



St Dunstan's Catholic School

Drayton Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7LP



As we grow with God, we learn from each other

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your children to their new class! We are looking forward to a great year together.

Please find below some useful information about this year.

Key staff:

Reception Class Teachers: Mrs Harper, Mrs Anderson

Support Staff: Mrs Boyle, Miss Shirley, Miss Wawryka and Mrs Cox

Curriculum Themes and Topics:

As a Catholic school, our curriculum is taught through a Catholic lens: putting Jesus at the heart of all that we learn. We follow the 'Building the Kingdom' approach and these are themes for this year:

Autumn Term: Family and Community

Spring Term: Dignity of Work

Summer: Solidarity and the Common Good

These themes encompass the learning at St Dunstan's and are a focus for school life each term.

On our website, you will find details of what your child is currently learning:

<https://www.stdunstans.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Maps&pid=47>

Marvellous Me:

Marvellous Me is an app that parents should download so that they can be informed about their child's learning and progress at school on a daily basis. Children are awarded badges for a variety of reasons such as great effort, or beautiful manners and you will be notified of these via the App. Teachers will also send an activity home daily which shares with you what they learnt that day. Marvellous Me logins will be sent out to you.

PE:

PE days for Reception are on Wednesdays. However, opportunities for PE may arise at other moments, so PE kit needs to be in school at all times. Kit will be sent home at the end of every half-term, to be washed.

Birthdays:



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On their birthday, children can wear their own clothes. This means that everyone in and around school will know and be able to wish them a Happy Birthday! We do not allow sweets or chocolate to be brought in due to allergies in school.

Enrichment Days:

This year, we will be introducing 'Enrichment Day,' which are days dedicated to celebrating extra-curricular activities. We aim to provide our pupils with a wealth of enrichment experiences throughout their time at St Dunstan's.

- Autumn Term 25th October – Enrichment Day of Sports, Arts and Crafts
- Spring Term - 14th February – Enrichment Day of Sports, Arts and Crafts
- 11th April – 'No Pens Day'
- Summer Term – 9th May – Cultural Day
- 19th May – St Dunstan's Day

Parent Transition Meeting

On Monday 16th September, there will be a parent meeting for Reception parents to discuss expectations for this year and how you can best support your child at home.

There will also be a Phonics workshop later in the term to show you how phonics is taught at St Dunstan's and how you can support your child at home with Phonics. Dates and details of this will follow shortly.

Learning at Home

It is important that you support your child at home. It is our expectation that families will invest in the opportunities we provide at each year group and will be part of their child's learning journey in whatever capacity they feel able to.

In Reception Class, children and parents are expected to:

- Read every day – this can be sharing stories, making up stories in word free or picture books, spotting known words and letters, shared reading to model, independent reading as time goes on to listen to your child, then chat about the language and characters etc.

- Develop fine motor skills at home through play and focused activities (such as buttoning, sorting, gluing, using scissors, using playdough, drawing, tracing, copying, writing letters, names and labels using different types of pens/pencils to build finger strength)

- Practise handwriting regularly so that children start Year 1 with all of their letter and number shapes correct

- Practise phonics (phases 2–4) regularly with a big focus on the sounds they can hear in words and the corresponding letters/letter combinations that make those sounds



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- Play counting games/activities regularly to support number fluency and confidence
- Developing independency in increasing aspects of their life (dressing and undressing, pouring, using cutlery, going to the toilet properly by themselves etc.)

- Phonics and Reading

Please note that a reading book will be sent home by your child's class teacher, along with new sounds to practise on a weekly basis. Please read with your child every day and practise the new sounds we have learned in school. This will help to embed the learning taking place in school.

- Maths

Your child has login details for Numbots. <https://play.numbots.com/>

Your child's login details can be found at the front of their Reading Journal and on letters given out. Please contact us immediately if your child forgets their login details and we will ensure you get another copy. Please continue to support your child in this essential area.

It is recommended that children login regularly to practise their number bonds - regular practise will help embed number bonds to 10, which are an essential foundation in mathematics.

Wellness Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, children will have the opportunity to attend an after school club free of charge! Dates and details of the clubs for the Autumn term will be sent out shortly, with instructions about how to sign up to one of these clubs. Consent will need to be given and a commitment to attend every session.

School Fund:

Since the pandemic, School has not asked for a School Fund donation from families.

From

September we are kindly requesting that families make a voluntary donation of £30 per family. This donation is entirely voluntary and we would not wish for families to put themselves under any financial pressure in order to make it. School Fund will be used to provide for items, resources, experiences and activities which enhance and enrich the curriculum and therefore the children's learning experiences at school.

Thank you for supporting your child with their learning.



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We hope that you find this information useful. There will be further updates and communication throughout the term, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or you would simply like more information. We are here to help.

Yours sincerely,
The Early Years Team