



# Welcome to St Denys Primary School



## Welcome to Rainbow Class (Reception)

The following information is provided to answer as many questions as we can that you may have about your child starting school. The Rainbow team has 3 members of staff. Ms Nelis, one class teacher who works 4 days per week and Mrs Sherliker, teacher, who works one day per week (normally Friday). We also have Ms King who works as an Early Years teaching assistant alongside Mrs Ahmadi. If there are any other issues you would like to discuss, please feel free to do so. There will be opportunities to do this at the home visits and also our stay and play sessions when you will meet the team. Once your child has started school, if you need to discuss any issues or you have further questions, you will be able to see the class teacher. It may be necessary to make an appointment if it is a confidential matter or you would like more time to talk to the teacher.



## The Daily Routine

### **Start of the Day**

The school day officially starts at **8.45am** however parents are welcome to bring their children to the classroom from **8.35am**. Access to the classroom is through the outside door in the Rainbow outdoor area. Every morning, there will be a selection of activities in the classroom e.g. jigsaws, Lego, tracing etc. for the children to complete that are changed each day.

After the register, the children will begin the morning session. They have breaks during the day in the outdoor area adjacent to the classroom. In the second half of the Summer Term, as the children become more confident, they will have playtime in the main playground with the rest of the school.



### **Snack time**

The children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat during the daily snack time.

They will also receive a carton of milk daily (1/3 pint). This is free until your child is five. After this your child may still have milk but you will need to pay (details at the school office or on our website). Any child who is eligible for Free School Meals is entitled to free milk throughout their time in the school.

Please note that we ask that each child brings in a water bottle, which they are free to drink from throughout the day. We ask that they are taken home each day and washed ready for the next.

### **Assembly**

Children will be gradually introduced to whole school assemblies when the time is right. These normally take place in our hall. They will not attend at the beginning of the Autumn Term but join in gradually during that term. They will also either have an assembly/reflection time in their class or join in smaller Key Stage assemblies with Class 1 and Class 2.

### **Lunchtime**

Children are entitled to a free school lunch each day. Lunchtime is such a valuable learning time that it is part of our St Denys curriculum in the first year. Children eat their lunch in the classroom with their teacher and the Rainbow team starting at 11.45. They learn how to lay the table, practise cutting food and using a knife and fork as well as talking with one another. After they have eaten, they have a playtime in their own outdoor playground until 1.10pm supervised by our Rainbow Lunchtime Supervisors. There are a range of outdoor toys that the children are free to use during lunchtime e.g. skittles, skipping ropes, balls, space hoppers, hoops etc. Year 6 prefects will also help during lunchtime

After lunch we begin the afternoon session which finishes at **3.10pm.**

## First Day at School

Your child will need the following:

- A named book bag - available from Skoolkit
- A P.E. kit of black shorts (**clearly labelled please!**)
- Your child will be given a school T-shirt in their House colour

## Uniform

Children are asked to wear the following school uniform:

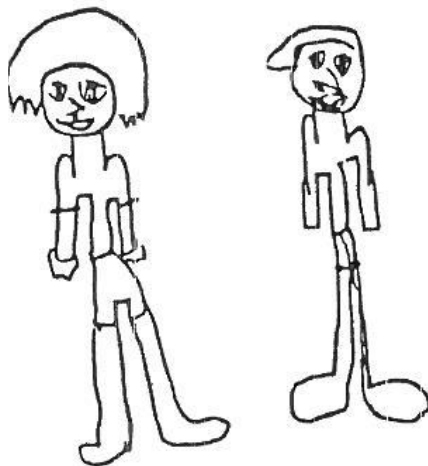
- WHITE SHIRT - Polo shirts are most suitable for Reception children because they are easy to remove for P.E.
- GREY/BLACK TROUSERS/SKIRT - tracksuit bottoms may also be suitable for Reception as they are easy to remove for P.E. and they are good for quick access to the toilet!
- RED SWEATSHIRT/JUMPER/CARDIGAN - Available with School Logo from Skoolkit or plain red from any shop.
- SHOES - black or brown sensible shoes that are comfortable and safe for them to wear. Please make sure that they are shoes the children can fasten themselves.

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS CLEARLY NAMED.**  
**THANK YOU**

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.) KIT:

- The school will provide your child with their first PE T-Shirt which will be in their House colours. They will also need a pair of black P.E. shorts - these must not have any pockets. This is to prevent the children from catching themselves on apparatus.

The children will also need a clearly labelled bag for all of their P.E. clothes.





## **Parent Partnership and Keeping in Touch**

We consider a strong partnership with parents as being one of the most important things to support your child. We are a very open school and are keen for you to share any questions or concerns that you may have. Please ensure that we have your up-to-date contact details and a second contact in the event of an emergency and we are unable to contact you.

### **What do I do if my child is absent?**

Please can you contact the School Office on 02380 556982 before 9.15 am to let us know why your child is going to be absent. If you phone before 8.30am you can leave a message.

### **How do I contact the Classteacher?**

You can see your child's teacher at the start or the end of the day for a quick message. If you would like a longer meeting, please contact the School Office by phone or email at [info@stdenysprimary.co.uk](mailto:info@stdenysprimary.co.uk) or message the teacher on Class Dojo our communication and learning platform.

### **How do I contact the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher?**

If you wish to discuss something or raise an issue with senior leaders, please contact the School Office (details above) and they will organise a meeting or a phone call as soon as possible.

### **How will the school communicate with me?**

We will send out monthly Newsletters, published on our website and also posted on the Whole School part of Class Dojo. We also use our 'Text2Parents' service to text important messages and reminders. Updates and messages will also be posted on Class Dojo.

## The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Young children learn best through play and when your child starts school, they will be involved in a variety of play-based activities. These may be inside or outside the classroom. We have visitors that come to talk to the children and we also go out on visits such as the farm. The activities are carefully planned to ensure that your child has the opportunity to work in an imaginative and enjoyable environment. There are seven areas of learning that your child will experience, all as important as each other. These are as follows:

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In all aspects of school life, your child will be encouraged to be both confident and independent. They will also be encouraged to work co-operatively with others, share and take turns and participate in circle time activities. The children will learn to understand that people have different needs, views, cultures and beliefs, which need to be treated with respect.

### COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Developing good communication and language skills are some of the most important parts of children's learning. Children will be given lots of activities and experiences to develop both their speaking and listening skills. They will have lots of opportunities to describe what they are learning, ask and answer questions and listen to adults and other children.

### LITERACY

Children will be encouraged to enjoy books, stories, songs, nursery rhymes and poems. They will learn to listen carefully



and talk about their experiences. They will also learn to recognise and write their name and begin to learn their letter sounds (see information on Jolly Phonics). Your child will bring home books for you to read together. Details of our reading partnership can be found in the enclosed leaflet.

### MATHEMATICS

Children will be involved in a variety of activities including counting, sorting, looking at patterns and shapes, working with numbers and measures. The activities may include stories, songs, games and imaginative play to ensure they enjoy this area of learning. A leaflet has been provided which suggests a variety of ways that you can help your child in maths (Mathematics in Reception). The children will begin to participate in aspects of Numeracy.

### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

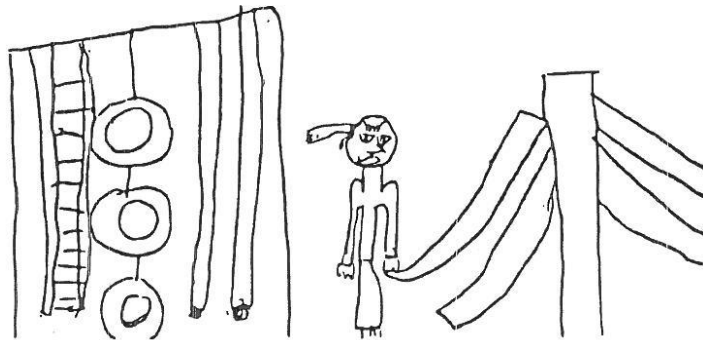
In this area of learning the children develop the skills that help them to make sense of the world around them. The children are encouraged to look at objects, living things, materials and the area they live in, by using their senses. They are also encouraged to ask questions about why things happen and how they work. They will learn to construct objects and choose the tools and techniques they need to make them.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

There will be a variety of activities, both indoor and outdoor, that encourage the children to become confident when using balls, skipping ropes, bikes, stilts, bats and climbing equipment. They will be encouraged to move with confidence and co-ordination. They will also learn to develop strength and co-ordination in their hands and fingers.

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

Children will experience art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play, at school. They will be encouraged to use their imagination and senses when painting and model making. They will learn simple songs, use instruments and make movements to music.



## Phonics

The children will learn phonics on a regular basis which helps them to learn to read and write. Phonics is the system used to attach sounds (phonemes) to letters (graphemes). We use 'Phonics Bug Club' as our main guidance and the 42 main letter sounds are taught, not just the alphabet sounds. For each sound there is an action that helps the children to remember the sound that the letter makes e.g.



We use the actions from 'Jolly Phonics' to help children learn. The letters are not introduced in alphabetical order. The first group: s a t p i n, has been chosen because they make more simple three letter words than any other six letters. The correct formation for each letter is shown below. Many of the letters have a joining tail at the end, to make it easier to transfer into joined up writing. More information and useful links are available on the Class page of the St Denys website.

a b c d e f g h i  
j k l m n o p q  
r s t u v w x y z