

St Anne's RC Primary

'We Grow Together in God's Love'



St Anne's information pack

2026-2027

Headteachers welcome

Here at St Anne's our core values of love, responsibility and respect ensure all members of our community can live out our mission statement: 'We Grow Together in God's Love.' Our high expectations and our clear behaviour policy ensures that all children are given the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Our highly motivated and dedicated staff ensure that all children feel part of God's family and that they are encouraged to try their best in all that they do.



We pride ourselves on creating a broad and balanced curriculum in which all children can develop their God given talents and 'live life to the full' (John 10:10). Our aim is to provide a rich, fun-filled curriculum which develops the whole child through high quality teaching, learning and first hand experiences. Our children are at the heart of everything we do at St Anne's and their emotional health and well-being is equally as important as their academic achievements.

We are part of the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust and are proud to belong to a wider family of Catholic schools that share a common vision: for every child to flourish and reach their full potential, both academically and spiritually. Being part of this Trust strengthens our community while allowing us to remain rooted in our own unique school identity and values.

We are inspired by the Trust's commitment to Humility, Faithfulness and Service. These values are reflected in our daily life: showing compassion and understanding to one another, living out our faith in all that we do and serving others with generosity as part of God's mission. In unity with the wider Catholic Academy family, we work together to nurture each child, guiding them to grow in faith, confidence and purpose.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into St Anne's family

Mrs Amy Wainwright
Headteacher

Attendance

At St Anne's we pride ourselves on excellent attendance and we have won many awards for our attendance figures. We expect children to be in school every day and on time.

When you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure they attend regularly. Being in school every day that it is open is vital for your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development.

We are very proud that our school is one of the highest within the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust for attendance and we have won many awards for our excellent attendance figures. This is only possible because of the strong support from our families and your shared understanding of just how important it is for children to be in school every day.

As part of our new starter meetings, we will go into more detail about attendance and how, by working together, we can ensure that attendance really does matter and that every child has the best possible start.

We understand that it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether to keep your child off school when they are unwell. If you do keep your child at home, it is important to contact the school. We will be able to advise you using government guidance to help decide when children should be kept off and when they should attend.

Please note that only the school can authorise an absence. Parents do not have this authority, and therefore not all absences supported by parents will be classified as authorised.

Further information can be found on our website:

https://www.stannesrc.co.uk/parents_zone/attendance/attendance.html

If you have any questions about attendance, please contact Mrs Holt or Mrs Spiller.

Key staff in school

- Headteacher - Mrs Wainwright
- Deputy Headteacher – Mrs Jones
- SENCO – Miss Comer/Mrs Jones
- Office staff – Mrs Smith and Mrs Spiller
- Pastoral and attendance lead- Mrs Holt
- EYFS lead – Miss Farrell
- Chair of Governors – Mrs Entwistle
- Parish Priest - Father Kevin Tierney

Curriculum

As a catholic school we dedicate 10% of teaching to the teaching of RE including learning about other faiths. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and we purposefully plan in trips, visits and experiences to enhance the children's learning. Reading is at the heart of curriculum and we expose the children to a variety of texts and authors and develop the children's love of reading.

For further information on our curriculum please visit our website

<https://www.stannesrc.co.uk/curriculum/curriculum.html>

School times

Children are expected to be present on the school premises five minutes before school starts in both morning and afternoon. Parents are asked to ensure, if possible, that their children **do not arrive on the premises before 8.30 am**.

Our opening hours:

Nursery (EYFS)

Our Nursery is open from **8:45am – 12:00pm, Monday to Friday**, totalling 16.5 hours per week. All children are eligible for the 15 hours free early education entitlement from the term after their 3rd birthday, regardless of parents' working status. Parents can use this 15-hour entitlement with us, and there is currently no additional charge for the extra 1.5 hours per week.

Reception (EYFS)

8.45am - 11.30am

11.30am - 1.00pm LUNCH

1.00pm - 3.15pm

Key Stage One (KS1) - Years 1 and 2

8.45am - 12.00 noon

12.00 noon - 1.00pm LUNCH

1.00pm - 3.15pm

Key Stage Two (KS2) Years 3 to 6

8.45am - 12.30pm

12.30pm - 1.15pm LUNCH

1.15pm - 3.15pm

Breakfast club

We are pleased to share an exciting update to our Breakfast Club provision. Our school is part of the DfE-funded Free Breakfast Club initiative, which is available to all children from Reception through to Year 6.

From September 2026, Breakfast Club will open at **8:00am**, with the doors closing promptly at **8:30am**. This provision is designed to support families with childcare needs while also ensuring that every child has access to a healthy start to the day.

To help us ensure appropriate staffing levels and a smooth start to the programme, we will be sending out a **Google Form survey** during the first few weeks of term. It is essential that all parents and carers complete this form if they wish their child to attend Breakfast Club. The information you provide will allow us to allocate places fairly and ensure we have sufficient staff in place.

Please note that completing the survey is crucial to securing a place for your child.

Lunch and snack

Our kitchen staff produce a choice of delicious, freshly prepared meals. We do not offer Halal food but have a vast range of vegetarian meals, and can cater for special diets, by prior arrangement.

Nursery and Reception

- In Nursery, we ask for a contribution of £5 per half term to support the provision of a healthy snack. This includes a range of nutritious options such as beans on toast, breadsticks or vegetable sticks with dips, mini pizzas and much more. These snacks form an important part of the Nursery curriculum, supporting children's social development and encouraging healthy eating habits. Without these contributions, we would not be able to sustain this provision, and therefore this is reviewed regularly.
- As part of the National Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, all children in Nursery and Reception are provided with fresh fruit or vegetables each day.
- The Department for Education milk scheme ensures that all children under 5 are entitled to free milk. At St Anne's, we are pleased to extend this offer so that all children in Nursery and Reception receive milk free of charge. As with our snack provision, this is reviewed regularly to ensure it remains sustainable.
- Reception children are also entitled to Universal Free School Meals, funded by the government.

Year 1- 6

- All children in Year 1 and Year 2 receive Universal Free School Meals, funded by the government. Our school menus can be found on the school website:
https://www.stannesrc.co.uk/school_life/school_meals/school_meals.html
- We understand that school meals can sometimes feel daunting, particularly for parents of children who may be described as "fussy eaters." However, we are very proud of our menu and the wide range of healthy, balanced options available. We aim to encourage children to develop a varied diet and establish healthy eating habits from an early age. We will always work closely with both parents and children to support this, ensuring a positive and reassuring experience for everyone.
- School meals for children in Years 3–6 cost £2.60 per day and are paid via Arbor.

- Some children may be eligible for additional Free School Meals. We encourage all families to check eligibility via the Oldham Council website, even if your child is currently receiving Universal Free School Meals in Reception or Key Stage 1.
- Only children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6) may bring a packed lunch. Packed lunches must follow our healthy eating policy to ensure they are balanced and nutritious. Please clearly name all lunch boxes.
- We are a nut-free school due to allergies. Please do not send any food items containing nuts.
- Children should not bring snacks into school from home. This is to help us manage allergies effectively and to ensure that all children are encouraged to eat healthy, balanced options.
- Instead, children in Key Stage 2 can join our Fruit Club for £1.50 per week. As part of this, children can choose from a selection of fresh fruit each day. We believe this offers excellent value for money, particularly given the rising cost of fresh fruit, while also promoting healthy eating habits in school.
- To support the health and safety of all children, sweets, chocolate, cakes and crisps are not allowed in school. For the same reason, we do not allow sweets or chocolates to be given out to children on birthdays.
- It is important that every child brings a clearly labelled water bottle into school each day. Drinking water regularly supports concentration, learning and overall wellbeing. Bottles will be sent home daily to be cleaned and refilled.

Uniform

We expect all children to wear school uniform as it helps to create a sense of belonging, pride and identity within our school community.

Uniform is available to purchase from Debonair, based in the Market Hall in Oldham, or online via “My Clothing.” Please click on the links below to visit their websites.

We are also very pleased to support families through a range of sustainability and cost-saving initiatives. We regularly hold uniform swap shops, where families can donate pre-loved uniform items and swap for larger sizes.

We have also teamed up with the Oldham Community Wardrobe, and we are fortunate to have a selection of donated clothing available in the school foyer. Families are welcome to take any items they need free of charge.

These initiatives help us to reduce waste, support sustainability, and ensure that all children have access to appropriate school uniform

[Shop school uniform at Debonair](#)

[Shop school uniform at My Clothing](#)

School Uniform

- **Grey or black smart trousers* no leggings/tracksuit bottoms allowed**
- Grey or black knee length skirt
- Grey or black shorts (knee length)

- White shirt or polo shirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt with school logo
- Black, grey or white socks
- Blue summer dresses (knee length)
- **Black shoes *please note trainers are NOT allowed**

PE Uniform

- Black shorts and yellow t-shirt or polo shirt.
- Black pumps (these can also be used for indoors in the event of bad weather.)
- Black track suit bottoms and plain/**non branded** trainers can be worn in winter.

Other uniform

- Children must have a St. Anne's reading folder/book bag available from school office. Due to health and safety no other bags are allowed
- Children must have a pump bag with their name marked on it available from the school office
- All clothing should be marked with the child's name inside the collar. Shoes and pumps need to be marked with names.
- NO jewellery is allowed. If ears are pierced, small studs may be worn- no hoops allowed for safety reasons.
- NO acrylic nails or nail varnish allowed.
- A watch may be worn. NO smart watches.
- Long hair must be tied back
- Only plain headband/small blue bows allowed
- No coloured extensions can be worn or weaved through hair- only natural hair coloured weaves/braids are allowed.
- **Mobile Phones**
- Year 6 children who walk home alone after Easter may bring a mobile phone if parents request this, but this is brought to school at their own risk. Phones must be handed in to the class teacher first thing in the morning and collected at 3.15pm. During the school day, any contact between home and school will be made via the school office.

Term dates 26-27

	School Finishes	School Re-Opens
Summer Holidays 2026	Friday 17 th July 2026	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Autumn Half Term Holiday 2026	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Christmas Holiday 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027
Spring Half Term 2027	Thursday 11 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Easter Holidays 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 5 th April 2027
Summer Half Term 2027	Friday 21 st May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027
Summer Holiday 2027	Friday 16 th July 2027	

SCHOOL CLOSED: BANK HOLIDAY – Monday 3rd May 2027

STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 12th February 2027

Monday 19th July 2027

Tuesday 20th July 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

(190 pupil days; 5 teacher training days)

Contact information

In the event of an emergency, the school will use the contact details you have provided on your contact form. It is essential that these details are kept up to date, so please inform the school office immediately if anything changes.

As part of our safeguarding procedures, we ask all families to set a **collection password**. This will be used when we need to confirm the identity of an adult collecting your child. If we ask for this password, it is not to cause any inconvenience, but to ensure your child's safety and that they are only released to authorised adults.

It is very important that you provide **at least three emergency contact details**, so we can always reach a trusted adult if we are unable to contact parents or carers directly.

All contact forms must be fully completed before your child starts at St Anne's. This information is essential for safeguarding purposes and also helps us to ensure that any medical or additional needs (including SEND requirements) are known and appropriately supported from the outset.

Communication

At St Anne's, we strongly value and understand the importance of clear, regular communication between school and home. Working together in partnership with parents and carers is one of the most effective ways to support every child's learning, wellbeing and development.

Website and Online Platforms

- Our school website contains all key policies, information, curriculum details, and useful signposting, as well as a virtual classroom for children to access learning resources.

We use **Seesaw** to share key messages, home learning tasks and class updates.

- In **Nursery and Reception**, Seesaw is also used as a communication tool between home and school, as we understand that younger children and families may need more direct and supportive communication at this stage.
- From **Year 1 upwards** Seesaw is used to share information and learning updates only and is not used as a back-and-forth communication tool.

Newsletters

- Half-termly class newsletters share key learning, PE days and upcoming events.
- Weekly newsletters celebrate children's achievements (including certificate winners, where parents are invited to attend), share important updates, and highlight school events and celebrations.

Reports and Progress Updates

- Interim reports are shared during the year so you can see how your child is progressing.
- End of year reports are sent home in July, providing a full overview of your child's achievement, effort and next steps.

Meetings and Events

- Parents' evenings take place in the autumn and spring terms to discuss your child's progress and any concerns.
- EYFS and KS1 Touch Base Tuesdays offer a valuable opportunity to stay with your child at drop-off, see their learning environment, and speak informally with staff about how you can support your child at home.
- Parent lunches are held throughout the year for each year group, giving families the opportunity to join their child for lunch. We also host special events such as Big Breakfasts and other seasonal family events to encourage ongoing connection between home and school.

Direct Communication

- Emails and text messages are sent from the school office with important notices, reminders and signposting.
- The Headteacher is usually available on the playground at the end of the school day for informal conversations.
- Alternatively, parents are welcome to book an appointment through the school office if they would prefer a more formal discussion with the class teacher or headteacher.

Policies

Safeguarding is central to all we do at St Anne's RC primary school and our policies reflect this. All statutory policies can be found on our website and paper copies can be requested at the office

Medicines in School

School can only administer prescribed medication that needs to be taken 4 times a day, we are not allowed to administer it if it is 3 times per day. Inhalers and medications that need to be used on a regular basis, or in an emergency, are stored appropriately. All prescribed medication needs to be brought to the school office by a parent/carer, so that a form can be completed and signed.

First aid and sickness

All our staff are first aid trained. If a child is unwell or injured at school, then appropriate treatment will be administered. Staff will always act in the best interests of the child. Parents/carers will be notified

of any treatment and, if necessary, will be contacted immediately via the contact details that have been provided.

School Trips and Enrichment

At St Anne's, we believe it is important that all children experience a rich, balanced and broad range of opportunities beyond the classroom. Educational visits and enrichment activities help to bring learning to life, build cultural capital and create lasting memories.

Throughout the year, children may take part in a range of trips and experiences such as the Halle Concerts, theatre visits, pantomime performances, Dunham Massey and many more. A full breakdown of our enrichment offer can be found on the school website.

We ask for a **£40 contribution towards school trips**, payable via Arbor. These contributions are essential, as without them we are unable to sustain our full programme of visits and experiences.

We do understand that circumstances can change, and we do not want any child to miss out. If you are ever experiencing difficulty with payments, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher so we can discuss how we may be able to support you.

Behaviour

We have high expectations for all the children who attend St Anne's. Please see our website for our behaviour curriculum.

Contact Us

St. Anne's R.C Primary School

Greenacres Road

OLDHAM

OL4 1HP

Telephone: 0161 770 5401

Website: WWW.STANNESRC.CO.UK

Appendix 1: Nursery and Reception starters information

At St Anne's Primary School, we recognise that times of transition can be unsettling for both children and their families and aim to offer a structured and supportive approach whereby children feel excited and motivated to meet the new challenges of our settings and parents feel valued, informed and supported.

We recognise that transitions can be as small as moving from one room or activity to another, or as large as moving from one setting to another. We believe that gaining a detailed picture of children as individuals will enable us to plan these transitions to make them as smooth and positive as possible.

We understand that the role of parents as partners is key, particularly within the Foundation Stage, where the sharing of information can make the transition process more effective and enable children to get the most from their Foundation Stage experiences. We ask for all new Nursery and Reception starters to complete a Starting school questionnaire to help us get to know your child better. (Appendix 2)

We understand that some children and families will need further support at times of transition and we will endeavour to offer this.

Nursery Places – Admissions and Transition Information

Nursery Provision and Hours

- Nursery is open **5 mornings per week during term time (38 weeks per year)**
- Opening times: **8.45am – 12.00pm**
- No before/after school or holiday club provision is available
- All 3-year-olds receive 15 hours of free childcare. At St Anne's, we offer **16.25 hours over five mornings**, with no additional charge for the extra time
- The Nursery is overseen by the Governing Body, who regularly review provision

Visits and Enquiries

Families are warmly welcome to visit the Nursery at any time before starting. You are also welcome to stay with your child during visits and take part in activities to help them become familiar with the setting.

Further visits can also be arranged on request, particularly where additional support with transition may be beneficial. These visits help staff build a clear picture of each child and allow us to plan appropriate support where needed.

Pre-Start Information and Surveys

Before the stay and play sessions, families will receive a **starting Nursery survey** to complete. This will ask you to confirm whether you accept the place and provide details of any previous setting your child has attended. This ensures we can make a smooth and effective handover between settings.

You will also be asked to complete a **starting school survey**, which helps us identify any additional support your child or family may need before starting Nursery.

Nursery Transition Programme

October

- Nursery places for the following September intake are advertised

Spring Term – Open Day

- Families are invited to visit the school and Nursery
- Opportunity to explore the setting indoors and outdoors
- Children can take part in activities with parents
- Meet the Nursery teacher and staff team

Stay and Play Sessions

Children will attend three introductory sessions to support a smooth and positive start:

- **Tuesday 30th June 2026 – 9.00–10.30am** (Stay and Play – parents stay)
- **Tuesday 7th July 2026 – 9.00–10.30am** (Drop-off session + parent meeting after drop-off)
- **Tuesday 14th July 2026 – 9.00–10.30am** (Drop-off session + additional parent meeting if you were unable to attend on 7th July)

Parent Meeting (7th July / 14th July)

The parent meeting is a **vital part of the transition process**. It provides key information about Nursery life, routines, expectations and how we support children's learning and wellbeing.

You will also receive important login details and an overview of what we are about as a school. This session ensures parents are fully informed and ready for their child starting Nursery, and it is essential that you attend.

September Start and Settling In

All Nursery children will begin together at the start of term in September.

We understand that starting Nursery can be an emotional transition for some children. Staff will work closely with families to support separation and will share strategies where appropriate. If parents are concerned after leaving their child, they will always be contacted and reassured during the session.

The Nursery teacher and staff will also be available at the beginning and end of sessions to discuss any settling-in issues, provide reassurance, and answer questions.

Where needed, a **staggered start timetable** can be offered to support a smooth transition.

Important Information

- Transition visits and surveys are essential in helping us plan for each child effectively
- Further support visits can be arranged if needed
- If you are unable to attend any session, please contact the school office
- We look forward to welcoming your child into our Nursery family and supporting them in their first steps in school life

Reception Places – Admissions and Transition Information

Reception Provision and School Day

- Reception is open during **term time (38 weeks per year)**
- The school day runs in line with primary school timings
- Children receive a full Reception curriculum including learning through play, structured teaching and outdoor learning
- Lunches are provided in line with our school meals offer (details available on the school website)
- The school is overseen by the Governing Body, who regularly review provision

Visits and Enquiries

Families are warmly welcome to visit the Reception classroom at any time throughout the year. Parents may also stay with their child to take part in activities and become familiar with the learning environment.

Further visits can also be arranged on request, particularly where additional support with transition may be beneficial. These visits help staff build a clear picture of each child and allow us to plan appropriate support where needed.

Pre-Start Information and Surveys

Once a Reception place has been offered, families will be asked to formally confirm acceptance of the place. As part of this process, we will also ask for details of your child's previous setting (such as Nursery or Preschool). This helps us to ensure a smooth and effective handover and allows us to support each child's transition into school successfully.

You will also be asked to complete a **starting school survey**, which helps us identify any additional support your child or family may need before starting Reception.

Reception Transition Programme

November – Open Day

- Families are invited to an open day
- Opportunity to visit the Reception classroom and explore the school
- Children can take part in activities inside and outside with parents
- Meet the Reception staff team and see the learning environment

Stay and play sessions

Children will attend three transition sessions to support a smooth and positive start:

- **Thursday 2nd July 2026 – 9.00–10.30am** (Stay and Play – parents stay)
- **Thursday 9th July 2026 – 9.00–10.30am** (Drop-off session + parent meeting after drop-off)
- **Thursday 16th July 2026 – 9.00–10.30am** (Drop-off session + additional parent meeting if you were unable to attend on 9th July)

Parent Meeting (9th July / 16th July)

The parent meeting is a **vital part of the transition process**. It provides key information about Nursery life, routines, expectations and how we support children's learning and wellbeing.

You will also receive important login details and an overview of what we are about as a school. This session ensures parents are fully informed and ready for their child starting Nursery, and it is essential that you attend.

Further Support and Visits

Further visits are available on request and will always be offered where additional transition support is needed or where difficulties are anticipated. These visits help staff build a full picture of each child and allow us to plan appropriate support for both children and families.

Starting Reception in September

All children begin Reception together at the start of the autumn term.

We understand that starting school can be a big step, and staff will work closely with families to support children during this transition. Where needed, additional support strategies or staggered starts may be put in place to ensure every child settles confidently.

Reception staff will always be available at the beginning and end of the school day to discuss any concerns, provide reassurance, and answer questions.

Transition from Reception to Year 1

Throughout the year, children are given many opportunities to meet and get to know the Year 1 teachers. In July, the reception class has weekly afternoon sessions within year 1. This enables the year 1 teacher to get to know the children. Reception staff will meet with the Year one staff in July to discuss individual children and their needs. Copies of children's end of year reports will be passed on, along with any other relevant information.

Other useful information EYFS

Snacks, Milk and Meals

- In Nursery, we ask for a **£5 per half term contribution** to support healthy snack provision (e.g. beans on toast, breadsticks, vegetable sticks and dips, mini pizzas). This supports children's learning and social development and is reviewed regularly to ensure sustainability.
- All children in Nursery and Reception receive **free fruit or vegetables daily** through the National Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.
- All children under 5 receive **free milk**, extended at St Anne's to include both Nursery and Reception, and this is reviewed regularly.
- Reception children are also entitled to **Universal Free School Meals**.

Trips and Enrichment

We believe all children should experience a rich and varied range of opportunities beyond the classroom, helping to bring learning to life and build lasting memories.

We ask for a **£40 contribution (Reception)** and a **£20 contribution (Nursery)** towards enrichment activities, payable via Arbor. Nursery children also take part in EYFS-wide experiences alongside Reception.

We understand circumstances can change, and we do not want any child to miss out. If you are experiencing difficulty with payments, please contact the school office to discuss support with the Headteacher.

Uniform and Outdoor Learning

Children are expected to wear school uniform, which helps to promote a sense of belonging and pride.

We also recognise that learning in Early Years can be very active and often messy. We encourage independence, including putting on aprons and taking care of clothing, but children should expect to get messy during their learning experiences.

We therefore ask that children have:

- A pair of **wellies**
- A **waterproof coat or suit**
- A **clearly labelled spare set of clothes**, including underwear

PE Kit (Reception)

Reception children must bring a full PE kit to school, including appropriate clothing as part of supporting independence and readiness for physical activity.

Intimate Care and Toilet Training

We encourage all children to be toilet trained before starting Nursery and Reception. However, we understand that accidents can happen and we fully support children in these situations.

We follow a clear Intimate Care Policy to ensure children are cared for safely, respectfully and discreetly at all times. Where a child has additional medical or SEND needs, individual support plans will be put in place, including support around toileting if required.

Appendix 2: School pre starter questionnaire

All About Me Information Form (Ages 0-2)

We are looking forward to welcoming your child into our setting. To make the process as smooth as possible, we would like to learn as much as we can about your child. To help us with this, please could you complete the form below. Please leave any questions blank if you are unsure of how to answer or if you would prefer to discuss them with a member of staff. Thank you.

Child's name:		Date of birth:	
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Family and Home	
Please tell us about the important people (and animals) in your child's life, languages spoken in the home and any special events or festivals your child celebrates.	

Health, Care and Routines

General	
Please let us know your child's individual care needs. This could include the best ways to soothe/comfort your child when they are upset and how they are likely to communicate their care needs.	

Medical	
Please tell us about any medical conditions, allergies/intolerances and any regular medication.	

Sleep Routine	
Please tell us about your child's sleep routines.	

Feeding Routine	
Please provide us with information regarding your child's dietary requirements and any specific food, milk and feeding routines.	

Toileting/Changing Routine

Please tell us any specific routines you have when changing and toileting your child.

Like and Dislikes

Please inform us of your child's likes and dislikes in terms of toys, activities, stories and rhymes.

Learning and Exploring

Please include anything amazing your child can do and any concerns you may have at this time.

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your child?

Thank you for your help. If you have any further questions, please speak to a member of staff. We look forward to welcoming your child.

Signed:

Signed:

Staff Member

Parent/Carer

Date:

Appendix 3: School Readiness Checklist – Starting Reception

At St Anne's, we follow the **DfE Strong Foundations in the First Years of School** guidance to help children settle confidently into Reception. This checklist is designed to support families in preparing their child for a happy and successful start to school.

Every child develops at their own pace, and this is not about being “perfect” before starting school. It is about building confidence, independence and key life skills.

Personal Independence

By starting Reception, it really helps if your child can:

- Put on and take off their coat
- Manage buttons or zips with some independence
- Recognise their own belongings (coat, bag, lunchbox)
- Use the toilet independently and wash hands properly
- Attempt to dress/undress for PE with support if needed

Communication and Language

It is helpful if your child can:

- Listen to short instructions and follow them
- Speak in sentences to share ideas and needs
- Understand and respond to simple questions
- Enjoy listening to stories and talking about them
- Sit and listen for short periods in a group

Early Literacy Foundations

We encourage children to:

- Enjoy looking at books and being read to regularly
- Recognise their own name
- Attempt to mark-make (drawing, writing, scribbling)
- Talk about pictures, stories and events

Early Maths Foundations

It is helpful if children can:

- Recognise numbers in everyday life (door numbers, counting objects)
- Count to 5 and beyond with support
- Notice shapes in their environment
- Begin to understand simple concepts like more/less, big/small

Social and Emotional Development

Children benefit from being able to:

- Separate from their main carer with growing confidence
- Play alongside and with other children
- Share and take turns (with support)
- Express their feelings using words or gestures
- Show curiosity and willingness to try new activities

Physical Development

It helps if children can:

- Move confidently (running, jumping, climbing safely)

- Hold a pencil or crayon and make marks
- Use scissors with support
- Feed themselves independently
- Manage their own belongings during the day

Helpful Habits for School Life

We also encourage:

- Knowing the importance of routines (morning, bedtime)
- Being used to sitting for short group activities
- Having regular opportunities to play outside
- Developing confidence to ask for help when needed

Supporting Your Child

You can support school readiness at home by:

- Reading stories together every day
- Encouraging independence in dressing and toileting
- Talking about the world around you
- Playing games involving counting, sorting and turn-taking
- Encouraging curiosity and imagination through play