

St William of York Catholic Primary School



Starting School
September 2026

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Welcome



We are delighted to welcome you to St William of York Catholic Primary School and we look forward to welcoming your children in September.

Our school ethos is centred around the values of love, respect and kindness. We work in partnership with parents to celebrate the uniqueness of every child and embrace the individual gifts and talents of all of those in our school community.

We work hard to support pupils to develop a love of learning and strive for academic excellence in all areas of the curriculum.

We hope you find this booklet a useful reference point for your child's transition into our Reception class.

Key Dates

2 nd Jul	Class Visit / Stay & Play
12 th Jul	Summer Fair
3-7 th Sep	Home Visits
8 th Sep	Half day at school
9 th Sep	First full day at school
18 th Sep	Welcome Assembly & BBQ

Key members of staff for Reception



Miss Dempsey
Teacher



Mr Morris
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Mayers
Headteacher

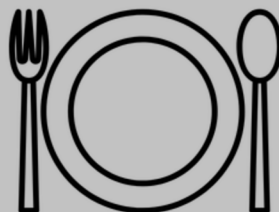


Ms Thorn
Deputy Head & SENCo



Self-care & Independence

- I can wash and dry my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can put on/fasten my coat and shoes
- I can use the toilet
- I am learning to dress/undress
- I am happy to be away from my parents or carers. I know they will be back soon



Eating & Drinking

- I can use a spoon, knife and fork
- I can open my lunchbox as well as wrappers and packaging
- I can drink from a water bottle, carton or open cup



Playing with Others

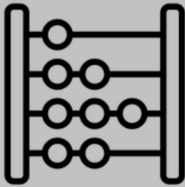
- I join in games and activities with other people
- I can share and take turns

Getting ready for school

Reading & Writing



- I can recognise/read my name
- I can hold a pencil to draw
- I am learning to write my name
- I enjoy listening to stories and rhymes



Numbers

- I can count a small number of objects
- I like singing number rhymes and songs
- I am learning to say numbers to 10
- I can recognise some numbers



Speaking & Listening

- I can talk about my ideas, needs and feelings
- I can ask a grown-up for help
- I can follow simple instructions

It is nearly time to start school. Here are some things you can practise at home to help your child get ready for school.

SWOY Routines

School Uniform

Please see the School Uniform list for EYFS. The uniform for Nursery and Reception is slightly different to the rest of the school. Please make sure all items are clearly labelled.

Morning Routine

The school gate opens at 8.45am. Children may come into class to read a book with their parent/carer. The register will be taken promptly at 9am.

Absences

Parents must report absences to the school office on the morning of absence. This can be done via telephone 0208 690 2842 or via email to admin@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk

It is important for children to be in school every day, however, in exceptional circumstances you may need to request an authorised absence. Please see the attendance area on our school website, which sets out what the school considers exceptional circumstances. There is a form that needs to be completed for the Headteacher to approve absence requests.

Contact Details

The school must be kept informed if there are changes to any telephone numbers, emergency contact details or home addresses.



Sweets & Chocolate

Chocolate, sweets and chewing gum are not allowed in school. The school is a 'chocolate-free zone'. For birthdays, you may give out a small packet of Haribos or similar style sweet for each child in the class.

Medical Conditions

Please make sure you inform your child's class teacher and the school office if your child has a medical condition. We will support your child with any medical conditions that they have.

If your child has asthma, the school will need the care plan, 2 asthma pumps and a spacer to be kept in school.

If your child has an allergy, the school will need a copy of the care plan, cetirizine and 2 EPI pens to be kept in school.

School Street

The school street is operational between 8.30 - 9.15am and 2.45 - 3.30pm. You cannot drive through the school street zone during these times.

Medications

Staff cannot administer medications. If your child is on medication, e.g. antibiotics, doses should be arranged around the school day. In exceptional circumstances, Mrs Mayers may approve the administration of prescription medications.

Lunches

School dinners are free for children in Reception. Our menu can be found on the school website. Changes from school dinners to packed lunch, or vice versa, can only be made half termly. If your child has packed lunch, lunch boxes must be stored in the school hall and must be clearly marked with your child's name.



Learning in the EYFS

Mindset

At St William of York, it is important to us that we work together as a community to support your child to develop a 'growth mindset'. If we focus on effort and determination all children can be successful. If a child reaches the 'end product' and it's not what we had in mind, they are more likely to have another go and be more successful in the future if they feel good about their efforts every time they have a go.

ACE

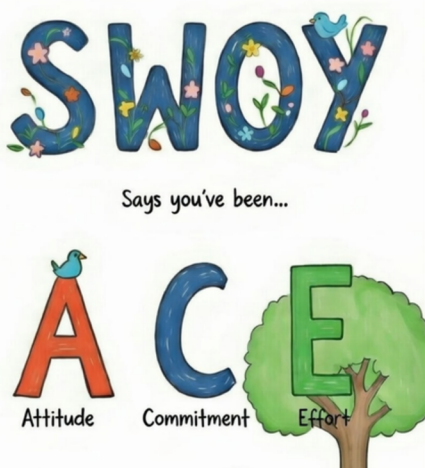
The school recognition system focuses on children being ACE, which represents recognition for:

Attitude Commitment Effort

During the year, teachers give out ACE cards, which are a way to share children's achievements with you.

It is also important to us that you share achievements that are happening at home too. We will give you some 'proud moment' stars to share these moments with us.

By celebrating achievements in and outside school, our children will realise the two are connected and will feel more secure in our home-school relationship.





EYFS

The EYFS curriculum is organised into seven areas, three prime areas and four specific areas. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. The prime areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The prime areas are:

- Communication & Language
- Personal, Social, Emotional
- Physical Development

The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive art and design

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Children learn in a variety of different ways: watching others, talking, asking questions, listening, exploring and investigating.

Play is the foundation of development and learning for young children and your child will continue to take part in many indoor and outdoor play experiences that will help them to learn and have a better understanding of the world around them.

The characteristics of learning underpin learning and development across all areas and support the children to remain motivated. The characteristics are:

- Engagement: playing and exploring
- Thinking: creating and thinking critically
- Motivation: active learning

