



St Theresa's Catholic Primary School

'To do the little things well'

Early Years Foundation Stage 2025-2026



Introduction to EYFS

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up."

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021

Thank you for considering St Theresa's Catholic Primary School as a starting point for your child's learning journey. This booklet will provide you with some important information about our school.

At St Theresa's we recognise the individuality of every child and family, and recognise the need to work together to ensure your child makes the best possible progress.

We are proud to create a happy, safe and welcoming environment throughout the whole school, rooted in mutual respect to ensure that your child achieves their full potential during their time with us.

This is only a snippet of what we have to offer your child and would be more than happy to assist you if you have any questions. Please send them to our school email address sttherea@sthelens.org.uk and we will get back to you.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family into our school family soon.

Early Years Staff

Miss L Clarke	Nursery Teacher/Paediatric First Aider
Mrs D Corbett	Nursery Teaching Assistant
Miss E Beard	Reception Teacher/ Paediatric First Aider
Mrs M Welsby	Reception Teaching Assistant/Paediatric First Aider

Classes

At St Theresa's we have a Nursery and 1 Reception class. The Nursery runs from Monday to Friday with both part-time and full time places offered. Children can attend Monday to Friday mornings (8:45-11:45am) or full days for the whole week. We can offer the government funded 30 hours for eligible families, or for those not eligible for the extended hours you are able to pay nursery fees so that your child can stay full days. There are up to 26 places available in the Nursery. The Reception class runs from 8.30am until 3:00pm, Monday to Friday. There are 30 places available in Reception.

What will my child learn?

Children in the Nursery and Reception classes follow a language rich curriculum which uses high quality texts and children's interests as a basis to start learning, working towards achieving the Early Learning Goals. The national expectation is that most children will reach the early learning goals by the end of their Reception year. However, we recognise that every child is unique and will be supported to make progress at their own pace. Children with special educational needs will be identified in partnership with parents / carers. There are seven key areas of learning as follows:

The EYFS Curriculum

Communication & Language

This involves giving children opportunities to experience a language rich environment; to develop their skills in expressing themselves; and to develop their speaking and listening skills.

Mathematics

This involves providing children with opportunities to develop their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shape, space and measure.

Literacy

This involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. A large range of quality texts will be available to the children and frequent whole class reading sessions will help to ignite their interest.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; form positive relationships and be respectful of others; to develop their social skills and to understand appropriate behaviour in different situations.

Understanding the World

Involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and question. They will find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive Arts & Design

This involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. They will also have opportunities to be imaginative and take part in a variety of activities in art, music, dance, role play and design technology.

Physical Development

Involves providing opportunities for children to be active; to develop their coordination, control and movement; develop fine motor skills to help writing and to understand the importance of making healthy choices.

Nursery

Here at St Theresa's Nursery we believe that the children are at the centre of their own learning. We have themes that run throughout each half term, linking to high quality texts and books from our author of the term, and our whole school key concepts. However, as staff we work together to ensure that we incorporate the children's interests into our daily planning and be sure to add activities that link to their likes and dislikes. We understand that each child is unique, and that we all develop at different rates so we aim to create a learning environment where all the children's needs are met.

We have many areas in our classroom with high quality resources which are changed frequently throughout each term. Your child will have the opportunity to play in the sand and water area, take part in role play in the domestic home corner and use their imaginations in the deconstructed role play area. They will be able to be imaginative in our creative areas and build masterpieces in the construction area. We also have a large outdoor area where the children can run around and play on the fixed climbing equipment or ride around on the bikes. Children will have the opportunity to mark make in all areas of the classroom and are encouraged to use numbers and mathematical language in their play.

Each day we have a whole class session where we may learn a new phonic sound or a new number of the week, read a story or take part in a mindfulness moment. We also do daily funky fingers activities to develop our fine motor skills to help us write, and then take part in smaller group work called key worker sessions where we will look at a topic, number or letter in more detail.

The nursery team spend a lot of time communicating with the children, talking to them about their creations, joining in with their play and chatting about their home lives. We understand how important it is to form positive relationships with the children to help them feel comfortable and respected in school.



Reception

Children in reception participate in a range of adult led and child initiated activities throughout the day. They make their own decisions about what resources they want to play with and when they want to play with them.

We have daily phonic sessions each morning where your child will follow the Read Write Inc scheme to learn new letter sounds, how to write each phoneme correctly and how to segment and blend words.

They will also have a balance of teacher directed learning as a whole class, in small groups or through 1:1 activities. We have topics that run throughout each half term but also add some of the children's interests into our planning.

Children will participate in maths and literacy activities daily and will develop their independence and their school readiness as the year progresses. We focus on forming positive relationships with everyone in our class and learn to respect and listen to each other.

The children can choose whether they play indoors or outdoors. In our outdoor area we have a mud kitchen and bikes that the children love to play with. Our indoor provision is changed half termly, with our role play area changed to suit our topic.



The Learning Environment

Our learning environments are carefully created to ensure that we cover all aspects of development matters. We use a range of natural, open ended resources which allow the children's imagination to run free when they are playing. In both classes we have a domestic home corner, this remains the same all year with the addition of real life objects that the children are likely to be familiar with from their own home, the familiarity of the items allows the children to immerse themselves in imaginative play and often we find the children re-creating their experiences from home.



The School Day

Nursery

The school day starts at 8:45am for Nursery children. They will be welcomed in to school via the EYFS gates by a member of the nursery team. We will assist children to hang their coats on their pegs.

The children will then be registered, participate in adult directed learning and have snack. The children will then have free play in the continuous provision and will be able to choose to remain indoors or go outdoors.

Home time for the children attending morning sessions is 11:45am. The children will be brought out to the EYFS gates and handed over to an approved person.

Those children who are staying for wraparound and the full day will have their lunch. There is a £4 charge per day for the wraparound, and we ask that all children bring a packed lunch into school.

For the children who are staying with us all day, they will begin their afternoon session with some yoga and mindfulness time before going on to have free play. Throughout the day we ensure a balance between adult led and child initiated play.

Home time is at 3:15pm, children can be collected from the hall doors in the Reception outdoor area (through the EYFS gates).

Reception

The school day starts for Reception children at 8:30am, with the gate closing at 8:40am. They will be welcomed into school via the EYFS gates by a member of Reception staff. We will assist children to hang their coats on their pegs and find their names to self-register each morning.

The children will be registered, then participate in daily phonic sessions. Children will then take part in focused English and Maths activities, as well as having the opportunity to engage in self-chosen activities in the different areas of provision. Throughout the day we ensure a balance between adult led and child-initiated play. The door to the outdoor area is open during continuous provision time allowing the children to use which area of the indoor or outdoor area they wish to choose from.

Lunch time for Reception begins at 11:30am. All reception children are entitled to a free hot school meal, however you are welcome to bring a packed lunch into school if you wish. Children can bring packed lunch bags into school and water bottles, please ensure that they are clearly labelled with your child's name. Miss Carole joins us for dinner in Reception.

The afternoon session begins with the register, then we have collective worship and key concept time. During the afternoons the children participate in PE, RE, History, Geography, Science, Art and DT lessons based around our topics.

The school day ends at 3:00pm for Reception children. Parents are asked to collect children from the Reception classroom door (through the EYFS gates).

Reception children are welcome to attend afterschool club which runs until 5:00pm daily for an additional charge.

General Information

Uniform List

<u>Winter Uniform - From September</u>	<u>Summer Uniform - After Easter</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navy Blue jumper or cardigan (logo optional)• Long grey school trousers• Kilt or tartan pinafore• White shirt• School tie• Grey/navy or white socks or tights• Black shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navy Blue jumper or cardigan (logo optional)• Grey school shorts• Blue and white summer dress or skirt• White polo shirt (logo optional) - no tie required• Grey or white socks or tights• Black shoes

Fees

Nursery

All children are entitled to 15 hours free childcare per week, this is split into 3 hours per day each morning from Monday to Friday.

Children who are eligible for 30 hours free childcare do not need to use the full entitlement if they do not wish to. If you are not eligible to claim the 30 hours but wish for your child to stay for the full day there is a £10 charge for the afternoon session along with the £4 charge for wraparound.

Wraparound (lunchtime) fees are charged at £4 per day.

Reception

Milk money is charged at £2 per term or £6 per year.

All EYFS fees are to be paid using the School Money app, more information will be provided.

Parent Communication

We are using an app called 'Tapestry', this is where we can send home photos, videos and messages to show you what your child has been doing in nursery that week. You can comment on the observations we send home and also send your own photos of your child from different activities that they do. It is a fantastic way for us to keep in contact with you and to keep you updated on what is happening in our classes. We also have a whole school parent app called PA Connect, this is where any messages and letters will be sent out. We also use Class Dojo to communicate any messages to home that we may not have chance to tell you, or for you to pass any information on to us.