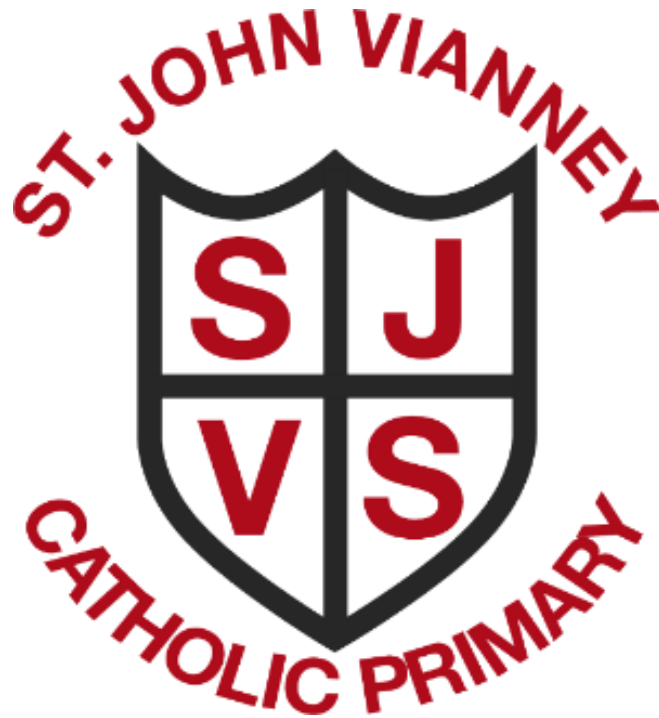


School Nursery Starter Pack



St John Vianney
Catholic Primary School
Pre-school



Welcome to SJV...



Every day is filled with fun and excitement!

We are delighted that your child is joining us and hope they will enjoy their time here at First Steps Preschool, St John Vianney Catholic Primary School. We are a thriving school community where high aspirations and a caring family ethos are at the heart of what we do.

At SJV, we pride ourselves on our proven ability to ensure all our children are happy, safe and reach their individual potential. We understand new beginnings, such as starting preschool are a big step for both you and your child. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that children

Settle into their new surroundings easily and happily.

Beginning preschool is a major event in the life of a three year old. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that you child is well prepared for this important event.

Please take time to read through this pack as it contains some useful information that will assist with the transition process and help your child to settle quickly into preschool.



Meet the team...



Mrs Milner

Class Teacher



Ms Chesworth

Teaching Assistant

We offer a safe, caring, stimulating and happy learning environment full of wonder and excitement, where children are given sense of belonging and a love of learning. Learning is made fun and practical. Children will have opportunities to work in large and small groups with a key person, as well as being able to access a range of resources independently.

We have high ambitions for all our children and recognise that children have different starting points to their learning. We plan according to each child's stage of development, to ensure everyone reaches their full potential. We aim for children to be well-rounded individuals who are independent, resilient, and confident in themselves and with others.

"My Promise To You"

I promise you every day
your child will learn something

Some days they will bring it home in their

HANDS.

Some days they will bring it home in their

HEADS,

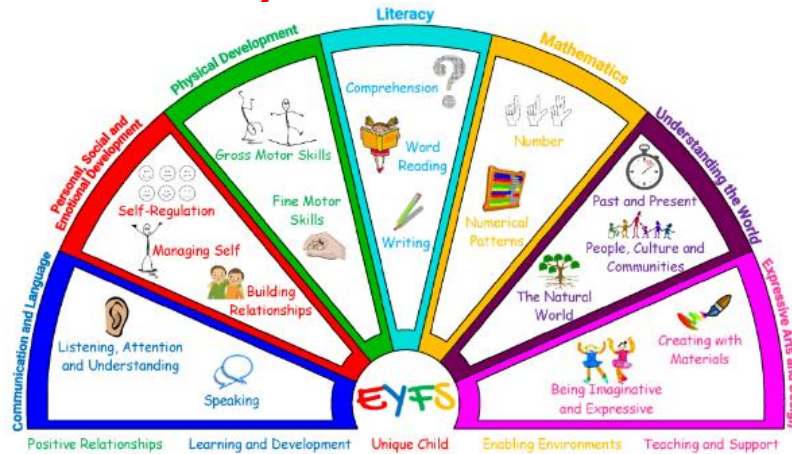
and some days they will bring it home in
their

HEARTS.

By Valerie Welk



The Early Years Curriculum...



At SJV, children in our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage using the Development Matters document. More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is available on the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>



The Development Matters document is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64e6002a20ae890014f26cbc/DFE_Development_Matters_Report_Sep_2023.pdf



At St John Vianney, we believe in educating the whole child, focusing on intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and creative growth, valuing the rich diversity of culture the children bring to the classroom.

The curriculum is carefully planned with children learning through a combination of teacher/pupil-initiated activities and play. We consider play to be an important educational activity enabling children to practice and consolidate a variety of skills. Each day, your child will be involved in a wide variety of activities which will encourage learning in an enjoyable and stimulating way.

In planning and guiding what children learn, teachers must reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice appropriately. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- **Playing and Exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- **Active Learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things



There are seven areas of learning which form part of the EYFS curriculum planning. The EYFS is split into two areas called 'The Prime Areas' and 'The Specific Areas'.

Prime Areas

- **Communication and Language** - includes listening, attention, understanding and speaking.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - includes self-regulation, managing themselves and their feelings and building relationships.

- **Physical Development** - includes gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Specific Areas

- **Literacy** - includes comprehension, word reading and writing.
- **Mathematics** - includes number and number patterns.
- **Understanding the World** - includes Science, History, Geography, and R.E.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** - includes art, music, role-play and drama.

We follow the Read Write Inc synthetic phonics scheme. This will teach your child how to recognise letters, say the sound correctly and learn how to form our letters correctly in readiness for writing.



Literacy teaching is focussed on quality texts and are linked to topics and children's interests. Whole class teaching takes place daily in addition to small group and individual work.



NCETM
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE
IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS



Maths teaching follows the Master the curriculum nursery scheme, part of White rose Maths. The lessons are fun and interactive with practical games and the use of concrete resources to support the acquisition of new mathematical skills.



**To know You
more clearly**

As a Catholic School, we dedicate 10% of our weekly timetable to the teaching and learning of R.E. We follow the To Know You More Clearly R.E scheme as recommended by Liverpool Archdiocese. In addition to this, children will take part in Collective Worship and daily prayer also.



A typical day in Preschool...

It is guaranteed that your child will have a busy day in preschool, but when you ask them what they have done, they will often come home saying...

But...

A typical day for the children will look like this...

I Did Nothing Today

Author Unknown

When children come home at the end of the day,
The question they're asked as they run out to play
Is "Tell me what did you do today?"
And the answer they give makes you sigh with dismay.
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"

Perhaps "Nothing" means that I read a book,

Or...with a teacher I got to cook.

Maybe I painted a picture of blue,

Or heard a story of a mouse that flew.

Maybe I wrote in my journal myself,

Or found a great book on the library shelf.

Maybe I helped a friend today,

Or went to my favorite area alone,

Maybe today was the very first time

That my scissors followed a very straight line,

Maybe I sang a song right to the end,

Or worked with a special brand new friend.

When you're three, four, or five your heart has wings

And "Nothing" can mean so many things

8:40am/12:20pm – Preschool opens

8:50am/12:30pm – Register

9:00am/12:40pm – Circle time

9:20am/1pm – Choose time and focused activity

10:00am/2pm – Snack opens

10:30am/2:30pm – Choose time and focused activity

11:25am/3pm – Story and song time

11:40pm/3:30pm – Home time

- A self-service snack is available to children from 10:00-10:30am and 2pm -2:30pm each day at a cost of £2.50 per week.

- RE will be taught for one morning per week.

- We will have one focussed PE lesson a week in the hall where the children can come to school in sportswear.



Tapestry Learning Journal ...

If your child has previously attended a nursery or pre-school then you may be familiar with the special book that celebrated your child's learning experiences during their time at the setting.

At SJV, we create individual learning journals for each child using an online learning journal program called Tapestry. We record your child's achievements and progress.

You will be able to view and contribute to your child's special learning journal through a unique password that we will create for you. You will then be able to freely access all of the lovely photographs, videos and quotes showing your child learning through play.

Your child's special learning journal builds the story of all the things that your child can do and is learning to do during their time with us in the Early Years Foundation Stage. We will hold Parent Workshops early in the Autumn Term to demonstrate how to use Tapestry at home.



As parents, you are your child's first teacher and we want to work with you to further your child's learning. We encourage parents to contribute to this learning journal by logging in and adding your own observations of your child at home or out and about.



School routines...

Preschool Opens

School doors open at 8:40am.

Children will come into school via the door at the front of the school building through the preschool playground. They will be welcomed into school each morning by a member of the preschool team.

Preschool Finishes

Children are to be collected at either 11:40am or 3:20pm.

At the end of your child's session, you are able to collect your child from the door at the front of the school building through the preschool playground. The children will be let out from preschool one child at a time and handed over to you by a member of staff.

The safety and security of your child is of paramount importance. We operate a password system for anyone collecting your child. Most days it will be myself letting the children out of school but there will be times when one of the Preschool team are not available and another member of staff will need to let the children out of school safely. The password system operates well particularly at this time. You will be required to set a password for your child and list the most common people who will collect your child from school and their relationship to them. This password will be kept

securely at school. We will never let a child go with someone that we don't know or who cannot give the required and correct password.

We will always make contact with you as parents to check the identification of the person who is collecting your child before letting them out of school.

If for whatever reason, the person who was expected to collect your child from school changes unexpectedly then it is your responsibility to let us know. This can be done by a telephone call to the school office or more simply, a message via class dojo to me to let me know. This is for your child's safety.

Please ensure that you share the password with whoever it is that is collecting your child.

We also thank you in advance for your patience and ask that you please allow for some extra time at home time in the early days as we learn lots of new faces. Thank you.



Snack...

Your child will be provided with a snack each day in Preschool. Our snack area is a 'rolling snack' area where the children are taught to come and help themselves to their snack when they are ready. Snack time operates 10.00am till 10:30am and 2pm till 2:30pm. The children are encouraged to self-register at the snack table when they access it by taking their name card from the wall. This also encourages name recognition. The rolling snack helps the children to develop independent and life skills where they learn to cut, chop, spread and mix with adult help and supervision.



Snack money costs £2.50 per week and should be paid weekly in advance. Snacks consists of items such as cereal, toast, pancakes, crackers and cheese, wraps and seasonal items such as hot cross buns in addition to fruit which is available daily. Payments are to be made on the teachers to parents app.



teachers2parents

Drinks...

The children are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school each day for refreshments. There is water available throughout the day for the children to access and milk is also available for snack time.



Communication...



Communication is key. The more that we know about your child, the better we can support them and in equal measure, the more that you know about what is happening at preschool, the happier that you will feel. A child starting preschool can be an anxious time for everyone and we completely understand that you and your child may feel apprehensive at times. There are several ways to contact Mrs Milner, should you need to.

We use 'Class Dojo' for communication purposes. If you do not already have access, you will need to download the app and you will be sent an invitation to join.



ClassDojo

It is important that you are fully connected and active prior to your child starting preschool. Please download the app onto your phone and you will be able to contact me via there.

It may be a short message to let Mrs Milner know that someone else is picking up your child that day or perhaps that your child is feeling a little under the weather that day. The message will reach her straight away. All messages are direct and are visible only to me. All messages can be translated also. Within the Class Dojo app, you will also see the things that your child is being rewarded for in class too.



Alternatively, you can telephone the school on 01744 678570 to speak to me or you can email me at: lisa.milner@sthelens.org.uk



Our School Uniform...

Our school uniform consists of:

Girls

- Grey pinafore dress, skirt or trousers
- White polo shirt – plain or with logo
- Red school cardigan or school sweatshirt
- Red or grey tights or white socks
- Flat black school shoes (no laces)

For summer:

- Red and white gingham dress



Boys

- Grey trousers
- White polo shirt – plain or with logo
- Red school sweatshirt
- Dark coloured socks (no patterns)
- Black school shoes (no laces)

For summer:

- Grey shorts



Items of school uniform printed with the school logo are available to purchase from our suppliers, Whittakers, 38 Bridge Street, St Helens.

Pre-School Uniform...

Uniform is not compulsory in Pre-school. However, it is recommended. We suggest that children wear leggings or joggers rather than pinafores, skirts, dresses or trousers. Elasticated waists are preferred so children can independently use the toilet when needed.



Spare Clothing...

SORRY
about the
MESS
but we are
LEARNING
here.

Your child will require a set of spare clothing to leave in school.

An essential part of learning in the EYFS is based around discovery and your child will get wet or dirty on occasions.

Please provide at least one clean set of spare underwear, socks/tights, t-shirt and trousers that your child can be changed into.

These do not need to be school uniform.

Dress for the Weather...

As our learning environment is both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you make sure your child is equipped for these areas at all times of the year. Please ensure their clothing is practical and suitable for the seasonal changes. Waterproof jackets and winter clothing for cold weather; sun hat and protective clothing in the summer months. We ask that sun cream is applied before the children get to school so that they are ready for the day.

We recommend that you provide your child with a pair of wellies that are clearly labelled with your child's name. We aim to be outdoors as much as possible in all weathers.



Wrap Around Care...

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts at 07:50am at a cost of only £5 per session if you book on an as and when basis.

However, if you enter a contract and book in advance, the cost per session is reduced to £4 per session.

Breakfast is included for those children who arrive before 08:30.

You can book sessions on the teachers 2 parents app.



After School Club –

Afterschool club runs each day

Mon – Fri 3.15pm – 5.30pm

Cost is £9.00 if you wish to have contracted days or £10.00 per ADHOC session.

Childcare vouchers can be used for payment



Home learning

Every week your child will bring home a story book to share. Please spend some time reading with your child and write a comment in the reading record about what your child thought about the story. If you share one of your own story books please feel free to write a comment about that one too! Book bags will be sent home on a Friday and should be returned by the following Thursday. Your child may also bring home a little activity to complete so please remember to check their book bag weekly.



Reading Rainbow

Reading Rainbow Challenge



We have a reading initiative in school to encourage the children to read/share more books at home called The Reading Rainbow. This initiative will hopefully help and encourage your child to develop a love of reading.

In school, your child has an individual sticker chart kept in class. Every time your child reads a book at home, and you sign the reading record, they will receive a sticker on their chart. We would like to encourage you to read other books alongside the story book we have sent home. Please make a note of any additional books you may share at home in their reading record and we will also award stickers for these books.

When they have received 10 stickers they will receive their first certificate (Red). Thereafter for every 10 stickers they receive they will receive another certificate.

The order of the certificates follows the colours of the rainbow:-



- 1st Red
- 2nd Orange
- 3rd Yellow
- 4th Green
- 5th Blue
- 6th Indigo
- 7th Violet



Term Dates...

St Helens Borough Council **PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2025/2026

Name of School: St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

The following dates were determined by the Governing Body at their meeting held on 25th November 2024

**These should be the same as the dates in the standardised school year pattern unless you intend to take an in-service training day at the start or end of a term.*

Term	*Open On:	*Close On:
<u>Autumn term 2024</u>	3 rd September 2025	24 th October 2025
	4 th November 2025	19 th December 2025
<u>Spring term 2026</u>	6 th January 2026	13 th February 2026
	23 rd February 2026	27 th March 2026
<u>Summer term 2026</u>	13 th April 2026	22 nd May 2026
	1 st June 2026	17 th July 2026

Easter Bank Holidays:

Good Friday: 3 April 2026

Easter Monday: 6 April 2026

Bank Holidays during term time:

May Day: Monday 4 May 2026

Please list ALL CPD Days

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Tuesday 21st July 2026

Monday 5th January 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Monday 20th July 2026



Extra Hours

Extra hours are available to purchase in addition to the free entitlement.

Extra three-hour sessions are charged at £15. Lunch club (11:40am-12:20pm) is charged at £3 a session. Children must bring a packed lunch as we do not provide hot dinners.

Payments are made through the teachers to parent app and must be agreed at least 24 hours before to ensure availability.



teachers2parents

Parents accessing extra hours in addition to their entitlement will receive information regarding payments once the hours have been confirmed.

A contract must be signed to secure the extra sessions.

More information about entitlements and help with childcare costs can be found here

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

