



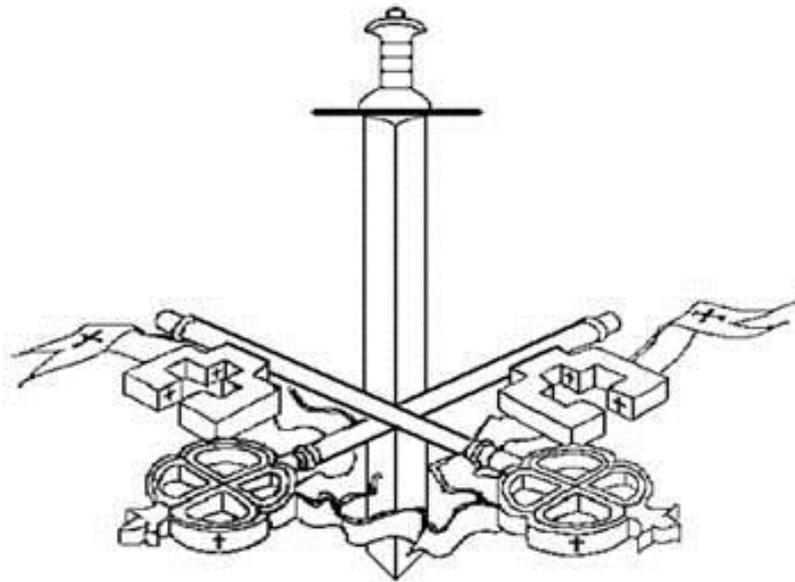
Ss PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"To grow in knowledge and love, and walk in the footsteps of Jesus"



Welcome to Foundation 2

**To grow in knowledge and love
and walk in the footsteps of Jesus**



Your child will shortly be starting Foundation 2 at Ss Peter & Paul School. This leaflet will provide you with the information needed to help your child make a smooth transition into 'big school'. If you need any further help please email staff at the email address at the end of this booklet.



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Who Will Be Working With My Child?



Hello I am Mrs Brown, a Foundation 2 teacher. I job share with Mrs Wellens and am really looking forward to meeting you all.



Hello I am Mrs McInnes, I am one of the teaching assistants and look forward to helping you with your busy jobs!

Hello I am Mrs Riding, I am a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. It will be lovely to meet you all.



Hello I am Mrs Wellens, a Foundation 2 teacher. Mrs Brown and I can't wait to meet you all.

Hello I am Miss Steele, a Foundation 2 teacher. I am so excited for our fun and busy year!





How Will I Prepare My Child For School?

Parents can do a lot to help their children prepare for school. Helping children to become independent, reading to them and listening to them read will all enhance their education. Children feel more confident if they have had opportunities to develop basic self-care skills. You might like to:

- Encourage him/her to dress and undress him/herself.
- Learn to pack away and take care of their possessions.
- Teach your child to use a knife and fork at mealtimes.
- Teach him/her to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.
- Give your child the opportunity to enjoy using pencils, crayons, paint and blunt-ended scissors.
- Sand and water play are enjoyable experiences.
- Sorting and building activities are fun.
- They will enjoy imaginative play using dressing-up clothes.

Look at books with your child, getting him/her to turn the pages in the correct order, looking at the pages from left to right. Encourage him/her to use the pictures to guess the story content, to retell the stories to you and to talk about the stories/poems that you have shared.

Talk to your child about the environment when you are outside. Teach nursery rhymes and songs. The alphabet can also be learned as a song, but your child will also need to know the sound each letter makes (this is something we will teach them so don't worry if your child can't read before starting school!) Games like 'I Spy' help your child to recognise initial sounds.

If your child is showing an interest in writing, encourage him/her at every opportunity, even if their 'words' look like random marks on the page this is GOOD! Do encourage them to hold their pencil correctly. It is important that your child learns the correct movement to write each letter and it is appropriate to show them how to do this from the beginning, but don't force this on them or make them write with a particular hand; many children don't decide until later on. Help them to write their name using the correct formation. (A letter formation mat is available on the webpage links to support your child in forming letters correctly).

During the summer, please talk to your child about starting school – what it will be like and how much fun it will be. Use the internet, books or pictures on the school website to familiarise them with school.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage we aim to give each child the opportunity to:

- Build on their existing learning within a stimulating and challenging environment.
- Have fun and enjoy their learning environment.
- Mix with other children and adults and make new friends.
- Gain an understanding of each other's uniqueness and individuality by respecting differences such as languages and cultures.
- Be valued in their own right and for the contribution they bring to the class.
- Have their work valued and displayed in a stimulating setting.
- Be encouraged to behave sensibly and considerately, and develop responsibility for themselves and the world around them.
- Value the security of clear, fair rules which are applied consistently.

The learning environment in the foundation stage gives the children opportunities to help them develop socially, emotionally, physically, aesthetically, morally and intellectually. In the Foundation stage we promote active learning in seven areas:

Prime Areas

1. Communication and language;
2. Physical development;
3. Personal, social and emotional development.

Specific Areas

1. Literacy;
2. Mathematics;
3. Understanding the world;
4. Expressive Arts and Design.

Our Foundation Stage environment is set up to promote learning through play. Play is an integral part of the foundation curriculum and is a means by which the children can:

- Relate to the world and practise skills for adult life.
- Acquire skills of problem solving and organisation.
- Develop language and imagination.
- Acquire social skills and the ability to deal with success and failure.
- Exercise choice and learn decision making.
- Become relaxed, secure and confident.
- Cope with pressures and lower levels of frustration.



What Are the Characteristics of Effective Learning?

The ways in which the child engages with other people and the environment— playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically—underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner. At the end of Foundation 2 we assess how children learn using these characteristics.

- **Playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things and “have a go”.
 - i) I find out and explore
 - ii) I can play with what I know
 - iii) I am willing to have a go

- **Active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy their achievements.
 - i) I can be involved and concentrate
 - ii) I can keep trying
 - iii) I enjoy achieving what I set out to do

- **Creativity and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas and make links between ideas. They develop strategies for doing things.
 - i) I have my own ideas
 - ii) I can make links
 - iii) I can choose ways to do things

There is a poster which explains these characteristics in more detail on the school webpage.



What will my child need for their first day at school?

On their first day at school your child will need:

- ✓ A school uniform – (please see Welcome pamphlet)
- ✓ P.E. kit (they will initially only need pumps for the first few weeks, then their white tee-shirt and navy shorts)
- ✓ Change of clothes including underwear in case of accidents (children are much more comfortable changing into their own clothes – although we do have a stock of spare clothes for emergencies)
- ✓ Appropriate coats/hats/footwear etc. depending on the weather
- ✓ Their own water bottle labelled with their name
- ✓ Their ‘All About Me’ book if you have not already sent it into school.

Please make sure you label ALL items of clothing, writing names on labels with a pen is fine!

We ask that you do not send large bags into school as storage is limited, a drawstring bag for PE kit and change of clothes is ideal.



How Do I Communicate With School?

- Parent Evenings are held twice a year, in Autumn and Spring Term.
- Our school website has a wide range of information about school.
- We use Twitter and the PTA has a Facebook page.
- Teachers are always available at the start and end of day if you need to pass a quick message to them. Please phone, email or see your child's classteacher to make an appointment to discuss anything that needs a longer chat.
- 'More About Me' books go home weekly. Your child can draw or write about skills or activities that they have done outside of school. These are then shared with their classmates.
- You will invited to events such as class assemblies, productions etc.
- Coffee mornings, PTA meetings etc. will give you the opportunity to meet other parents and staff.
- Newsletters and letters about activities are sent via 'Spider App' and email.

Ss Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher – Mrs P Graham



What is the daily routine in Foundation 2?

During the first two weeks of transition we will be getting to know your child and introducing them gradually to school routines and classmates.

After that a regular routine is quickly established. School starts at 8:55am. Children are immediately engaged in activities, registration and morning prayers. Children are given a special 'job' each day, this helps build independence and a sense of responsibility. The day is tightly structured with phonics, calendar, clock, various activities, both directed and self-chosen. Children will be able to choose some activities which enable both indoor and outdoor learning across all areas of the Early Years Curriculum through structured play.



Throughout the day children are encouraged to be independent, including taking off, putting on and hanging up coats etc. Selecting resources independently and putting them safely away. Making sure work and book bags etc. are put in their own trays. Children will at all times be supported in developing these skills.



School finishes at 3:30pm and children can be collected from the inside outside classroom area. Please make sure that school is informed if someone new or different is collecting your child at the end of the day. Children will only be released to named and known adults (who must be over 16 years of age).



What refreshments does my child get at school?

Children have access to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day, such as apples, pears, satsumas, carrots, bananas.

Milk is available to children. A letter will be sent home for you to request milk each term. If your child is FSM or under 5 at the end of that term milk will be free, if not you can pay termly for milk.

We ask that children bring in a water bottle each day, marked with their name.



Lunchtime is 12pm. Children eat their lunch in the dinner hall, supervised by midday staff. As part of the current ‘Universal infant free school meals’ scheme all children in Early Years Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a free school meal every day. There are sample menus on the school website. Please ensure you inform your child’s classteacher of any particular dietary requirements or allergies.

If you prefer, you can send a packed lunch in with your child. We ask that you do not send in foods containing nuts. Water is always available for all children at lunchtime.

If you wish to change from school meals to packed lunch or vice versa we ask that you give us a half term’s notice. However in the first few weeks of school we are flexible about this until children feel happy with their lunch choice.



What Are the School Rules?

You will receive the 'Home School Agreement' which sets out expectations of behaviour at Ss Peter & Paul School. We work very much on clear expectations of behaviour and positive reinforcement and praise.

Our rules in F2 are

Eyes watching,



Ears listening,



Body still,



Hands up,

Kind heart,



Please and thank you!



In Foundation 2 children are given stickers to reward good behaviours, good work or effort. They have a 'stamper sheet' that they stamp for good work. When they count 10 stamps they can take it home. Each week we have a Superstar Assembly which celebrates the work of children across school. Children tell others of their achievements and receive a certificate to take home.

You can get more information from the behaviour policy on the school website.



Health and Safety Protocols at Ss Peter & Paul School

- If there are any changes in your child's health, i.e. allergic reactions, asthma, please let us know.
- If a child is sick or has diarrhoea, please do not bring them to school for 48 hours following the last bout.
- If your child uses an inhaler, let your teacher know and send their inhaler into school in a clearly labelled box or bag.
- Please let us know if your child has been suffering from any of the usual childhood illnesses such as measles.
- We will inform you by email of any bumps or grazes which your child received during their day at school. Please let us know of any similar incidents which happen at home.
- Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice.
- If your child soils their clothes or gets wet, we will change them into dry/clean clothes and send items home in a bag. If your child does not have a spare change of clothes we will provide them. The prompt return of clean clothes would be appreciated.

Finally...

Starting school is an important step for your child and the staff at Ss Peter & Paul School are committed to ensuring that your child settles into school as comfortably as possible. If you have any worries or concerns, please come and see us.