



# Welcome to Reception!

Reception Booklet for Parents and Carers



*“Inspiring a love of learning in  
our St Faith’s family.”*

# Welcome to St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School

*“Our inclusive St Faith’s family strives to enable all to achieve their full potential and inspire a community of hope and friendship. We seek excellence by ensuring a safe, respectful and flourishing learning community, where differences are celebrated and our genuine love and high expectations make a difference to all.”*

*Oscar Romero .... “Aspire not to have more, but to be more.”*

A very warm welcome to St Faith’s Church of England Infant and Nursery School! We are extremely proud of our friendly and thriving school for children aged 3 - 7 years in the wonderful West End community, in the lovely cathedral city of Lincoln.

Our school is a voluntary controlled Church of England School and enjoys strong links with St Faith’s Church and the Diocese of Lincoln. We cherish and love our family feel and the involvement that our friends, family and the whole community have in our school. Our St Faith’s family includes children and their families from Nursery to Year 2, staff and governors, friends, the Church, the Diocese, our fabulous local junior school, St Faith and St Martin Junior School, and the West End community.

Our Christian values of friendship, respect, service in the community, compassion, trust and justice are very important to our school. The children have a clear understanding about our values and both children and adults live through them each day.

We are thrilled that you have chosen our school for your child, and we look forward to sharing your child’s learning journey with you, as your child takes his/her very special, initial steps in their school life.

Warmest wishes

Mrs Amanda Konrath  
Headteacher



## **Welcome to Reception**

Starting school is a very big step for you and your child, and a happy start is very important. You are your child's first teacher and learning from you about your child is essential for school so that a smooth transition is possible. We aim to form a lasting partnership with you to ensure a successful learning journey for your child.

This booklet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about your child's time in Reception.

### **Reception teachers**

#### **Honey Bees**

Ms Holman

Honey Bees teacher at the beginning of the week



Mrs Spratt

Honey Bees teacher at the end of the week



#### **Butterflies**

Miss Barkes

Butterflies teacher



#### **Beetles**

Mrs Wraith

Beetles teacher at the beginning of the week



Mrs Kemal

Beetles teacher at the end of the week



## The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the phase of education from birth to five years. It is based on the recognition that young children learn best through play and being active. It is through play that children learn to face and solve problems. Play is a vital way in which children make choices, see the consequences and discover new things.



The EYFS is covered under seven areas of learning;

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development, (learning to share, make friends, be independent),
- Communication and Language, (learning to listen, and take turns in conversation),
- Physical Development, (developing fine motor skills through using scissors and handwriting, developing gross motor skills through exploring climbing and balancing equipment),
- Literacy (learning to read and write)
- Mathematics, (recognising and ordering numbers, beginning to understand simple addition and subtraction, talking about shapes, and measures),
- Understanding the World, (investigating and exploring the world around them, using ICT, building with construction equipment)
- Expressive Arts and Design, (exploring music, dance and drama and being creative through exploring paint, textiles, clay etc).

These are all very closely linked and the topics we teach are designed to cover all of these areas of learning. Topics are chosen in accordance with children's interests in order to capture their imagination and engage them in learning.

## Reading

Your child will be given a book bag, which they must bring to school every day. In their book bag there will be a reading book and reading diary. The diary is for you to record comments on how they have read with you at home. The first books they bring home will have pictures only and this is to encourage discussion of the story and what they can see happening in the pictures. When your child can confidently discuss the story, your child will bring home a book with words. **We encourage you to read with your child regularly and reading the same book at least three times is extremely beneficial to your child.** This allows them to carefully decode and read the words on their first attempt and then read with fluency and develop their understanding of the story as they re-read the same book.

Reading books are changed once a week. We use phonics as the prime approach for learning to read.

## Phonics

Phonics is a vital part of the school curriculum. In Reception, it is taught as a discrete session daily through the Little Wandle scheme, and additional practice sessions, are built into the rest of the school day as required. Your child will learn new phonemes (letter sounds) and their matching graphemes (letter shapes) daily, practicing reading words containing these and writing them too. This is our prime approach to learning to read and write. More information will be provided on this when your child starts school.

## The daily routine

Our school day starts at 9:00am and ends at 3.30pm. Teachers will open their doors at 8.55am to allow the children to enter, put their things away and be ready for the register at 9:00am. At the end of the day we open doors at 3.25pm.

After the register, the children begin their learning. Most mornings start with Phonics. Following this, the children have time to choose their own learning and complete activities. They are encouraged to follow their own line of enquiry and interests during learning time. They may work in a small group with an adult or explore activities indoors or outdoors for themselves. Learning outdoors is acknowledged as a vital part of child development.



We have a snack time each morning where children can choose milk and fruit. We go into the library for Collective Worship with the rest of Reception in the afternoon.

## Lunchtime

During lunchtime the children will be supervised by our lunchtime staff to eat their lunch. You can choose a free hot lunch through our supplier Good Lookin' Cookin' or you can send your child with a packed lunch. Once all of the children have eaten their lunch, the children go outside with the teaching assistants.



During the afternoon sessions, children are taught maths and are then given the opportunity to follow their own interests to choose their learning. Adults provide quality interactions to move your child's learning forward.



If you are sending someone other than yourself to collect your child, please inform us in person or by telephone as we are unable to hand a child over to adults who we have not been told to by the main carer.

### **Useful information**

#### Snack time

Milk, water and fruit are available at snack time. If you wish to send your child with a snack, from home you are welcome to, but please ensure that it is fresh fruit only. Our policy does not allow dried fruit, yoghurts, cheese etc. We are a plastic free school, so do not allow any single-use plastic bottles or containers. Drink bottles with the school emblem are available to buy from the school office if you wish. Please send your child with a water bottle every day.

#### School Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform. It consists of,

- Grey trousers, skirts or pinafore dresses
- Girls may wear blue checked summer dresses
- Blue polo shirt, with or without school emblem
- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with or without school emblem
- Black shoes (not trainers)
- White, blue, grey or black socks or tights.



School uniform is compulsory, and we ask that children are dressed in their full school uniform at all times.



Outside learning takes place in all weathers and for this reason we ask that you provide a pair of wellies for your child to use and keep in school. The wellies should be clearly named. They also will benefit from having a pair of named waterproof trousers to keep in school and their regular coat to be a waterproof coat.

St Faith's uniform can be purchased from Uniform Direct. Please ensure your child's uniform is labelled clearly with their name.

## PE

Our PE day can change from term to term. PE kit is a white t-shirt with or without the school emblem and black or blue jogging bottoms or shorts, with black plimsolls or black trainers. The footwear is for outdoor PE only, and will not be needed until the Spring term. This is to be kept in a draw string bag on your child's peg. We ask that long hair is tied back, and all jewellery is discouraged for health and safety reasons. If children cannot remove their own earrings, we will cover them with medical tape.

**PE will start after October half term.**

## Outdoors

Children access the outdoors every day, whatever the weather. They will need a pair of named wellies and named waterproof trousers to stay in school. Their regular coat should be waterproof.

## Bags

Our cloakrooms are small, so we ask that you do not send your child with a large backpack. Backpacks are only necessary if they need to bring more than a book bag, a water bottle and possibly a lunchbox. If your child does have more belongings that they need in school, we ask that you send them in a drawstring bag or a small backpack.

## Toys

We discourage children from bringing toys into school as there are many opportunities for them to get lost or broken. Bringing a toy for comfort can be discussed with your child's teacher, if needed.

## Parent and teacher communication

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, they are available before or after school for a brief chat. If for any reason they cannot speak to you that day or you would like a longer chat, they will be happy to make an appointment with you, at a mutually convenient time. Formal Family Progress Evenings (Parents' evenings) occur three times a year. It is important that you share any information with us that might affect your child's mood or behaviour, so that we can deal with it effectively and support you and your child.

## Tapestry

Tapestry is our online learning journal where observation and pictures from your child's learning can be uploaded to share with you at home. You know your child better than we do and you can help to contribute to their assessments. Please ensure you have access to your child's Tapestry account by providing us with your email address. Each time your child achieves something significant like riding their bike or taking part in swimming lessons, please add an observation onto Tapestry. If you are not sure how to do this, ask your child's teacher.

### Thank you

We hope that this booklet has answered some of your questions you may have about your child starting Reception. For more information, please see the school website at [www.st-faiths.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.st-faiths.lincs.sch.uk). You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StFaithsFamily> and Instagram [play\\_matters\\_st\\_faiths](https://www.instagram.com/play_matters_st_faiths).

If there is anything else we can help you with please do not hesitate to contact us.

We really look forward to welcoming you and your child into one of our Reception classes in September. We are sure that you will enjoy watching your child develop and hope that they will have many happy memories from their time in our St Faith's family. We look forward to sharing with you all of your child's achievements and successes during their time at St. Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School.

Once again, thank you for choosing our wonderful school – we think that you have made an excellent choice!

