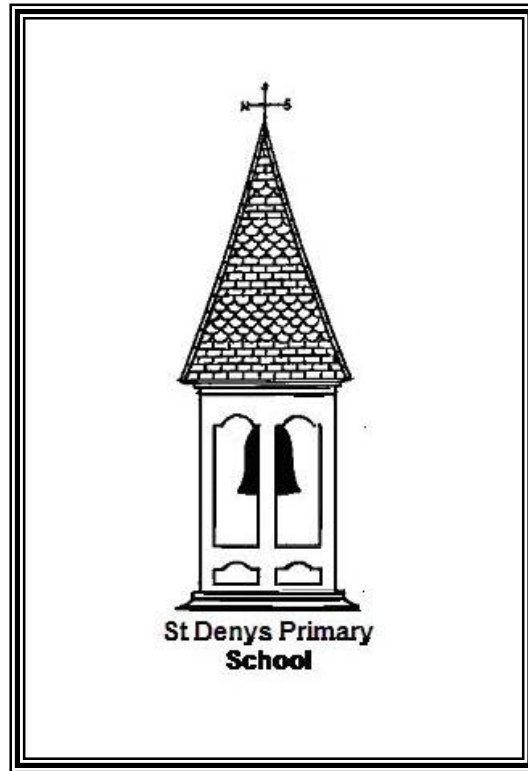


Welcome to



St Denys Primary School

Dear Parent/Carer,

May I, on behalf of the Governors and staff, welcome you and your child to St Denys Primary School. Our school has a welcoming and happy atmosphere where children are educated, cared for and feel they belong. We set high expectations in all we do.

St Denys is a one-form entry school catering for children from 4 to 11 years old, with an admission number of 30 children per year group. We are a family school with a 'village feel to it' where everyone is known and valued for who they are. We are proud to be part of the REACH Co-operative Trust working closely with six other local schools.

Our school is over a hundred years old and has a delightful Victorian exterior with a separate new building housing our sports hall, kitchen and Year One classroom. The inside has been redesigned and fully refurbished to provide a modern and attractive educational environment which is extremely well equipped. The grounds have been created to allow the children to use them to extend their learning experiences.

All our staff are committed to ensuring that each child finds their strengths and interests, so that they may become proud and confident learners. We hope that you as parents and carers feel valued as partners in the education of your child; the link between parents, teachers and pupils is so vital to the children and to the success of the school.

We endeavour to keep you fully informed of events, celebrations and up to date with what's happening in our school by sending home regular newsletters and text message reminders as well as posting on 'Class Dojo', our learning platform. Curriculum information sheets are sent home each half term informing you of your child's learning. We also provide up to date information on our school web site:

www.stdenysprimary.co.uk

This prospectus is designed to give you a brief introduction to St Denys. You can find more detail on our website, and please don't hesitate to ask if you are unsure about any details.

We hope your association with us at St Denys Primary School will be a warm and happy one.

Yours faithfully,

Billy Davies, Headteacher

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Our Vision



St Denys Primary



Creativity, Choice, Challenge



Achievement for All



At St Denys Primary we believe that every individual has the right to achieve and we will learn and work collectively, in partnership with parents, families and the community to make sure this happens. We recognise that in an ever changing, technological world we are preparing children for the unknown. We want to ensure that we give them the knowledge, skills and understanding they will need to enable them to make positive choices in their life and to be confident, happy, successful citizens both now and in the future. We realise that learning is about today as well as tomorrow.

We will provide;

- A commitment to high expectations
- An open-door policy where everyone is trustworthy and approachable
- Consistency in all we do
- Teaching that is inspirational, flexible, inclusive and challenging
- Learning that encourages choice, initiative and flexibility
- A creative curriculum that is experiential, meaningful and reflects diversity
- A safe, happy and stimulating environment that promotes risk taking
- Adults that act as positive role models
- A culture of mutual respect where everyone is valued for who they are
- A learning culture where communication and reading are priorities

REACH CO-OPERATIVE TRUST



St Denys Primary School became a foundation school part of a co-operative Education Trust called 'REACH' on the 1st September 2019. There are 7 schools within REACH (Bitterne Manor Primary, Moorlands Primary, Townhill Junior, Bitterne Park Secondary, Redbridge Community School and Woodlands Community College) that work collaboratively at every level to improve the outcomes for our children and young people. Trust schools are not academies but part of the local authority system, supported by a charitable trust which will appoint some of the governors. It is important to be aware that the governing body continues to run the school, manage the school budget and is responsible for the performance of the school.

Our rationale for becoming part of REACH Trust is as follows: -

1. To continue to raise expectations and standards in the school and improve the future prospects for all of our learners.
2. To do this - with the many changes taking place in education - we need to build strong partnerships and make our school improvement planning more sustainable.
3. We believe that to meet the needs of our community, we can achieve more through formal education partnerships, than we will be able to by working alone.

The aims of REACH Trust are to: -

- Develop outstanding learning and develop an outstanding quality of education for all our pupils and staff.
- Increase the level of aspiration and opportunities for our community.
- Realise the potential of all our young people in our community in academic, vocational and social learning.
- Ensure excellent longer term employment prospects for our learners through a robust focus on future opportunities.

- Provide an innovative curriculum across all phases with enrichment opportunities to develop the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the world, raise self-esteem and promote well-being so each young person is both prepared academically and socially and have the vocational skills to succeed in the next phase of education or in the workplace.
- Improve transition for our learners across each Key Stage.
- Develop our education partnership to include our parents and the wider community,
- Develop partnerships with preschools, nurseries, colleges, universities, employers and apprenticeship providers.
- As a Co-operative Education trust, we will adopt and support the values and principles of the co-operative movement in our work.

Each school has their own Governing Body and there is also a joint Trust Board that oversees the work of the Trust. This is made up of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors from each school and supported by the Trust Company Secretary. Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers and Subject Leaders meet regularly to learn from each other, share best practice and to work together on the REACH Trust aims. We are already seeing the difference this is making to the children at St Denys.



CHILDREN'S LEARNING

At St Denys Primary School, we believe that all children have a right to achieve and follow a 'growth mindset' approach to learning where anything is possible (see our 'Learning Powers' section of the website for more information). We believe that if everyone learns 'how to learn', they can achieve more. From Reception onwards children are taught to develop their five 'Learning Powers' of respect, resilience, reciprocity, reflection and resourcefulness. They use these learning skills across the curriculum and beyond. To help the children understand these skills we use our five St Denys Learning Power Characters below:



Resource Man

Resilience Rabbit

Respect

Ref Lexion

Ron Reciprocity

We are very proud of our 'Captivating Curriculum' which we have developed over time and always with the needs and interests of our pupils at its centre. You can read more about what children learn at our school on the [Curriculum page](#) of our website. You will also receive a 'Curriculum Newsletter' about your child's learning each half term and we use Class Dojo, an online learning platform that enables regular communication between the school and with parents/carers and where learning can be shared both from home and at school, to provide regular updates about life at school.



Parents are regularly invited to share the 'Celebration of Learning' for their child for various topics during the academic year and to look at the learning in their books. Termly Parents' Evenings provide another opportunity for us to discuss your child and their learning. Outside of these more formal opportunities, we are always happy to talk to parents/carers about their children and operate an 'open door' policy – please do chat with teachers at drop-off and pick up and also to the Leadership Team and our Family Support Team who are available every morning in the playground.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our Collective Worship/Assembly programme follows weekly themes. Children come together either as a whole school or in particular age groups, daily. Whole school assemblies happen on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Celebration assembly is held each Friday and focuses on 'Learner of the Week', birthdays, certificates, and special mentions and awards plus other news of successes. Reception class have their own assemblies at the beginning of the year and join in with the rest of the school at the end of the Autumn term onwards.

If any parent wishes their child to be wholly or partially withdrawn from attending Religious Education or Collective Worship, please notify the Headteacher in writing. We would always ask that you discuss any concerns with us first so we can work together to find the best way to include and support every child.



SCHOOL LIBRARY

Pupils will visit the school library regularly and have opportunities to read and to take books home. We also provide 2 opportunities a week for parents / carers to visit the school library with their children after school (check Class Dojo for specific days). We do ask that if books are lost or damaged a contribution be made, so that it can be replaced.

MUSICAL TUITION

We are very fortunate to employ a specialist music teacher and have a rich musical tradition in the school. Music is taught across the school. As well as learning instruments in class, children have the opportunity to access paid-for musical tuition (with the support of parents/carers making a monetary contribution per term). Peripatetic teachers come into school each week to support this.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We run a range of after school clubs and some at lunchtime too. All clubs are supervised by teaching staff, coaches and with some help by volunteers (all adults have up to date DBS checks). The clubs on offer change termly. Club membership is from Year 1 upwards.

WRAP-AROUND CARE

The Premier Education Team are here every day running fun indoor and outdoor activities and quality childcare for your children-

Breakfast Club: 07:35-08:35 (£6 per session) Afterschool Club: 15:15-18:00 (£12.75 per session)

We also provide a variety of healthy breakfasts and snacks during all sessions. Activities include sports such as football, basketball, tennis, volleyball and archery. Creative activities include arts & crafts, painting, gymnastics, dancing and card/boardgames. We have spaces available each day, booking is fully flexible and available for ad hoc days as required. If you would like to book your child in with us or for full information please follow the [link](#).

If you would like to more information then contact details are:

WAC Lead - fmay@premier-education.com

Contact Phone - 07340 419520

MID-DAY MEALS

School meals are cooked on the premises by City Catering. There is a selection of healthy choices (3 per day), which includes at least one vegetarian option. The weekly menu is located inside the school hall and children select their chosen meal each morning. There are photographs available to let the children know what their meal will look like to aid their choice.

Children in the EYFS and Key Stage One are entitled to a free school meal each day and we hope that as many children as possible will take up this valuable opportunity. Children in Key Stage Two are able to have school meals but will need to pay for them, which you can do through our payments system, SCOPAY.

Families who are in receipt of Income Support are entitled to a school meal each day. These can be obtained instantly by completing the online application available here: <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/southampton>

PACKED LUNCHES

Healthy packed lunches are encouraged by all staff and must be brought in a named, unbreakable container together with a non-fizzy drink, which **must not** be in a glass bottle or can (for safety reasons). You should provide cutlery if necessary. We are a **NUT FREE** school, due to children with severe allergies. We ask that you do not include any nuts or nut products in your child's lunchbox. Sweets are also not allowed.

DRINKS AND SNACKS

The drinking of water during the school day is encouraged. We ask families to provide a named water bottle that can be used by their child during the day and taken home regularly to wash. Water is readily available. Currently KS1 children receive a daily piece of fruit to eat at playtime. KS2 children can bring in a piece of fruit or a vegetable to eat at playtimes.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

At St Denys Primary we ask all our children to wear school uniform so that they feel a sense of belonging and are dressed for learning. Please ensure all uniform is named so it can be easily returned to your child if lost.

Our school uniform is red, white and grey/black

- Grey or black trousers/shorts
- Grey or black skirts or pinafore dresses
- White or red polo shirts or white shirts/blouses
- A red sweater or cardigan
- Red and white summer dresses
- Sensible (closed-toe) shoes that are black or brown

Sweatshirts, polo shirts, fleeces, P.E, bags and book bags with the school logo can be ordered from 'Skoolkit' at www.skoolkit.co.uk. However, there is no requirement for school uniform to be branded and plenty of choice in the appropriate colours are available from local supermarkets.

- Children in Reception and KS1 do need a bookbag (no rucksacks please as we do not have space for these in classrooms) which they should bring to school each day.

PE KIT

For PE lessons, children are required to wear

- Black shorts without pockets,
- A plain round necked T-shirt (House Colours - red, yellow, blue or green - without pockets) – the school will provide the P.E. T-Shirts for every child when they start school. Replacements can be purchased from Skoolkit or a plain t-shirt in the appropriate colour is acceptable. No football / sports team tops please.
- Jogging bottoms/track suits for outdoor games in colder weather
- Trainers for outdoor games

Parents will be informed of class P.E. days annually in September in order to ensure children have their kit on the correct day. Children in Reception and KS1 should keep their kit in school and change during the day; children in KS2 may wear their PE kit to school on the appropriate days.

For reasons of safety, jewellery must be removed for PE, including earrings.



ADMISSIONS POLICY

St Denys Primary School is part of the REACH Cooperative Trust. The Governing Body (GB) of the school is the admission authority for the school. As required in the School Admissions Code, the GB will consider all on time preferences at the same time for September admissions. Parents may express up to three (3) preferences, listing them in the order in which they would accept them. All preferences will be considered and where more than one school could be offered, the parents will be offered a place for their child at the highest ranked of the schools that could be offered. The school's admission policy is available on the school website at <https://www.stdenysprimary.co.uk/admissions/>.

If you would like a place at the school, please contact Southampton Local Authority Admissions at [Apply for a school place \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-apply-school/catchment-areas/)

You can find out if your address falls within our catchment area on the Southampton City Council website: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-apply-school/catchment-areas/>.



ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance at school is **vital** if your child is to make good progress.

This infographic represents how different attendance percentages convert into school days missed over a year, and school weeks / terms / years missed over 7 years of primary school.

Impact over 7 years of Primary School	Impact over one school year:	100%	Perfection
5.6 School weeks missed	4 School days missed	98%	Impressive
8.4 School weeks missed ½ a term missed	6 School days missed	97%	Good
9.8 School weeks missed Over ½ a term missed	7 School days missed	96%	On target
12.6 School weeks missed 1 term missed	9 School days missed	95%	Slight Concerns
18.2 School weeks missed ½ school year missed	13 School days missed	93%	Concerns
26.6 School weeks missed Over 2/3 school year	19 School days missed	90%	Very Concerned
40.6 School weeks missed Over 1 school year	29 School days missed	85%	Serious Concerns

As you can see, while **90%** may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, in reality that means a child misses half a day of school every week, the equivalent of 19 school days (almost one whole month), during the year and **they will have missed over two thirds of a school year by the end of Primary School**. Research shows that children who miss this amount of school do not achieve as well as their peers who attend more regularly. **Good attendance impacts significantly on progress, learning, friendship groups and children's overall happiness at school.**

We recognise that on occasion some children may experience illness or have exceptional reasons preventing regular attendance. To assist parents deciding whether their child is too ill to attend school or otherwise, the NHS have produced a guide that you may find useful:

Is my child too ill for school? - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers to support good attendance at school, and are here to help. We understand that there are many reasons why children may be absent or late for school. **If you are experiencing challenges with attendance or lateness, please talk to us.** We will work with you as partners to help remove barriers so that we can all best support your child's wellbeing and education.

ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school for any reason please telephone or contact the school office before 9:15am on the first day of absence. Direct contact will be made with you after this time.

If your child has to leave school for a hospital, doctor or dentist's appointment please let the school know as early as possible beforehand; a verbal request from a child will not be accepted. A child will only be allowed to go if a parent collects them, or an appropriate named adult.

The Headteacher and the Education Welfare Officer regularly check attendance and persistent lateness. An unauthorised absence is where your child has time off without you contacting the school or if the explanation for the absence is considered unreasonable (e.g. got up late or went shopping or on holiday).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE/HOLIDAYS

Term-time holiday:

All schools can grant a leave of absence when a pupil needs to be absent from school with permission. All schools are expected to restrict leaves of absence to the specific circumstances set out in regulation 11 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. **The amendments make it clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless it is for**

exceptional circumstances only, and that the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance. Head teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

If parents wish to have a leave of absence considered in exceptional circumstances they must fill in the relevant form for the Headteacher to consider, which is available from the School Office. The Headteacher's decision is final. If parents do not agree they may either write to the governing body or contact Southampton City Council.

St Denys Primary school, in line with both Southampton City Council's attendance policy and the revised guidelines, makes it clear that;

- Term time leave of absence is not acceptable
- Family holidays during term-time are not acceptable
- The school cannot grant extended leave of absence, except in exceptional circumstances.

Any parent who takes leave of absence in term time without prior agreement with the Headteacher is liable to a penalty notice and fine. The attendance will be marked as unauthorised. Further details can be found in our Attendance Policy which is on the school website.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please make sure we have your up-to-date address, telephone number and email address, in order to be able to contact you in case your child is unwell or an emergency occurs. We also need details of a second contact in case of emergency and the first contact is unavailable.

How to contact the school:

The school address: St Denys Primary School
Dundee Road
St Denys
Southampton
SO17 2ND

Telephone Number: 023 8055 6982

Email: info@stdenysprimary.co.uk

School website: www.stdenysprimary.co.uk

Session times:

- 8:35 am The school is open for children to come into their classrooms
- 8:45 am Official start of the school day when the bell tower rings: children must be in class by this time.
- 12:10 pm End of the morning session
- 13:10 pm Afternoon session begins
- 15:10 pm End of afternoon session for Rainbow, Class 1 and Class 2
- 15:15 pm End of afternoon session for Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6

POLICIES

School policies cover every aspect of school life. All our policies are available to view on the [policies page](#) of our school website. If you would like a paper copy of a particular policy, please ask the school office.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

We recognise that working with parents and families is the most important part of supporting children's learning. All parents and carers will be invited to join Class Dojo, our secure Communication and Learning platform. Teachers post regularly with updates about the curriculum and things happening in class and keep parents and carers informed. There is also the opportunity for children to post their home learning.

We also hold regular events where parents are invited in such as workshops, curriculum sharing opportunities or simply to see the school in action. We welcome parent volunteers, particularly to come in and support reading.

At any time, you are welcome to chat to your child's class teacher, one of our Family Support Team or a member of the Leadership Team – we are available at drop off and pick up every day or can arrange to meet at a mutually convenient time. We all want the best outcome for your child so it is so important to work together.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Governors are appointed or elected for a 4-year term.

Whilst the Governing body has, in conjunction with the Headteacher, responsibility for the finances and also for determining school policies, the Headteacher has responsibility for the day-to-day management of the school.

Parents should feel free to approach any Governor with comments and suggestions that they can be assured will receive full attention.

The **Chair of Governors**, Mrs Jo Gaul, can be contacted through the school office.

COMPLIMENTS, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Everyone likes compliments and we are no different. Please let us know when you like what we are doing or think something has gone well. We conduct regular parent surveys to seek feedback.

There will be times when you have concerns. Please talk to us and let us know. Your child's class teacher will probably be able to help you with most concerns and if they can't will know where to direct you. Your concerns will be investigated and we will give you a response.

If the problem is still not solved, please ask to see the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher.

If you still feel the matter is unresolved you should write to the Chair of Governors, Jo Gaul, care of the school.

A complaint is an expression of serious dissatisfaction. All complaints should be made in writing. The response you receive will be based upon the agreed policies of the school and will seek to be fair to all concerned.

If you still feel dissatisfied, please consult the Complaints Section of the DFE website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-school/state-schools>

THANK YOU

for taking the time to read our Prospectus. We hope you have found it useful. You will be able to find lots more information on our website www.stdenysprimary.co.uk or please do contact us with any queries: info@stdenysprimary.co.uk or by 'phone 02380 556982. We are always happy to arrange visits to the school for prospective parents.

