

St. Nicholas Priory CEVA Primary School



Reception Unit

Welcome to Reception!

We are so pleased that you have chosen for your child to attend St. Nicholas Priory CEVA Primary School.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child on this first exciting step of their school learning journey.

This booklet contains some key information about the policies and learning ethos of the Reception Unit, please read this information thoroughly.

Your child's Class Teacher will be happy to discuss any of the information contained within this booklet with you during your child's first few weeks at school.

The Team

Your child will be taught during family group sessions by their Key Person, who will be either their Class Teacher or their designated Teaching Assistant, who will alternate on a half-termly basis. During free-flow learning time, your child will interact with all adults working in the unit, who will support your child with their learning through play.



Mrs Dyble (EYFS/KS1 Deputy Head)



Mrs Mancini



Mr Hawksley



Mrs Powley



Mrs D-B



Mrs Harman



Mrs Leggett

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) sets out the learning and development stages for children as they grow from birth to five years. For those working in the early years - whether in a nursery, pre-school, a childminder or in a reception class in school - the EYFS outlines what they need to do to support your child.

There are several key things to remember:

- Children learn and develop through playing, exploring, being active, creative and being asked questions to help their thinking.
- Children develop more rapidly during the first five years of their lives than at any other time.
- Every child is different and children do not grow and develop at the same rate.
- Communication and language and literacy are VITAL areas for you to enjoy supporting your child with. It is important that your child grows up to be a good communicator and a keen reader and this will be supported by having stories read to them and lots of conversations at home.

As you know, being a parent is very special and amazing as you watch your child grow up. It can also have challenges and so we, at St Nicholas Priory, want to be available to chat with you whenever you would appreciate talking things through.

Also you may find the document "What to Expect When" useful in understanding your child's development.

http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/09/4Children_ParentsGuide_Sept_2015v4WEB1.pdf

St Nicholas Priory CE VA Primary School Reception Unit

Our vision is to offer an environment where children's natural desire to explore and learn is embraced. The Reception setting offers routines and boundaries set by the adults who organise and manage the classroom, providing an environment in which children are encouraged to take ownership of their learning through exploration and fun. The majority of children's learning in Reception is child-initiated.

Children are free to choose the resources with which they will play and learn, as well as choosing whether they will learn indoors or outdoors in all weathers. Such child-led learning promotes the Characteristics of Effective Learning, supporting children's independence, curiosity and motivation, as well as supporting them in becoming collaborative learners.

To supplement children's free-flow learning, pupils are supported in short (approx. 15 minute) adult-led sessions, during which adults model reading, writing and maths skills, as well as supporting children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development. During these daily sessions, pupils learn in 'family groups' of approximately 15 pupils, led by their Key Person, either a Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant.

During free-flow learning time, staff work alongside the children in their chosen activities to encourage, validate and celebrate learning carefully, watching for precious 'teachable moments' to enhance and develop their thinking and learning skills.

Staff develop a sound knowledge of each child through such interactions, and each individual child's 'next steps' for learning are supported through interactions with adults in their play. By celebrating with interested adults around them, children are motivated and enthusiastic about the experience of attending school and are inspired by opportunities to test and try new ways of learning.

Keeping the Balance

The children initiate their own learning and the adults support and guide them to extend the learning opportunities.

Throughout the year we assess and review the progress of all the children. This is documented in your child's learning journey.

We introduce teaching of specific skills as and when appropriate to individual

children and groups of children.

Teaching and the Learning Environment

The role of the Adult

The adults in Reception at St Nicholas Priory CEVA Primary school are here to facilitate your child's learning. They do this through direct teaching, observations and interactions.

Our adults know the children well and have a sound understanding of child development. This ensures that the adults enhance and extend your child's learning at the appropriate level.

Quality Interactions

The children become involved in activities of their choice. The adults observe the children, careful to join them when appropriate and engage in quality interactions (teaching) to move the learning on.

At St Nicholas Priory we believe that teaching can be:

- Communicating with a child
- Modelling new language
- Working with a child as a team
- Being ready to intervene in the moment
- Demonstrating how to do something
- Explaining why something is as it is
- Exploring ideas
- Showing a child something
- Encouraging them
- Questioning them
- Helping them record something (scribing)
- Structuring a sequence of events
- Providing a narrative for what they are doing
- Setting challenge

Collection and Authorised Adults

Our highest priority at St Nicholas Priory is to ensure the safety of all children under our care. For this reason, the Reception Unit has an established authorised adults policy for collecting children at home time or any other time of the school day.

Your child's Class Teacher requires names and photographs of all adults whom you wish to be able to collect your child from school. It is essential that we have these photographs of all of these authorised adults before we will allow your child to leave school with them.

We welcome parents and families into our unit at the start and end of each school day and see up to 100 adults on a daily basis. As such, it is essential that we have the required information to keep all children safe at these times. During collection we allow limited numbers of adults into the unit at a time in order to best safeguard all children.

If you have an emergency and you think you may not be able to collect your child from school, please telephone the office and a member of staff will call you back to confirm the name of the adult collecting your child that day. We may ask you to pass on a unique password for that adult to use when collecting your child.

We hope you understand and welcome our desire to ensure the safe collection of all children from our school.

Structure of the school day

Parents/carers should arrive at the Reception gate on Great Yarmouth market place for 8:40a.m. at which time, a member of the Reception team will open the gate. You will be warmly encouraged to stay settle your child until 8:50a.m. at which time, families will be asked to say goodbye to their children.

Children may be collected from 3p.m. from the market place gate. This is too allow parents/carers to collect other children from older year groups.

Please note: During the first two to three weeks of school, your child will attend school **part-time** and the above information will not apply.

Learning Outside

At St Nicholas Priory CEVA Primary School we believe all children should be given the opportunity to be outdoors throughout most of the day, if they choose to do so.

Therefore it is important that you dress your child for school appropriately: **warm, waterproof clothing** such as a **coat** when it is cold and wet; for when it is sunny and warm we advise a **sun hat and sunscreen**. Children are required to apply their own sunscreen whilst at school during particularly sunny spells.

We also encourage you to bring a **water bottle** for your child all year round as the children are active all day.

Children will get wet and muddy when they go outside. We provide protective clothing for them to wear including **wellington boots**, although we strongly recommend that you provide your child with these.

It is essential that you provide a **set of spare clothing** for your child. This needs to be available in school at all times please.

Please ensure all additional items of clothing, wellington boots, sunscreen and water bottles are **labelled**.

We teach the children how to minimise mess and they are able to manage this more as they get older. This is part of their learning and development - we cannot expect them not to be messy when playing in mud!

We will not compromise on allowing the children to play outdoors and we believe this is an essential part of your child's learning and development.

Children in our classes will be allowed to learn by experiencing a full, messy, muddy, wet environment, which will allow them to make meaning of the world around them.



Our Golden Rules

Children are encouraged to make choices about their learning in our Reception unit. To ensure children's safety, we do have a small number of rules, which we expect all children to follow.

- Children must walk and use quiet voices indoors. They may run and play loudly outside during free-flow learning time.
- Children must tidy up when they have finished playing with any toys or equipment. We say "You choose it, you use it, you put it away."
- Children must use kind hands towards all others in our school.
- Toys from home **should not** be brought into school, as we cannot take any responsibility for such items. Your child will have a large selection of toys with which to play and learn in school.

Please discuss these rules with your child before they start school in September. We appreciate your support in keeping our classroom a safe and happy place to learn.

Preparing your child for school

We expect children to arrive in Reception at different stages of development. However, there are some things that you can do to support your child to have a smooth start to school life.

- ⇒ Support your child in going to the toilet independently and being able to wash their hands on their own.
- ⇒ Help your child to learn how to dress his/herself, including being able to zip up a coat and put on shoes.
- ⇒ Encourage your child to tidy away toys and books when they have finished playing with them.
- ⇒ Talk to your child about how to care for toys and books and how to handle these correctly.

Whilst we do not expect children to be able to do all of these things independently when they start school, acquiring these skills will support children with settling into Reception in September.

We have included some more ideas alongside this pack.

Home Learning

By completing work at home, children can embed skills they have learned in class and make better progress. They also benefit from parent / carer involvement in their learning. Home Learning is provided when staff feel it is appropriate at various point in the year. They will provide guidance and support on how to do this. Home learning in Reception is not mandatory but it is a good opportunity for your child to practise skills.

Reading - we provide a wide range of age appropriate reading books, your child will regularly take one home. It is recommended that parents or carers listen to their child(ren) read, once a day, for a minimum of ten minutes. Read stories together as often as possible. In this way children learn to enjoy reading and learn new vocabulary. Your child will receive their first reading book when their group leader feels they are ready.

RWI (Read, Write Inc.) Phonics - we provide the children with 'sound' sheets for the sounds that the children have been learning each week; it is recommended parents/carers practice five sounds at least once a week with their child(ren).

Words - In Reception, children are given bookmarks, each containing ten high frequency words. Parents/carers are asked to use the bookmarks to support their children in learning to recognise and write these words. Once the children are confident with these words, they are given the next bookmark with different words to learn.

Maths - Children may bring home math learning to complete at home. This will help to embed skills such as counting, adding, subtracting, doubling, shapes and pattern that have been taught to your child at school.