Reception September 2021

**Reception Class**

We are delighted that you and your child are joining St Mark’s RC Primary school this coming September.  On behalf of the Staff, Governors, children and parents, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you and your family to our school family and community.

We hope that the information on this page will answer many of the questions that you have about your child starting school with us in September. Unfortunately due to Government Guidance we are unable to invite you and your child in for a Transition day.

Your child will begin Reception on the 7th September with their class teacher, Mrs Lyndsay Grey and their class teaching assistant Mrs Gosia Kowalska. To help the children settle into their new environment, they will be invited in on a morning or afternoon session. They will attend either the morning or afternoon for this first week. This is so that the children have time to explore their new classroom, meet their new friends and build a strong bond with their new teachers, in smaller groups for a smaller period of time. The children will not stay for lunch that week.

From the 13th September your child will be in class full time, and will stay for lunch. If your child finds it difficult to extend their hours we will speak to you privately to organise a longer transition period more suited to them.

**A Letter or email will be sent to you when we are clear on Government guidance regarding return to school.**

**Term dates**(please see PDF viewer and download below)

**Transition**

Once you have accepted your place at St Mark's, you will receive a letter from our Headteacher, Mrs Miller, explaining the procedures, meetings and welcome opportunities that will be available in the following few weeks.

In normal circumstances, our Reception teacher, Mrs Grey, would then be in touch with your child's pre-school setting to arrange a visit to meet your child. We would then invite you to a Parent's Welcome Meeting at the end of June and your child to an Open Morning at St Mark's in early July.  Below you will find the ‘Parent’s Welcome Meeting’ that we would have discussed with you. If you need any more information about your child starting school please email our School Office who would be happy to assist.

The links below have some useful resources to support with transition.

* [Starting Primary School](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1)The BBC have put together some articles, videos and resources to support you and your child with starting primary school.
* [Planning for transition when schools are currently closed](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrynnrd)A useful article with some tips to support your child's transition from nursery or preschool to Reception

**Early Years Foundation Stage**

Being part of an Early Years class at big school is an exciting time in your child's life.  These are months where little ones develop their independence, confidence and curiosity.  They make new friends and learn important social skills and, of course, they begin the fascinating journey of becoming a reader, writer and mathematician.

At St Mark's we believe that learning through play is an important part of your child's early development.  Our Nursery and Reception classrooms, together with our outside spaces, all have carefully planned and thought out areas for the children to explore freely, challenging them and encouraging them to be active learners.  We love to follow the children's interests as we know that this will hook them in and capture their imaginations - anything from the sight of some sparkly stones in an attractive box to a pile of cloaks and wrist bands in order to take on superhuman powers!

In order to provide high quality learning experiences for your child, we aim to balance free play with carefully chosen adult led activities.  These sessions provide all the opportunities they need to develop their skills and ensure that they achieve all the learning objectives of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).  If you would like more detail about the curriculum for the EYFS, please go to the Curriculum tab on this website.