

Welcome to St Andrew's Nursery



Nursery Parent and Carers Handbook 2020

Starting Nursery at St Andrew's Church School Bath

St Andrew's Church School is looking forward to welcoming you and your child into our Nursery class which is part of our Foundation Stage Unit. We are very excited and feel privileged to be part of your journey.

We hope you find this handbook useful. Our aim is to ensure that all our children have a happy and enjoyable nursery experience where a life-long passion for learning is ignited. Our relationship with you is vital in ensuring that this learning journey is successful. We are thoroughly looking forward to getting to know you all as a family.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions that you may have about Nursery and provide you with helpful information before your child starts in September. We are always available to answer any further questions, queries, or concerns that you may have, so please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

T 01225 310135

E Office@standrewsbath.bwmat.org





Our Ethos

We believe that children develop best through a child-initiated approach to learning. We take time to carefully observe children in their child-led play and supporting them in moving forward. This is balanced with the teaching team skillfully interacting with the children, encouraging problem solving, questioning, positive learning behaviours and a joy of learning and exploring. This is balanced with a range of adult-led sessions to build their basic skills in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Documenting Learning

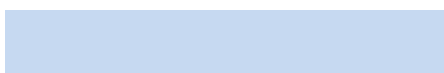
Children's learning is carefully documented through observation notes and photos. These are created into wonderful learning journey books that will enable you to feel connected to the progress your child is making. We welcome parents to contribute to these with 'wow' moments from home. We also use a secure online Learning Platform called 'Microsoft Teams'. This tool allows us to upload home learning, share information and communicate with you regarding key events. Once term has started in September you will be provided with your login and password.

We will also hold regular parent consultation meetings with you on the progress your child is making and how you can support them at home.

St Andrew's Church School Values

We have 7 values at St Andrew's that underpin everything we do. Both the behaviour system and our reward systems are intrinsically linked to the values.

Love Friendship Peace Courage Justice Hope Creativity



Our Curriculum

Our curriculum offers a wide spectrum of exciting opportunities for learning and creative thinking. Follow the link to find out more about our Curriculum Intent and whole school curriculum, Schools Without Walls and our Green Classrooms Project.

<http://standrewsprimarybath.com/curriculum>

In Early Years we follow Development Matters in the EYFS. This link will take you to the full curriculum:

<http://standrewsprimarybath.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Development-Matters-in-the-Foundation-Years.pdf>

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is broad and balanced and is split into 'prime' and 'specific' areas of learning. The practitioners in the Early Years expertly weave all the different elements together to allow the children to experience all 17 areas through different and creative learning experiences. Much of this is child-led, skillfully directed by the teaching team providing provocations to inspire their curiosity. The classroom and outdoor areas are arranged to encourage children to make independent choices. The children gain a strong sense of ownership of their learning through the choices they make within the environment. We also use the Characteristics of Effective Learning when planning and consider the children's learning styles and preferences, encouraging children to be adventurous and challenge themselves.

Areas of Learning and Development			
Prime Areas			
The prime areas begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences and run through and support learning in all other areas. The prime areas continue to be fundamental throughout the EYFS.			
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Communication and Language	
Making Relationships Self Confidence and Self Awareness Managing Feelings and Behaviour	Moving and Handling Health and Self-Care	Listening and Attention Understanding speaking	
Specific Areas			
The specific areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas and provide important contexts for learning.			
Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
Reading Writing	Numbers Shape, Space and Measure	People and Communitites The World Technology	Exploring and Understanding Media and Materials Being Imaginative
Characteristics of Effective Learning			
Playing and Exploring - engagement	Active Learning - motivation	Creating and Thinking Critically - thinking	
Finding out and exploring Playing with what they know Being willing to 'have a go'	Being involved and concentrating Keeping trying Enjoying achieving what they set out to do	Having their own ideas Making links Choosing ways to do things	

Communication and Language



Children are given opportunities to experience a language rich environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations. We encourage this in many ways such as in Circle Time, Philosophy for Children, Collective Worship, Helicopter Stories as well as role-play and support in their child- initiated play.

Physical Development

We provide opportunities for children to be active and interactive; to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children are taught to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices relation to food. When children show an interest in drawing mark making, they will be supported in holding a pencil comfortably. When children show an interest in writing and forming letters, they will be encouraged to use the cursive script, following the whole school approach. We also go on weekly Welly Walks from Term 2.



in
and

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We teach the children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, to form positive relationships and develop respect for others. We support the development of social skills and teach children skills to recognise and manage their feelings. Children are taught to have confidence in their own abilities and to have a growth mind-set for learning.

Literacy

Literacy development involves exploring activities that promote and develop listening and attention skills, communication and pre-writing skills. These skills begin through group discussions, talking to and listening to others, and develop through singing and learning a large repertoire of songs and nursery rhymes as well as learning key texts linked to their topic using a Talk4Writing approach. Key texts include stories, songs and poems. They adapt these texts and learn to create their own stories. Early writing is encouraged, and children are given lots of opportunities to explore drawing, mark making and writing.



Mathematics

We provide children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, through games and singing. Children are supported to find mathematical problems in their play and ways to solve these using mathematical skills, such as sharing toys fairly between children, or making a tower tall enough for their animal to sit in.





Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.



Expressive Arts and Design

We enable children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, roleplay, design and technology.

Play – what does it mean? The word play is used in many ways at St Andrew's. We define 'play' as an active method of learning which engages children's attention and interest and provides them with opportunities to develop their skills in all areas of the curriculum.

Play activities fall into one of the following areas: -

- A planned activity supported by an adult (adult initiated)
- A planned activity which children can explore independently (child initiated)
- Playtime when the children can socialise with children from other classes.

A Typical Day



8.50am Register and classroom activities

9.20-9.40am Group time

9.40-10.50am Snack & inside/outside learning

10.50-11.00am Tidy up time

11.00-11.45am Group time

11.45-12.45pm Lunch & playtime

12.45-1.05pm Group time

1.05-2.40pm Snack & inside/outside learning

2.50-3.15pm Story time

3.15pm Home time



Whole School Community

You and your child will be fully connected with the rest of the school and once the children are settled in, they will begin to attend celebration assemblies. We use St Swithin's Church for our Christmas, Easter and Leavers Services. All families are invited to join these assemblies. The St Swithin's Team support the school in many ways. The Church also run lots of events at the weekends and holidays.

The children in Year 6 are trained as 'Playground Pals'. They join the younger children at lunchtimes and support play and teach new games. The children in Key Stage 2 will also visit the classrooms to read stories and join in play with the children.



St Andrew's Church School Uniform Overview

You may choose to wear school uniform. However, this is not a requirement in nursery

SCHOOL UNIFORM

- pale blue polo shirt
- bright blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- dark grey charcoal school trousers
- grey or black socks
- black shoes (no trainers or open toed shoes)
- pale blue or white polo shirt
- bright blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- dark grey charcoal school trousers
- white, grey or black socks
- grey or black tights
- dark grey shorts
- blue/white check summer dress

PE KIT

- white PE t-shirt
- navy shorts
- black daps
- drawstring PE bag

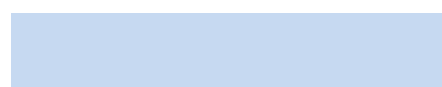
OPTIONAL ITEMS AVAILABLE TO BUY

- book bag with school logo
- reversible fleece with school logo
- rain jacket with school logo

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Shoes – sensible flat black shoes must always be worn. Trainers, ankle boots, strappy or open toed shoes are not permitted.
- Coats – all children need a coat in cold or wet weather. An optional school reversible jacket is available to buy.
- Jewellery and make up – no jewellery (except small stud earrings) or make up, including nail varnish, is permitted.
- Watches – if watches are worn, children must be responsible for them.
- Hair – any hair accessories should be small and preferably blue. Long hair should be tied back for safety.

Further information of stockists is in your induction pack



Outdoor Clothing

We go outside in all weathers and this can sometimes result in children getting wet or muddy. It is essential for the development of young children's learning to be able to explore the different elements the outdoors has to offer. Therefore, children need to be prepared for all kinds of weather.



wellington boots (clearly named and to be kept at school)

waterproof jacket

hats, scarves, gloves

sunhats (please apply sun-cream before school)

Changes of clothes

Sometimes the children can get a bit messy or have the occasional accident. A spare change of clothes that can be kept at school would be helpful. Please put all items in a **named** bag.

It is important that all items of clothing worn in school are **named**. Sometimes things do go missing and with all uniform looking the same it is difficult for the children to correctly identify their own items of clothing!

ALL OF THE ITEMS ABOVE NEED TO BE AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES PLEASE (if children do come home with a bag of clothes to be washed please ensure they are returned to school as soon as possible).

Things to bring to school

Clothes Bag – Each day, please bring in a bag with several changes of clothes. These bags are also essential as they are the best way for us to send things home without them getting damaged or lost. They are a place for children to keep their important letters and any pictures they have produced. Please check their bags daily and ensure that any letters have been read.

Snack – Milk/water and fruit are provided. We also provide sandwiches as some form of carbohydrates during the day in addition to lunch. We do ask for a small contribution towards this and further information is in your welcome pack. Please send in a named water bottle.

Toys and Treasures – whilst we do not want to discourage children bringing in interesting things from home to share, we do want to ask that precious toys and objects do stay home. Children become very distressed when these things go missing or are played with by another child. There will be a set time when children can bring in objects for 'Show and Tell' and the staff will give you more information when you start in September.

Other Useful Information

School Attendance

Attending school every day will give your child the best possible start in life, enabling them to keep up with schoolwork and to make appropriate progress.

At St Andrew's we say that **EVERYDAY MATTERS** and **regular attendance means that your child must:**

- Attend school every day unless there are justified reasons
- Arrive at school on time

Sometimes your child will be unwell and will be unable to attend school. If your child is unwell on a school day, please advise the school office before 9.30am in person or by telephone on 01225 310135. If school is concerned by your child's non-attendance, the Headteacher will write to arrange an appointment to meet up with you to discuss this and will form a plan to assist you in increasing your child's school attendance again. The school may also involve other specialist professionals in child education to assist in this process.



Wrap Around Care

You will find information on our website for Percy Club and our Breakfast Club if you need care before and after the normal school day. This information will also be in your Welcome Pack.

<http://standrewsprimarybath.com/parent-info/breakfast-club>

<http://standrewsprimarybath.com/parent-info/percy-after-school-club>

Communication



Communication is very important between school and home. We do our very best to keep you informed of events and important information regularly. The regular school newsletter always contains a diary of up and coming dates for the term. This is available online and will also be emailed to you. It is essential that you check your child's bag every day to ensure that you do not miss out on important information.

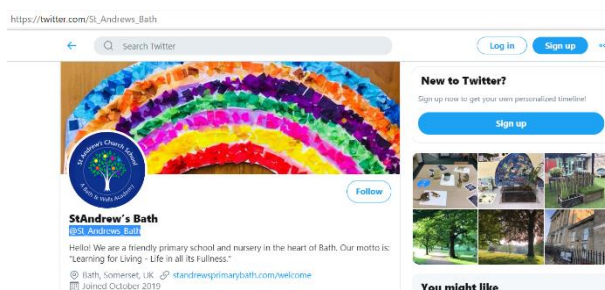
One of our main points of communication is via email. For this to be effective it is vital that we always

have your up-to-date contact details. If your details change then please let the Office know ASAP.

Please check our school website frequently as we endeavour to update the site regularly. Newsletters, children's work and photographs of current projects are posted on the site for your information. In addition, many school forms can be downloaded from the site and links to other important websites. Please save the address into your favourites and make a point of familiarising yourself with the features available on a regular basis. Additionally, you can follow the school on Twitter. Here we post tweets and photographs, and this is a great way of instantly finding out what is going on.

We are also using the Home Run App and you will be able to join this in September.

Twitter: @St_Andrews_Bath



Please look at the website for much more information, for Policies and other Key Documents.

Website: <http://standrewsprimarybath.com/>

Message from the Governors

Welcome to St Andrew's Church School community!

If you have a child at St Andrew's for the first time it can feel quite daunting for the whole family, but you will quickly feel the very special atmosphere of our school, where every child is valued.

With high quality teaching and curriculum, our primary aim is to enable each child to flourish and develop to their full potential whatever their circumstances or individual needs. We want to encourage curiosity and build life skills along with all areas of the curriculum.

Our wonderful teachers, teaching assistants and office staff have continued to support the children of key workers and others who have been in school during the lockdown, as well delivering lessons via technology for those at home. Our great PTA have always been supportive of the whole school community with social events as well as fundraising. We celebrate and respect the wide range of backgrounds our children come from and

want to narrow the achievement gap that is seen across the country.

Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (BWMAT)

The BWMAT is a group of primary schools across Bath and Somerset. The BWMAT offer practical guidance, oversight and organisational support

Mrs Jayne, Mrs Stephen,
Mrs Buckley and Miss
Sandey

The school leadership team, headed up by Mrs Jayne, run the school on a daily basis and are in charge of all the learning.

Governors

The role of Governors is to support the school but also hold it to account.

We work together as a community to support our learners.

Children

Staff team

Parents
and carers

Volunteers
Our volunteers read, help out with school trips and more

Our school is a community in every sense, with many people working together to support your child. The Governors are a part of this team and I hope the chart gives you an idea of how we fit in.

As a Governing body we try hard to be friendly and accessible, attending school for assemblies and visits as often as possible. If you would ever like to talk to one of us, then please do make contact. Several Governors are also parents (Jason Barker, Ruth Hand, Pete Rogers and Bryan Wong) and you can always contact me through the school office or by email if you prefer.

Louise.Leach@standrewsbath.bwmat.org

Louise Leach

Chair of Governors

Friends of St Andrew's



We have a wonderful parent community who support the school in so many ways. You will have more information about the Friends in your induction pack. There is also a section on our website <http://standrewsprimarybath.com/community/friends>



We hope you have found the information useful

See you soon!

With best wishes from all the St Andrew's Family