



11th September 2025

Welcome to Reception

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to St. Peter's School! We are delighted to be able to share your child's first experience of school with you and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Firstly, we wanted to say well done to all the children for an excellent start! Starting school is a big adjustment, but we have been so impressed with their resilience, positivity and independence. You should all feel really proud.

This term, we will be focusing on getting to know the children and supporting them to learn the new routines, so that they are happy and settled in the classroom.

Morning Routine

We have started introducing our morning routine. The children will come in, find their name peg and hang up their coat, complete our self-registration board and complete a 'Busy Fingers' activity, which is based on developing their fine motor skills. Thank you for your support in encouraging them to enter the class independently.

Home Consolidation Activities

Each term, we will upload a Knowledge Organiser (explaining the different areas of learning) to the website and Google Classroom. These will offer ideas to help you to support your child further at home. We will share these with you at the New to Reception Parent meeting.

Google classroom

Your child will be sent home with log on details for Google Classroom. This is an online portal which we use to communicate with you all. Type in the web address (<http://classroom.google.com>) and then your child's username and password. Please log in as soon as possible so that we can begin using this with the class. If you have any issues logging on or have forgotten/lost log in details then please contact Jappy@stpeters.hers.sch.uk and Ms Potts will provide some assistance.

WOW moments:

We will set an assignment on Google classroom called WOW moments. You can use Google Classroom to send us photographs of any special events that your child may want to share such as a birthday, holiday or learning to ride a bike for the first time. We will then place the pictures up on our interactive whiteboard for the children to share with the class.

Topic for Autumn 1: Marvellous Me

Each half term we will be basing our learning on a topic. This term is focused around getting to know each other. We will be looking at the diversity of our families, the types

of homes we live in, the different countries our families are from and celebrating how we are all unique. As part of this we will be holding an **International week on Monday 13th – Friday 17th October**. Over the course of this week parents and or carers/extended family members can come in to share something about their home country/ a country that is special to them/or somewhere in the UK you have visited which is different to St Albans. This could be as simple as teaching us a song or reading a book in your language. Or it could be bringing in photographs of key landmarks or making a flag. If you are unable to come in, you can send your child in with items to talk about.

Topic for Autumn 2: Let's Celebrate

During this topic we will be learning about some religious festivals such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. As part of our Knowledge and Understanding curriculum we will be making comparisons and noticing how they may be different. If you have any photographs of your child celebrating any important festivals, we would love to see them. Additionally, if you would like to come in and talk to the children about any of these festivals then please let us know.

Phonics

St Peter's follow the Phonics scheme Essential Letters and Sounds. This means the children will begin learning initial sounds and practise the art of blending. You may wish to refer to our Knowledge Organiser for more information on key terminology. Please be aware that your child may not be ready to blend or read words at present. All children develop at different rates. Whilst all children will be given books, it may be that as a parent you are doing more of the reading and modelling. If your child is finding blending difficult, encourage them to say the sounds and then you can say the whole word to reinforce this. For example, s-a-t and you say 'sat'. We also use the techniques of 'My turn', 'Your turn'. You can model sounding out and saying the word and then the child repeats. It may be that you do this with one or two words to begin with. Reading the book together multiple times will support this. We will also be providing 'sharing' library books so that you and your child can read for enjoyment. More information will be provided at the parent meeting on **Wednesday 8th October at 5.30pm**. Oxford Owl have some great videos on their page for parents, which you may find useful. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/phonics-videos/>

A few reminders:

- Please make sure everything is labelled, from jumpers to water bottles (including shoes), to avoid them being swapped or misplaced.
- Packed lunches must follow the schools healthy eating and **nut free** policy as we do have children in the school with severe allergies. This includes chocolate spread such as Nutella.
- The children are offered a selection of fruits and vegetables every morning for snack. They are also offered either milk or water.
- If you have not already done so, please send in your child's family photo and a baby photo.

Dates for your diary:

*** New to Reception parent meeting: Thursday 18th September 9am**

***Reception School Disco- Monday 22nd September**

*** International Week: Monday 13th-17th October**

*** Phonics workshop for parents and carers: Wednesday 8th October 5.30pm**

***Parent consultations Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd October**

*** Thursday 23rd October: Magical Tea Party** – children can come to school in ‘magical’ fancy dress. We will have a range of magical activities and fun games to play. We will also provide party food.

***Friday 24th October- INSET Day**

***Tuesday 11th November- Individual school photos**

***Thursday 27th November- EYFS Stay and Play- more information to follow**

***Monday 1st December- INSET Day**

***Saturday 6th- Winter fair**

***Reception Christmas Nativity:**

Wednesday 10th December 9.15am

Thursday 11th December 9.15am

Badger and Hedgehog class will be performing a Christmas Nativity for parents and carers. More information will follow nearer the time.

We will also provide opportunities across the term for parents to come in and volunteer and help with cooking or other art and craft activities. We will notify you via Google Classroom in advance of these dates.

We recommend that you regularly check the school calendar on the school website for any other events that may occur throughout the term. We will also use the Google Classroom to send updates.

Communication

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to ask.

You can send an email to your child’s teacher at either badgers@stpeters.herts.sch.uk or hedgehogs@stpeters.herts.sch.uk . We will endeavour to reply to you as soon as possible, but please be aware that we will not be able to respond to emails during teaching hours. For any urgent communication, please contact the school office. Please also contact the office about absences and/or different people collecting your child. You can use the email: mychildtoday@stpeters.herts.sch.uk

We hope that you have a very happy time with us this year and that you and your families make new friends, as you become a part of our welcoming school community.

Thank you,

Reception Team

Miss Laffy, Miss O’Doherty and Miss Devine

