



# Welcome to St Mary's Infant School



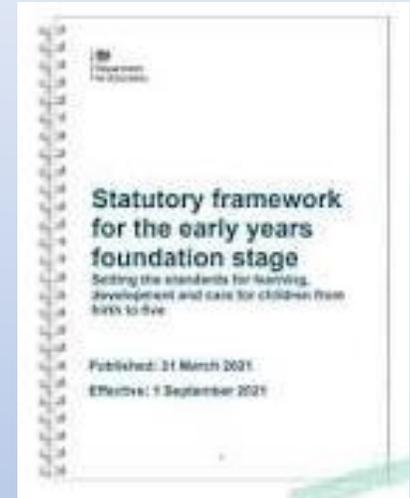
Sharing Caring, Learning and Loving with God

# Miss Edey

- Vision
- 6 key ideals
- Values

# Aim

- To introduce you to St Mary's Infant School
- To give you an overview of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and what your child will be learning
- To provide ideas of how we can effectively work together and how you can best support your child at home



# Meet the Team

Headteacher – Miss Edey



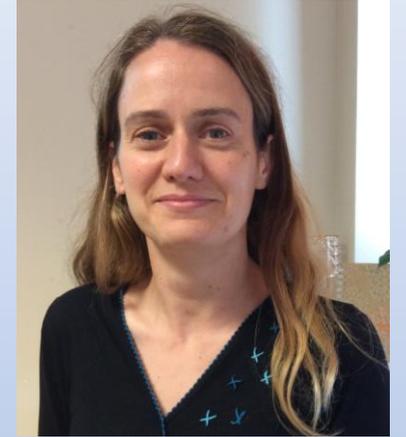
INCO – Mr Smith



Pastoral lead Mrs Archer



Deputy head - Mrs Thorpe



Starlight Class Teacher  
Mrs Thomas



Class TA  
Mrs Green



Sunshine Class Teacher  
Miss Farrant



Speech and language TA  
Mrs Evans



# Why is transition so important for your child?

## **Transition: A process not an event**

- This year transition has been challenging due to the current pandemic. We will work with you to ensure it is as smooth and happy transition as possible for your child.
- Each child is different and some may take a little longer to settle.
- Our transition processes are based on the best interests and needs of your child.
- We will work with you to help your child to settle and be confident in their new surroundings.

# Getting to know you and your child

## **We will do this by:**

- Information gathered from you and the previous setting
- Transition for each child has been carefully planned with you and the Early Years leader
- Opportunities to ask questions and share concerns either by email, phone or Class Dojo

**This booklet shows your child what their new classroom will look like.**



**This booklet gives you ideas and ways you can help your child be ready for school in September**

NB, You will receive these in your transition pack

# Transition into Reception

This will be a short, part-time staggered approach

Week 1 of term Thursday and Friday 2nd and 3rd September: The children attend for half a day. Half of the class in the morning and half in the afternoon.

Week 2 of term: The same as week 1

Week 3 of term: All pupils attend for the morning and stay for lunch, finishing at 1.10pm.

Week 4 of term: All pupils attend full time.

We encourage you to phone the school, email or send a Dojo if you need to discuss anything as the teaching staff need to focus on settling the children. We found last year that the children settled very quickly when parents were not allowed on the premises as it allowed them to develop their independence and develop relationships with the adults in the setting. NB, Please be aware that we do not know which Covid 19 restrictions will be in place in September.

Please note we realise children have different needs and some will require more time and support to do this in a happily and confidently.

# Starlight class or Sunshine class?

- The children have been allocated one of the classes based on what we know about them already. These groupings are not set in stone and could change if we feel it would be beneficial to the classes.
- We will confirm classes at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week at school (When the classes attend together in the morning and stay for lunch).
- You will receive a letter tomorrow to inform you which class your child has been placed in and if they will be attending in the morning or the afternoon transition sessions.

# What will my child be learning?

<b>Prime Areas of Learning</b> These are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving	<b>Specific Areas of Learning</b> These strengthen and apply the prime areas
Personal, Social and Emotional	Literacy
Communication and Language	Mathematics
Physical Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

# How does my child learn?

Characteristics of Effective Learning

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

### Playing and exploring - engagement

- finding out and exploring
- using what they know in their play
- being willing to have a go

### Active learning – motivation

- being involved and concentrating
- keeping on trying
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do

### Creating and thinking critically

- having their own ideas
- using what they already know to learn new things
- choosing ways to do things and finding new ways

Alongside the Areas of Development we look at the ways in which children learn.

The focus of the Characteristics of Effective Learning is on how children learn rather than what they learn i.e. process over outcome. This allows for teachers/practitioners to provide the right type of learning opportunities.

# Daily routines

8.50am Arrival and registration  
Phonics – when settled  
Grow time (Child initiated learning)  
Children are able to help themselves to snack

11.40 Maths learning

12.00 LUNCH

1.00pm Literacy time  
Grow time (Child initiated learning)

2.50pm Class worship

3.10pm Home

# Daily routines continued

- The school gates open at 8.45am, class doors open at 8.50am, class starts at 9.00am when the gates will be locked. If you arrive after this time, you will need to bring your child through the main reception area.

- You will need to help your child select their lunch for the day before you say goodbye to them. They have a choice of a hot meal, a vegetarian meal, a packed lunch, a jacket potato with a filling or a home packed lunch every day.



- If your child is ill we require a telephone message on the first day of absence. We operate a first day response system where by we will phone you if your child is absent and the school office have not received a message by 9.15am.
- If your child receives any first aid treatment you will receive a First Aid form at the end of the day explaining what happened and the treatment, if any, that was given.



- It is not possible for medicine to be given in school by staff. You are welcome to arrange to come into school and give the medicine personally. Arrangements will be made with individual parents for chronic illness. Where children have a serious recurring medical problem, the teacher should be informed in writing. The information will be added to the school records.

# How we teach - Continuous provision

Our setting has been planned to ensure that it is an enabling environment that allows the children to have a deep level of engagement in the activities that they choose to access.

Planning in the moment is all about seizing the moment for children to progress. Based on what the children are already deeply involved in, this way of planning relies on skilled practitioners using quality interactions to draw out the children's knowledge and build on it there and then (in the moment). This means that the practitioner uses skills to observe what the child is doing and needs to do next, assesses the **teachable moment** from the child's perspective and be skilled enough to know when to intervene and when to stand back and observe.

Planning in the moment is all about capturing the moment of engagement and running with it to make sure the children progress.

## **Grow time – Child initiated learning**

Child-initiated learning has an important role in children's learning and development, because children explore and learn from their own thoughts and ideas through the freedom and creativity that child-initiated play enables. We have named our child initiated learning time 'Grow Time' as the children are developing allowing them to flourish into growth mindset learners.

# Handwriting - see the 'Helping your child to read and write' booklet.

Handwriting is taught using the Penpal Handwriting scheme. In term 1, in reception, the children begin by developing their fine motor skills by forming patterns. In Term 2 and 3 the children are introduced to and practice the different letter families:

Long – legged giraffe letters:

l, i, t, u, j, y

One- armed robot letters:

r, b, n, h, m, k, p

Curly caterpillar letters:

c, a, d, o, s, g, q, e, f

Zig – zag monster letters:

z, x, v, w

# Reading - see the 'Helping your child to read and write' booklet.

- The children begin to learn to read when they listen and share books with others. It is important that you talk to the children about the different print concepts that were mentioned in the 'Helping your child to read and write' booklet that you were given in your information pack.
- Ask your child questions about what is happening in the book, the different characters and what they think they might be feeling and why.
- When your child begins school in the first few weeks they will receive a wordless reading book. It is important to look at these books with your child and discuss it with them.
- Children will only be given a reading book with words when their teacher feels they are ready. They will need to be able to discuss the print concepts, recognise and say the sounds a number of letters make, segment and blend the sounds in words to say the word and read a number of the tricky or common exception words by sight.

# School uniform

- Grey pinafore dress or grey skirt
- White polo shirt
- Blue and white checked or striped dress for summer
- Grey trousers long or short
- Cardigan or sweatshirt with the school logo (at least one for school photos and trips)
- Sensible black school shoes that your child is able to put on and take off independently
- White, black or grey socks or tights.



No other jewellery is permitted except one pair of stud earrings, which will need to be removed for P.E.

## P.E. in reception

For the first half term we will not have a discrete P.E. lesson. We will inform you in plenty of time of when your child will need to wear their P.E. kit to school.

# What else to bring

- A blue book bag available from The Uniform Monkeys - <https://theuniformmonkeys.co.uk/>
- A named water bottle, which is washed and refilled before returning to school each day. Water is the only drink permitted in these bottles.
- If you wish to send your child in with a packed lunch please ensure that this is in a sealed, named lunchbox. We ask that lunches are healthy and balanced and do not contain fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolates.
- The children have free flow access to our outside area, no matter what the weather, therefore they will need a names pair of wellington boots that will be left at school and they must wear suitable outdoor clothing to school.

# School lunch

- Every child is entitled to a free school meal in the infants.
- They have a choice of a hot meal, a vegetarian meal, a packed lunch, a jacket potato with a filling or a home packed lunch every day.
- Please note this offer might be different due to Covid 19.

# House teams

We have house teams through out the school:

- There are 5 different teams – Oak, Rowan, Ash, Sycamore, Hazel and Horse Chestnut
- Each child will be allocated a team. We have tried to put family members into the same team through the different year groups.
- The children will be awarded points when they display the following learning behaviours during the school day:

Perseverance

Resilience

Responsibility

Contribution

Self-motivation

Collaboration

Independence

Effective questioning

Active listening

Proactive

Research

Risk taking

Growth mindset

Metacognition

Problem solving

Promoting safeguarding

# We support learning at home in a variety of different ways

- Every week, 3 children from each class are chosen to be the focus children. You will receive a letter home the week before to inform you and you will be asked to complete a form to inform us of anything significant happening in your child's life and will be able to ask questions about anything you would like to know about your child's progress and development. The week after you will be invited in to have a 10 minute consultation which is an open discussion to share your child's learning journey.
- Parent/ carer workshops (for example, how to support early reading)
- Information and tips in newsletters and the school website
- Home/school learning packs to develop speaking and listening skills
- Helping your child with maths booklet
- Helping your child to read and write booklet (both of these booklets will be sent with the information pack)

# How we communicate with you

Communication is so important. It plays a huge role in ensuring that you are regularly sharing information with us to best support your child.

We do this by...

- Termly parent consultation meetings (when your child is a focus child)
- Stay and Play sessions
- ERIC (Everyone Reads In Class) sessions – every Friday once the children are settled
- Fortnightly fliers
- Class Dojo
- Half termly newsletters
- Email [admin@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk)
- School Website [stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk](http://stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk)
- School Gateway – a payment and form system which we use for trip payments and communication via emails and text messages including school newsletters. Please sign up to the School Gateway on the website [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com)

# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



- Your child will only be allowed to be collected from school by an adult who is named on their 'home time collection consent form'. If you have an ad hoc arrangement then this must be given in writing to the class teacher.
- If you drive your child to school please ensure that you park safely away from the school entrance and do not use the staff car park as there is limited space and access.
- All visitors and volunteers have the required DBS checks and safeguarding training before working in the school.
- We teach the children about e-safety during Safer Internet Day and in our PSHE lessons.

# What is ST MARY'S PTA?

- A PTA is a school association run to organize events to raise money to deliver exciting enrichment opportunities for children.
- At many institutions across the country, PTAs represent a fundraising team to plug the gap between central funding and the REAL cost of education.
- For St Mary's PTA, we believe that your children deserve the very best start in their primary school education and we want to continue to deliver lovely experiences for them that they will treasure forever.

# THROUGH FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, St Mary's School PTA SINCE 2019 HAS PAID FOR:

- A DEFIBRILLATOR! Let's hope we never need it, but it's there!
- Reindeer Encounter Day for all children
- Birds of Prey Encounter
- Egg Hunts for all children at Infants/Juniors
- Infants: Panto Experience, Animal Encounter & End of Year Trips
- Juniors: Met the funding gap for the new projector at Juniors & funded brand new disco lighting and stage lighting for Juniors
- Graduation gifts for Infants and Juniors Leavers

# WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

- You might just be surprised! It's a highly rewarding, fun way of giving back to a school that is going to provide your children with a wonderful start in their education.
- Quote from an anonymous parent:  
"I have to admit, I was initially a bit anxious about getting involved with the PTA – I had visions of being expected to commit large chunks of my time to the school, but that's not the case. The truth is that any help I can provide is very much appreciated, it gives me a huge sense of satisfaction and I'm having fun too!"

## PTA MEETINGS FOR 2021/2:

- Friday 1st October - 2pm @ Juniors
- Tuesday 2nd November - 9.30am @ Virtually by ZOOM
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 9.30am @ Infants
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January – 7.30pm @ Virtually by ZOOM

**For further information contact Emma Rowe –  
PTA Chair**

[pta@stmarysinfants.Herts.sch.uk](mailto:pta@stmarysinfants.Herts.sch.uk)

[pta@st-marysjm-Baldock.Herts.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-marysjm-Baldock.Herts.sch.uk)

# Question Time

No question is a silly question...

Any questions?

If anyone has anything they would like to ask or tell the class teacher please feel free to contact the school by phone on 01462 892347 or on the following email address [admin@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk) or send a Class Dojo message.

NB, If you have a query or concern once your child starts school, you should first speak to your class teacher. If you are not happy that it has been resolved or answered then you can contact the Early Years Leader, then the Deputy Head and lastly the Head teacher.

NB, Please note, due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, all of the plans we have put in place maybe subject to change due to government guidelines. We will inform you of any changes as they occur.