ST JOHN'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECEPTION 2026

Information for Parents, Carers and Families

Welcome



- Your child's first experience of school is very important.
- Settling into school is a big step for your child (and you) and we endeavour to make it a happy transition.
- Our aim is to make school a happy, stimulating and rewarding environment for your child to discover, learn and play.
- It is important that home and school work together in developing an effective partnership.

Transition Dates

Stay and Play Session - Tuesday 23rd June
Group A : 9.15-10.15
Group B : 10.45-11.45
Parents to leave children for duration

Stay and Play Afternoon with Y6 buddies - 7th July
All children: 2-3pm
Opportunity for parents to stay and meet other parents.

Our School Day

8:40	School Gates Open - Children walk round to the infant playground and are greeted at the top of the steps by a teacher. Parents are encouraged to say goodbye on the playground.
8:55	Register, daily calendar and visual timetable
9:00	Session 1 (This includes phonics. In the Autumn term this is 15/20 minutes and builds up to 45 minutes over the year.) Curriculum focus on the carpet followed by continuous provision
10:15	Snack and Story
10:30	Collective Worship (In class during Autumn term)
10:45	Playtime
11:00	Session 2 - Curriculum focus on the carpet followed by continuous provision.
12:00	Lunch time
1:00	Register and Sound of the day
1:10	Session 3 - Curriculum focus on the carpet followed by continous provision
2:50	Story time
3:15	School gates open and children are collected at the bottom of the steps on the infant playground

Routines

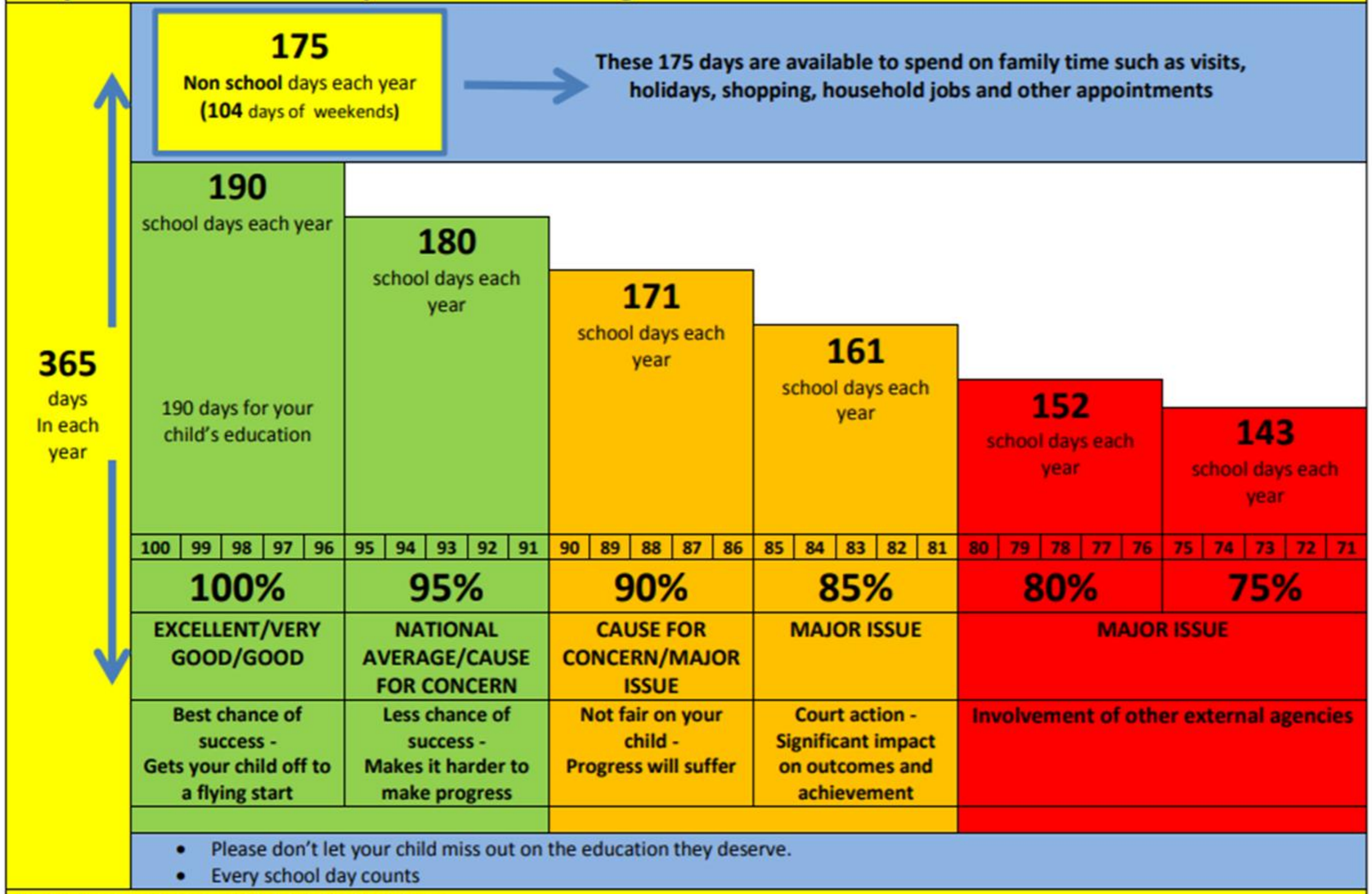
When children arrive into the classroom each morning, a member of staff will be stood at the top of the steps. This is where we encourage you to say goodbye to your child. They are asked to put their coat on their peg and put their bookbag in their drawer and their water bottle on the trolley

If a parent will not be collecting your child, we ask that you let us know who it will be, as your child will not be released unless you have informed us of this change. If a different person will regularly be picking your child up, we can make note of this, so you don't need to inform us every week.

If you are running late in the morning, please enter the school via the school office and sign your child in there.

If your child will be absent from school due to illness, please phone the school office before 8.45am and let them know why. Please be aware that if your child has a sickness bug (or diarrhoea), they need to have 48 hours off after the last bout of sickness (or diarrhoea).

Days off school add up to lost learning!



Here are some basic reminders about attendance.

- We all feel in our comfort zone if our child is achieving a high percentage in tests and examinations. 80% in a test is generally excellent news! The danger is that we may feel the same way about attendance until it is explained.
- If a child has an attendance percentage of **80%** then this is equivalent to **missing a whole day every single week**
- If a child has an attendance percentage of **80%** from **Year 7 to Year 11** then this is equivalent to **missing an entire year of school.**

Snacks and Lunchtimes

- All Reception children (and those in years 1 and 2) are provided with a free piece of fruit each day. Parents are free to send in an extra piece of fruit in their bookbag if they wish to do so.

- Children are provided with a carton of milk (if they want to) up until their 5th birthday. After their 5th birthday you are welcome to buy milk.

- Children need to bring in a named water bottle each day.

- All Reception children (and those in years 1 and 2) are entitled to a 'free school meal' every day. Parents will need to choose their child's lunch option before the school day.

- If your child would prefer a packed lunch from home, please note we are a NUT free school – this includes peanut butter, chocolate spread and some cereal bars. We promote healthy eating, so we discourage sweets or chocolate bars.

MCAS (My Child at School)

MCAS: your portal to access your child's information.
Our communication system is called My Child at School (MCAS). This system is designed to give you a full picture of your child including personal details and attendance and features a payments portal.

How to set up your account
The school will email you an invitation with a code and a link for setting up your account.
When you have these, simply follow the steps in
https://www.stjohnsprimaryschool.org.uk/assets/uploads/MCAS/MCAS%20-%20SJN.pdf

Uniform

- White polo shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without the school logo) – buying a larger size than usual helps with children dressing independently
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Royal blue gingham summer dress
- White or grey socks or grey tights
- Black shoes



Please name all school clothes

All items with the school logo are available to purchase through the link on the school website - go to office - uniform and find the link to Harvem (our uniform supplier)

PE Uniform

- a plain white polo top
- a royal blue jumper or cardigan
- plain black (no logos/ brands/ stripes) shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- trainers not daps

All Reception and KS1 children will need to bring in a P.E kit to keep on their peg.

Additional items....

Change of clothes

- Occasionally, children may need a change of clothes
- It is helpful if they have a change of underwear in a spare bag so that in the event that they need to change, they have their own clothes to wear.

Wellies

- It would be useful to have a pair of wellies to keep in school so that children can access the outside area when it is wet and muddy.

Forest School

- Children will need to have long sleeves and full-length trousers for forest school. We go to forest school in all weathers (except heavy winds). You will be notified in advance about when forest school will be.

Things to bring to school everyday

- Their school book bag (once given out)
- Lunch box (if required)
- Water bottle

Please do not bring any toys or books from home unless specifically requested.

Our Reception Aims

- To help children feel happy, safe and confident within the school environment.
- To develop children's independence, resilience and positive learning behaviours.
- To encourage strong communication, language and social skills through play and interaction.
- To support children in developing early reading, writing and maths skills through engaging activities.
- To nurture curiosity, creativity and a love of learning across all areas of the curriculum.
- To build strong partnerships with parents and carers to support every child's development and wellbeing.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Reception children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum, which consists of seven areas of learning: three prime areas and four specific areas. These are further broken down into 17 Early Learning Goals.

Communication and language	• Listening, Attention, and Understanding • Speaking
Personal, social and emotional development	• Self Regulation • Managing Self • Building Relationships
Physical Development	• Fine motor skills • Gross motor skills
Literacy	• Comprehension • Word Reading • Writing
Mathematics	• Number • Numerical Pattern
Understanding the World	• Past and Present • People, Culture and Communities • The Natural World
Expressive Art and Design	• Creating with Materials • Being Imaginative and Expressive

Literacy



- We develop a love of reading through stories, shared reading and a wide range of books.
- Children take part in daily phonics lessons using the Read Write Inc. (RWI) programme.
- They learn letter sounds, blend sounds to read words and recognise common tricky words.
- Children build comprehension skills by discussing and retelling stories using new vocabulary.
- Writing skills are developed through activities that strengthen fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.
- Children learn to segment words into sounds, write tricky words and compose simple sentences.



Literacy - How you can support at home

- Read with your child at least four times a week and record this in their reading diary.
- Share a variety of books and enjoy reading together regularly.
- Encourage your child to practise their school reading book and red/tricky words.
- Talk about stories, characters and events to develop comprehension and vocabulary.
- Encourage your child to join in with repeated phrases and retell stories in their own words.
- Support early writing through drawing, mark-making and practising letter formation.
- Praise effort and celebrate progress to build confidence and enjoyment in reading and writing.

Maths



- Children learn to recognise, record and order numbers to 20.
- They develop skills in addition, subtraction, doubling, halving and sharing.
- Mathematical concepts are explored through practical, hands-on activities.
- Children use mathematical language to describe size, weight, capacity, position and time.
- They learn to recognise, create and describe patterns.
- Children explore and describe 2D and 3D shapes using appropriate mathematical vocabulary.

Maths - How you can support at home

- Count everyday objects such as toys, steps, cars and items when shopping.
- Sing counting songs and number rhymes together.
- Look for and talk about numbers at home and in the local environment.
- Identify shapes in everyday objects and discuss their properties.
- Compare objects using language such as heavy/light and long/short.
- Encourage children to spot patterns and talk about time during daily routines.
- Make maths fun by including it in everyday activities and conversations.

Seesaw

We use Seesaw, an online learning journal where staff and children can share photographs and observations of learning in school. Parents and carers can also upload home learning and special experiences. This helps families talk about learning at home, using the photographs as prompts for discussion and celebration.

Thrive

The Thrive programme supports children's emotional and social development, helping them to build confidence, resilience and positive relationships. Through a range of activities and nurturing support, children are encouraged to understand their feelings, manage emotions and develop skills that help them succeed both in school and beyond.

Forest School

We are fortunate to have a Forest School area at the bottom of our school field. Forest School gives children opportunities to learn outdoors through hands-on activities and exploration, helping to develop confidence, independence, teamwork and a love of nature.







Before starting school

- Encourage your child to dress independently and put on their coat.
- Support independent toileting, including flushing and handwashing.
- Practise good table manners and using a knife and fork.
- Help your child learn to share, take turns and follow simple instructions.
- Read together every day and talk about stories and pictures.
- Count everyday objects and look for numbers, shapes and patterns around you.
- Explain that toys from home stay at home, as there will be lots to play with at school.

Throughout Reception

- Read with your child a minimum of four times a week and record it in their diary
- Practise the irregular words (red words) a minimum of four times a week
- Practise sounds (sheets will be sent home)
- Talk about storylines in books and the pictures
- Count everything you can, wherever you go
- Practise correct letter formation (sheets will be sent home)
- Practise drawing, colouring, writing so that your child knows how to correctly hold a pencil
- Encourage your child to write their own name using a capital for the initial letter and small letters for the rest

Any Questions?

Parents meeting - Thursday 17th September 2026 at 5:00pm-5:30pm

St John's PTA

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL, ENRICHING OUR CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES



We are a group of friendly parents and carers who work together to raise money that makes a BIG difference to our school!

WHAT DO WE DO?

The PTA supports the school by raising money to provide extra resources, experiences and opportunities that enhance our children's learning and wellbeing.

WHAT WE RAISE MONEY FOR



Living Eggs
A fantastic hands-on experience for our Reception children.



Bikeability
Helping our children build confidence and stay safe on the roads.



Y6 Leavers Hoodies
A special memento to remember their primary school years.



Y6 Leavers Photos
Capturing memories to treasure forever.



Sensory Room
A calm, inclusive space to support wellbeing and learning.



Forest School
Outdoor learning experiences that build confidence and connection with nature.

Thrive

Thrive
Supporting the social and emotional development and wellbeing of all our children.



Y4 Swimming
Providing essential swimming lessons and water safety skills.

HOW WE RAISE MONEY

SCHOOL DISCOS



Dancing, games and a great time with friends!

SUMMER FAIR



Stalls, games, gifts, food and lots of summer fun!

CHRISTMAS FAIR



Festive stalls, games, tombola, gifts and seasonal treats!

MOVIE NIGHTS



Sit back, relax and enjoy a film with friends.

SPORTS DAY REFRESHMENTS



Keeping everyone fuelled and refreshed!



EASTER FAIR
Egg hunts, games, crafts, stalls and more!

FAMILY FOAM PARTIES



Foam, music, dancing and fun for the whole family!

JOIN US!

Everyone is welcome –
no pressure, no time commitments!

Contact Georgia on
07429226246

OR

Email us at
talktothepta@outlook.com

Together, we can create amazing experiences and memories