



# Welcome to St Clare's Primary School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy



*"Learning through faith"*



## Introduction

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old and it won't be long before your child will be starting with us at St Clare's.

There are lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your child is well prepared for this important event.

We aim to make starting primary school a happy and memorable experience for both you and your child. This booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to quickly settle into school life.

## General Information

Our contact details:

St Clare's Primary School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Convent Drive, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3SF

Telephone: 01530 837747

Email: [office@st-clares.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-clares.leics.sch.uk)

School Website: [www.st-clares.leics.sch.uk](http://www.st-clares.leics.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs J Beer

Chair of Governors: Mr A Brine



## Meet the Staff



Mrs Palmer  
EYFS Teacher  
(Monday – Tuesday)



Mrs Lees  
EYFS Teacher  
(Wednesday – Friday)  
and SENDCo



Mrs Glauds  
EYFS Teaching  
Assistant



Mrs Beer  
Headteacher



## Parents as Partners

Our family ethos is central to our school, we operate an 'Open-Door Policy' where parents are actively encouraged to meet with staff to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity.

- It is important us that we have a strong and respectful partnership. This sets the scene for your child to thrive in the early years.
- We will always listen and give clear information about your child's progress.
- The help that you give your child at home has a very significant impact on their learning.
- We encourage you to chat, play and read with your children.





## Morning

Children are brought into school via the main school car park gate (this is at the end of Convent Drive). Follow the yellow path in the car park and go to the EYFS playground gate which will be opened at 8:50am.

## Collecting your child

At the end of the school day, the EYFS gate will be opened at 3.15pm. We will dismiss your child from the classroom door to the adult that is collecting them.

It is vital that you inform us if someone different is collecting your child. If we are unsure, we will have to contact you before we can let your child leave the premises. We do this as the welfare of your child is of the utmost importance to us.



## School Dinners

Hot meals are prepared for us every day in our school kitchen. The menu for each week is posted on the school website and a copy of the menu is displayed in the school hall. Alternatively, your child can bring in a packed lunch.

School dinners and packed lunches are served in the hall. Those children having a hot dinner have a 'cafeteria-style' service throughout the week. If your child has any special dietary requirements, please inform the school office.

*School dinners are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.*

## Water, Fruit and Milk

Children are offered a piece of fresh fruit at snack time.

We do encourage your children to bring in a water bottle every day. Your child's water bottle should be clearly labelled and contain **only water**. This is in addition to any drink your child has in their lunchbox if they are having a packed lunch.

Children are also offered milk to drink each day which is free until their 5th birthday and around £14 a term for over 5's - see information about school milk included in pack.



# School Uniform

We have two seasonal uniforms:

Summer - Up to October Half Term and from after Easter to the end of the school year

- Pale blue gingham dress or grey shorts or trousers with pale blue short-sleeved polo shirt with school badge
- Navy V-neck jumper or cardigan with school badge
- Grey socks for boys; white socks for girls

Winter - From after October Half Term until Easter

- Navy knee length skirt, navy knee length pinafore, grey shorts or grey trousers with pale blue shirt and school tie.
- Navy V-neck jumper or cardigan with school badge
- Grey socks for boys, navy or white socks or tights for girls

Other items applicable all year round

- Footwear – black or brown shoes or boots
- Watches – no smart watches but other watches may be worn
- Earrings - must be simple gold or silver studs. Earrings should not be worn on PE days.
- Hair styles – hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up with a plain/gingham hair band in school colours or black. Extreme hair styles such as closely shaven styles / patterns or coloured hair are not allowed.

PE Kit

- Navy or black shorts with plain white or navy t-shirt (with or without the school badge)
- Black, navy or grey tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirts may be worn over the above in cold weather.
- Sports socks
- Trainers

In EYFS, children come to school on P.E. days in their P.E. kit and wearing trainers. We will let you know which day that is at the beginning of the school year.



Our approved uniform suppliers are:

- Rosebuddies in Loughborough:  
<http://www.rosebuddiesonline.co.uk/>
- MyClothing: <https://myclothing.com/st-clares-primary-school-coalville-leicestershire/8392.school>
- School ties and book bags are available from the school office





## Outdoor learning

At St Clare's, we have a strong emphasis on outdoor learning in all areas of the curriculum. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales. It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world and offers children the freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically active.

The outdoors is open to children throughout the day, therefore, it is really important that they are dressed suitably for all weathers.

In cold weather, the children should bring hats, gloves and scarves. We do ask that you bring a named pair of wellies for your child. These will stay on the welly rack by the classroom door. Children will also need a waterproof coat in case of wet weather.

During the summer months, suntan lotion should be applied before school and children should bring sunhats.

List of items to bring to school:

- Wellies – we play outside in all weathers!
- Suitable waterproof coat – nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet
- Hat, scarf and gloves
- Sun hat
- Water bottle containing water
- Book bag, reading book and home diary

***It is essential that all items must be marked with the child's name.***





## Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7:45am and is staffed by some of our teaching assistants and other support staff.

It is based in the hall.

Children are offered a range of hot and cold breakfast food and have time to interact with their friends before school starts.

Please see the separate flyer for more information and to book a place.

## After School Club

We have an After School Club which is based in the room adjacent to EYFS.

It is staffed by some of our teaching assistants and other support staff.

Children are offered a snack, usually a sandwich and a yogurt, and participate in a wide variety of activities such as arts and crafts and have access to a wide range of toys and jigsaws.

Please see the separate flyer for more information and to and to book a place.



## Learning in the Foundation Stage

Reception is where the excitement begins! The children learn together in an environment which is developed around the children's interests. We pride ourselves on being an exciting and engaging place to be – encouraging our children to be independent learners through a range of practical activities. We follow a thematic curriculum which allows us to be creative with our lessons and let the children lead their own learning.

As our Reception children enter the classroom, they learn primarily through a variety of play and real-life experiences. Our teaching is delivered through carefully planned activities and guided key tasks. The children access their environment freely, however, they understand they must complete 'key jobs' throughout the week which scaffold and extend their learning. Their development is tracked carefully through daily observations and child-initiated interaction. These observations in addition to the 'key jobs' help us to plan the next steps of your child's learning.



## Learning in the Foundation Stage

In Reception, the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS). This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles.

**The Unique Child** –We recognise that every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

**Positive Relationships** – Our children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

**Enabling environments** - Our children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time.

**Learning and development** – Our children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers. The importance of learning and development is key to our school. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Foundation Curriculum has also identified the following characteristics for effective learning and these are promoted and encouraged throughout the foundation curriculum here at St Clare's:

- Playing and exploring (engagement). Children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go.'
- Active learning (motivation). Children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically (thinking). Children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.





## Early Learning Goals

The early years curriculum, taken from the foundation stage framework, is organised into seven areas of learning. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. This framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting and the activities and opportunities we provide, as well as how we assess your child's development. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

### These are the prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

### The specific areas are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

We teach all these areas of learning through a variety of topics and themes to ensure that learning is enjoyable, relevant and interrelated; including taking into account children's interests.



## Preparing your child for school

Your child will be in a class of 30 children. It will make starting school much easier and happier if they are independent and can do many things for themselves.

Can your child:

- Dress and undress themselves?
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there?
- Tidy up after themselves?
- Recognise their own name?
- Feed themselves?
- Share toys and equipment?
- Handle a pencil?
- Sing some nursery rhymes?
- Practise counting to 10?
- Listen well and follow simple instructions?



## Preparing your child for school

How can I help my child prepare for school?

- Encourage them to be as independent as possible even if it takes far longer for them to get ready.
- Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress-free time getting ready for school.
- Never threaten them with school! Be positive. Show it to them as an enjoyable experience.

What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws etc.
- Get them used to: pencils, crayons, felt pens, chalks, paints, play dough.
- Scissors – teach your child to hold and use a pair of scissors independently e.g. cutting pictures out of a magazine.
- Share stories, books and rhymes. Read to them.
- Count everything and share things out.
- Use lots of one-to-one correspondence – cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for each person.
- Talk to them all the time. Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for. Talk about what you see when you are out and about. Watch people work and discuss what they are doing.



# Term Dates 2021/22



Term dates 2021—2022



AUGUST						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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30	31					

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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JUNE						
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JULY						
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Please check with your child's school website to ensure you have the correct dates for inset/teacher training days



Holidays



Bank Holiday



Suggested INSET

