

Welcome to OLSPN Catholic Primary School

Welcome to OLSPN Primary School and to our community. We are delighted that you have chosen our school for your child and hope that the following years will be a very successful and happy period for all. OLSPN aims to be a very open school, encouraging parents and carers to take as wide an interest and involvement as possible.



We appreciate that it can take some time for parents /carers to feel they understand routines and have the confidence to take a more active role. We hope that some of your questions will be answered in this leaflet. During this time of transition, we aim to keep children and adults safe and healthy so we ask you to bear with us as we all adapt to some sort of new 'normal' together.

The Reception Team

At OLSPN all staff are addressed formally by the children and adults working at our school. There are two Reception classes as well as our Nursery in The Early years Foundation Stage and we occupy the classrooms on the ground floor and have exclusive use of our own purpose-built outdoor area.

The Team:

Each class has its own teacher and teaching assistant.

Mrs. M A Barlow - RMAB class teacher and EYFS Leader

Mrs. I Singh – Teaching assistant

Mrs. A Henderson – RAH Class Teacher

Mrs. A Sanders – Teaching Assistant

Mrs R Flynn – Cover Teacher

All the Early years children normally mix and socialise in the outside area. However we may retain small groups of teaching 'Bubbles' for the duration of transition into regular teaching patterns. Transition may include adjustments to the learning day such as half days to start with. Some of the youngest children may need longer to transition as they won't have had full access to a nursery curriculum and we want to be sensitive to their needs and wellbeing.



OLSPN Catholic Primary School

Learning Together Following Jesus



**OUR LADY AND
ST. PHILIP NERI**

TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

*In Partnership between home,
school and church community*

Teaching Reading using the Letters and Sounds Scheme of Work

It is vital that early reading experiences are happy and positive. The aim should be not just for children to learn to read, but to enjoy reading. We ask that you enjoy reading together every day for around ten minutes. This will include you reading to your child and your child talking about the pictures in the book. The experiences of reading together at home should be enjoyable for both adult and child. Take things slowly and enjoy the time together!

Phonics at OLSPN

- ◆ It is important for a child to learn lower case or small letters rather than capital letters at first. Most early books and games use lower case letters and your child will learn these at school. Obviously you should use a capital letter when required, such as at the beginning of the child's name, eg. **Paul**.
- ◆ When you talk about letters to your child, remember to use the letter sounds: **a buh cuh duh e ...** rather than the alphabet names of the letters: **ay bee see dee ee** . The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names.
- ◆ When saying the sounds of **b, d, g, j** and **w** you will notice the 'uh' sound which follows each, for example buh, duh... It is difficult to say the sound without it, however, try to emphasise the main letter sound.
- ◆ We provide decodable books to match the sounds your child is learning or as close to it as we can. This helps the children read with a little support, confidently and independently. We also provide 'choice' or picture books too.
- ◆ Encourage your child to learn to write their own name using one initial capital and lower-case letters.

First few weeks at school and settling in:

- Start dates will be staggered over a few days.
- On your child's first day they will start at 9.30am. From their second day onwards they will start at 8.45am unless parents/teachers feel a slower transition is necessary in which case this we be discussed on an individual basis.
- Feel free to stay and settle in your child—you know them best!
- Don't plan too many afterschool activities for your child in the first few weeks—they will be very tired!

The school day:

The Reception school day starts at 8.45 am and home time is at 3.15pm. (times may be adjusted)

- If your child is ill, please call the school office to inform us by 9.30 am.
- If you are going to be late picking up your child, please call the office to let them know.
- If you are not picking up your child, please let us know who is. For your child's safety, we will not let them go at home time with an adult unknown to us or under the age of 14.
- Office number: 020 87784386

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Keeping us informed:

- Please make sure we always have your up to date contact details.
- Please let us know if your child has any food allergies and dietary requirements, asthma, allergies or medical conditions.
- Please let us know if there is anything else you feel we need to know about in particular if your child shows any symptoms of fever or unusual coughs in line with Government guidance.

Curriculum:

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum where learning is developed through play. The areas of learning are:
3 Prime Areas: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development

4 Specific Areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design How children learn is as important as what they learn.

We help to develop: Characteristics of Effective Learning. These are Playing & Exploring, Active Learning and Creating and Critical Thinking

We will have workshops and more information as the term gets underway.

Some tips to help get ready for September

- Do lots of chatting!
- Practice getting coats on and off by themselves—children will feel more independent that way and will not have to wait for an adult!
- In preparation for having school dinners, practice using cutlery independently.
- If necessary, practice toileting and handwashing

Clothing:

- There is a uniform list, please read it carefully.
- Lots of messy activities happen during the day. We do everything to make sure the children stay clean and dry, but enthusiasm can take over and accidents do happen. We have some spare clothing if accidents happen but you are welcome to send in a bag of spare underwear/uniform for your child to keep at school. .

Please label all your child's clothing with their name.