guidance we will not be teaching formal reading or writing immediately. During the first half term we will focus on the importance of Personal, Social and Emotional development. For your child to begin learning they must feel confident and secure. There will be an emphasis on developing speaking and listening and fine motor skills.

Outdoor learning is an important part of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. We have extensive school grounds which we will make good use of during the Autumn term and throughout the year.

PLEASE BRING IN NAMED WELLIES AND WATERPROOFS; WE WOULD LIKE THESE TO BE ABLE TO STAY IN SCHOOL.



Learning Journeys

Throughout your child's time in the Reception class we will be compiling a 'Learning Journey' for your child. This is a book with photographs, pieces of work and things your child has said. This will provide evidence of their progress towards the Early Learning Goals which will be reported to you at the end of the year in a written report. Your child will be able to keep this very special and unique book when they leave the Reception class.

Wow sheets

We encourage you to celebrate your child's achievements and to share with us those special 'wow' moments from home. These will be incorporated into your child's learning journey.



School Routines

Children will attend school from 8.55am to 3:15pm. You and your child are invited into the classroom from 8:45am where you may stay and settle your child (we ask that you do not enter the cloakroom until you are invited in - please respect our preparation time).

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL BEFORE 8:45AM. THE SCHOOL IS NOT LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD BEFORE THIS TIME. THANK YOU.

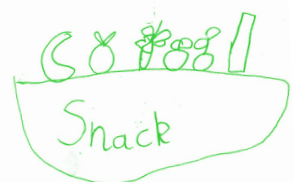
When school has finished your child should be collected from outside the classroom at 3:15pm. Please let us know if somebody other than yourself, will be picking up your child from school. We will continue to use the password system set up in the Nursey.

Morning break-time snack

St Stephen Churchtown Academy has Healthy School Status. We encourage our children to make healthy food choices throughout the day. One type of fruit or vegetable is offered to every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 every day. The vegetables and fruits offered include; cherry tomatoes, carrots, cucumber, apples, bananas, pears, satsumas and strawberries.

Please do not send your child into school with snacks from home as we encourage ALL children to have a taste of the fruit/vegetable offered (even if it's just a lick).

Children are also given milk every day provided through the Cool Milk Scheme.



Water

Children learn best when they are hydrated. Cups of water are available in the classroom throughout the day.



Lunchtime

Lunch is from 12:00pm -1:00pm. This can be a difficult time for some children. The class has their own lunchtime supervisor who will help your child with all the dining hall routines. We will have lunch with the children for the first few weeks until they feel happy and confident. Please ensure your child can open their lunchbox/ drink bottles / containers. Cups and water are provided on every table.

From September 2014 all Reception and Key Stage 1 children will be entitled to a free school meal under a new government initiative called Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM). This is optional and your child may still bring in a packed lunch if preferred. Menus are available from the school office.



Absence

Parents should notify the school immediately if your child is absent by contacting the school office before 9:30 a.m. When your child returns to school a written note is also required.

If your child becomes unwell whilst at school you will be contacted, so please ensure your contact numbers are always up to date. We recommend that you keep your child at home for 48 hours following sickness or diarrhea, to prevent infection spreading.

Medication in school

There are times when your child may need to take prescription medication at school. Please hand these into the office, clearly labelled with the child's name and dose.

If your child uses an inhaler there is an asthma register at school. Please enquire at the school office for the form. All inhalers must be clearly named in a box or bag and handed in to the School Office.

First Aid

There is a qualified first aider available at every break and lunch time, who can administer basic first aid. If your child comes home with a 'bumped head' letter, this means they have had a small knock and a cold compress applied. If we feel the bump is more serious you will be contacted immediately via a text messaging service.



Head lice

A letter will be sent home with your child if an incident of head lice is found in your child's class. There are a number of effective preventions and treatments available from chemists or on line www.nitnurse.org.

School Uniform

- Royal blue school jumper/ cardigan or sweatshirt jumpers can be ordered on line from Tesco (please see enclosed form)

- . Grey/ black trousers, skirt, shorts
- . White cotton shirt or polo shirt
- . Blue check gingham dress (Summer term)

School shoes—black school shoes, ideally these should be fastened by Velcro to make life easier for your child. Trainers are not considered ideal footwear.

P.E kit

- . White t-shirt
- . Royal blue shorts (Supermarket)
- . Black plimsolls/ velcro trainers

Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn in school. If ears are pierced stud earrings only should be worn in school.



PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM, SHOES, PLIMSOLLS, P.E. KIT, AND COATS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME.

Class names and teachers;

ONAN - Mrs Randles/Mrs Wright

DEW - Mrs Ellis

Useful Contacts

School office: 01726 822568

E-mail secretary@ststephenchurchtown.org.uk

Web site: www.st-stephen-churchtown.cornwall.sch.uk

We hope you have found this booklet useful, further more detailed information is available in our school prospectus on the website. Please speak to us if you have any further questions or queries.