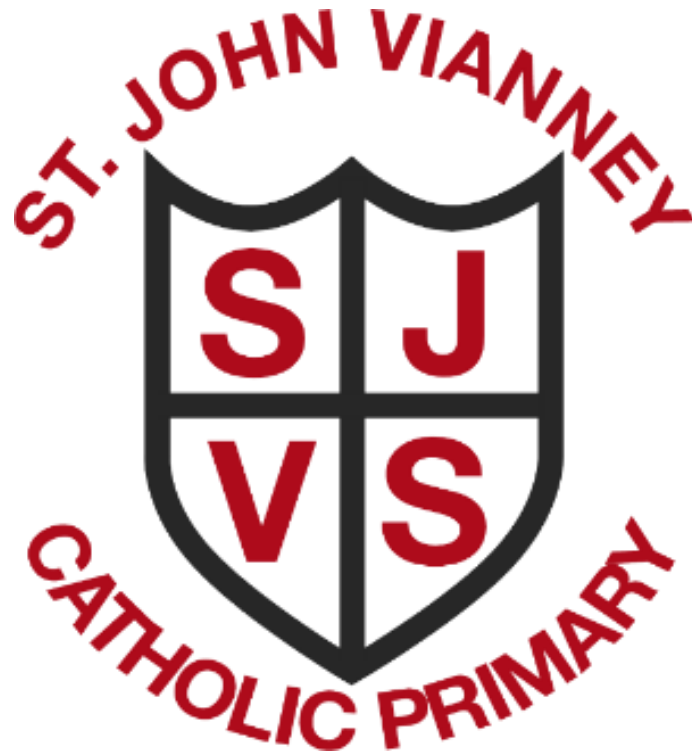




Welcome Pack



St John Vianney
Catholic Primary School
Reception



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 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 school 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 school is a major event in the life of a four year old. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your 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 school.

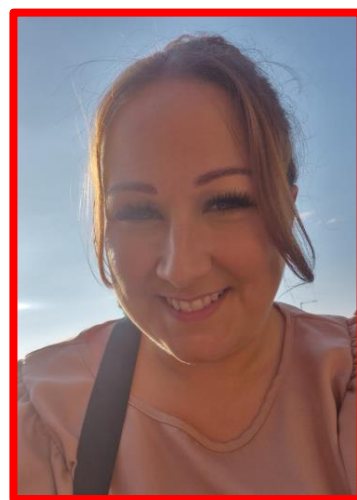


Meet the team...



Miss Lowdon

Class Teacher



Mrs Hockenhull

Teaching Assistant

We offer a safe, caring, stimulating and happy learning environment full of wonder and excitement, where children are given a 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,

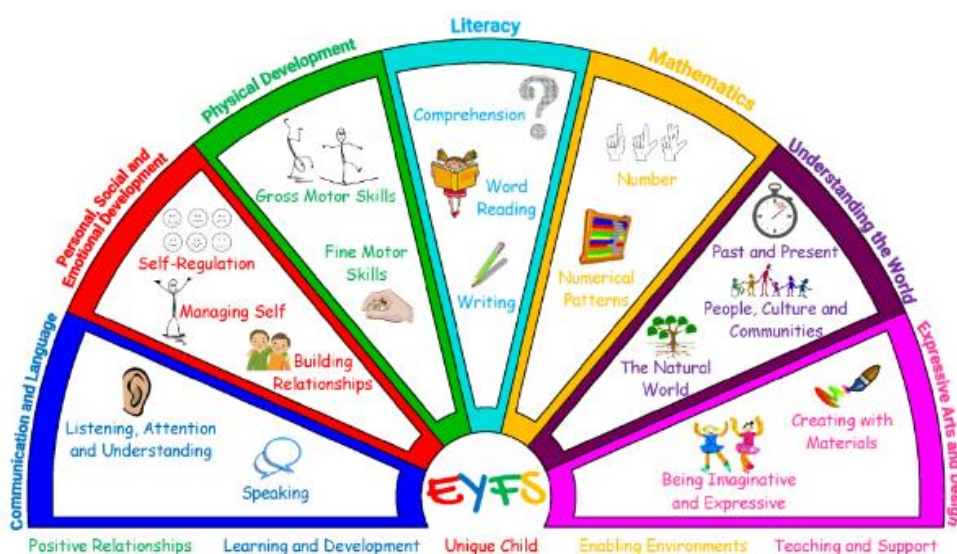
and some days they will bring it home in
their

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



In Reception, 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 practise 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 persevere 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 complete a phonics session every day using 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.



Maths teaching follows NCETM's Mastering Number and 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 Reception...

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

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

8:45-8:50am - School opens

8:50am - Register

9:00am - Literacy

9:30am - Choose time and focused activity

10:00am - Read Write Inc (Phonics)

10:30am - Choose time and focused activity

11:00am - Numeracy

11:25am - Choose time and focused activity

12:00pm - Lunch time

1:00pm - Register/ Collective Worship

1:20pm - Topic/guided reading

1:45pm - Choose time

2:45pm - Tidy up time

3:00pm - Story time

3:15pm - Home time

Please note:

- A self-service snack is available to children from 10:00-11:30am each day.

- RE will be taught for one afternoon per week.

- We will have two PE lessons a week where the children will need to bring their PE kits to change into.

But...



Adult Led Sessions

Reception will begin the Read Write Inc phonics scheme when they start with us in September and will participate in daily sessions to support their early reading and writing skills. Daily literacy sessions will be introduced with a guided follow up activity. Children will also have daily maths sessions with a guided follow up activity. Your child will complete one piece of literacy and maths in their workbooks each week.



Child Initiated Play and Continuous Provision

Child led play is extremely important in Early Years and is encouraged throughout the day. Activities linking to our half termly themes and stories aim to support fine motor development, Maths, early writing, imaginative play and working together with others. Continuous provision is provided both indoors and outdoors throughout the day and includes access across the unit.



Home Learning

Your child will be given a book bag containing a reading book and key words. These will be sent home each Friday along with weekly homework on Tapestry/Class Dojo to be completed by the following Wednesday.





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...

School Opens

School doors open at 8:45am.

Children will come into school via the door at the rear of the school building from the Infant playground. They will be welcomed into school each morning by a member of the Reception team.

School Finishes

Children are to be collected at 3:15pm.

At the end of the school day, you are able to collect your child from the Infant playground at the rear of the school building. The children will be let out from school 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 Reception 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

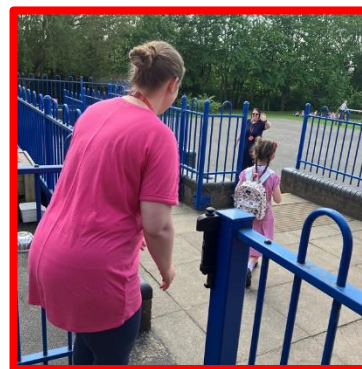
securely at school. We will never let a child go with someone that we don't know or who cannot give the required and correct password.

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 Reception. 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 between 10.00am and 11.30am. 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 can be paid weekly, half termly or for the entire year. 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. If you wish for your child to have milk, it will cost an additional £6 for the year. The children who have paid for milk are entitled to one carton of milk per day.



School Meals and Lunches...



Each day the children have a choice of a hot meal, where there is a vegetarian option and also a sandwich option.

Menus can be found on the council website. If you wish for a scanned copy to be sent to you then please let us know. From September children's school dinners will be ordered at home by parents and carers using School Grid allowing you to know exactly what your child is eating every day.

An example of a menu:



If you want your child to have school meals, please contact our school office regarding this.

Please note that if you are entitled to certain benefits, your child is eligible for a free school meal which need to be applied for through the St Helens Council website:

<https://sthelens.gov.uk/article/1865/Applying-for-free-school-meals>



Alternatively, you may wish for your child to have a packed lunch from home. Children can bring their own healthy packed lunch from home but we ask that you check items in these do not contain nuts and include healthy options.

All children eat together in the hall and if your child changes their mind or wishes to try something different then our school cook is very accommodating and understands that this is something new for the children in the early days.



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 school, the happier that you will feel. A child starting school 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 Miss Lowdon 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 school. Please download the app onto your phone and you will be able to contact Miss Lowdon via there. It may be a short message to let Miss

Lowdon know that a Grandparent 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: leanne.lowdon@sthelens.org.uk



reach more parents
by weduc

We understand that there is a lot of apps involved within our school however the reach more parents app allows you to access everything from one app.



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 trainers or boots)

For summer:

- Red and white gingham dress



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

Boys

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

For summer:

- Grey shorts



Our PE Kit...

Our PE kit consists of:

- Red and white t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black pumps
- Black tracksuit bottoms
- Red hooded jumper



The PE kit needs to be brought into school at the start of term and will come home with the children at the end of each term. They will need a drawstring bag to keep it in.



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.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts at 07:45am 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.



teachers2parents



After School Club –

After school club runs from 3.15pm-5.30pm at a cost of £9 per child, per day if on contracted days or £10 for bookings as and when needed.

Children will receive a snack that ranges from toast, pancakes, yogurts or a sandwich to seasonal items like hot cross buns.

Children can take part in a range of activities which change day to day including slime making, crafts and outdoor games.





ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL
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 2025</u>	6 th January 2026	13 th February 2026
	23 rd February 2026	27 th March 2026
<u>Summer term 2025</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

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Tuesday 21st July 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026



The First Week at School...

It is important for us to get to know your child as quickly as we can, and the early days of starting school are an essential time for this to happen.

The first week in September will look like this:

Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Thursday 4 th September 2025	Friday 5 th September 2025
INSET DAY (school closed to children)	Children will be split into two equal groups and attend one session only Morning session: 8.45am-11.30am Afternoon session: 12.30pm-15.15pm No lunch will be given at school on this day	<u>All children</u> to attend in the morning session only and stay at school for lunch Morning session: 8.45am-12.30pm <u>All children will be collected at 12.30pm after lunch</u>	All children to attend school all day

Children will attend full time from Friday 5th September 2025



Please read the information below to find out which session your child has been allocated to attend on **Wednesday 3rd September**.

<u>Morning Session</u> <u>8.45am-11.30am</u>	<u>Afternoon Session</u> <u>12.30am-15.15am</u>
Miley Peaches – May Scarlett C Jordan Sophia B Jessica Sienna D Heidi Angelina Oakley Dillon – James Johan	Tallulah George Scarlett H Ezra Isla-Grace Teddy Sienna M Cheryl Vincent Ruby Amir

