



Foundation Stage Unit

All Saints' Church of England Primary School
Living out our Christian values

Welcome to All Saints' Church of England Primary School

Foundation Stage Unit

Foreword: Gail Branch, Headteacher, says:

Everyone at All Saints' would like to welcome you and your family to our school. We hope that your association with us will be a long and happy one and we look forward to getting to know you.

This booklet is intended to provide you with information about our unit and to answer some of the questions parents often ask. However, if there is further information that you would like, please telephone us on 0161 796 3392.

Starting school

Foundation Stage is a big step for both parent and child to take. We aim to provide a welcoming environment in which your child feels happy and eager to learn. Parents also need to feel secure in the knowledge that their child will have the best possible care. Our FS1 (Nursery) children are known as Caterpillars and FS2 (Reception) children as Butterflies.

Safe, joyful and stimulating

Our objective is to make coming to school a happy and positive experience for each individual child. We do this by providing a safe, joyful and stimulating environment for all the children in our care, they are all given the opportunity to experience a variety of activities and equipment, to explore with their senses and to learn to relate to each other and form friendships.



Behaviour and self-development: encouraging the positives

Rewarding positive behaviour

All Saints' Foundation Stage Unit encourages positive behaviour. We reward positive behaviour and children's achievements through our 'smiley' board.

'Smiley' board

All children are on the board at the start of each day and can progress to the 'star' board following a significant achievement. However, unacceptable behaviour will require children to move their name from the 'smiley' board to the 'thinking' board. If the behaviour continues their name will be moved to the 'sad' board. Please ask your child daily which board they are on.

'Sad' board

A sanction of being on the 'sad' board three times in any one week will result in having time out in another classroom.

Awards

Certificates are awarded at the end of each half term stating how many times your child has been on the 'star' board. Weekly Caterpillar and Butterfly awards are given out in our 'Well-Done' Assembly each Friday.



Settling in to our friendly Foundation Stage Unit

Helping your child to enjoy the Foundation Stage Unit

Foundation Stage education works best when there is a partnership between the school and the home. We value the role of parents/carers as first educators and encourage you to help settle your child when joining the Unit.

Foundation Stage Unit hours... and the daily routine

Before your child starts school on their first day, please explain to your child what to expect. It will help to ease any worries and concerns they may have.

Hours

The classroom will be open from 8.45am for a prompt start at 8.55am. School finishes at 3.15pm for FS1 (Foundation Stage) and 3.20pm for FS2. When you collect your child, please be on time to avoid any unnecessary upset.

Collection

Your child will have been told not to get up until they have been called by the teacher; please explain this to them – we need to make sure that they have been collected by a recognised adult. Important: please inform us if anyone different from you is to collect your child. We will not let them go unless this has been previously arranged.

Encourage independence

It helps to encourage your child to be as independent as possible so please allow them to bring their own bag, books, dinner money, Foundation Stage contribution, etc. All monies should be handed in to the member of staff at the door.



Talk to your child

On the way home, talk to your child about what they have learned... its fun to share the school day!

Uniform

Please help your child to be independent and able to try all activities by dressing them appropriately, and ensure they can undress themselves to use the toilet. The wearing of school uniform is compulsory. A smart appearance can help the child's attitude to their work and also stop the squabbles in the morning over what to wear! Our uniform is as follows:

Autumn and Spring Terms:

- Grey pinafore, skirt or trousers.
- White school polo shirt with logo*.
- School sweatshirt* or cardigan*.
- Black shoes.
- Grey tights/long white socks (girls).
- Grey socks (boys).
- Wellies (to be left in school).
- Waterproof coat for outdoor use (to be left in school).
- Small reading packet with school logo* (nylon bookbag – not heavy duty).



Settling in to our friendly Foundation Stage Unit

Summer Term:

- Pale blue check dress, with short white socks (girls).
- Grey shorts with grey socks (boys).

P.E. kit:

- Royal blue P.E. shirt with logo*.
- Navy shorts.
- Single drawstring P.E. bag*.

Items marked with an asterisk * can be purchased online from: www.gooddies.co.uk

Labelling of uniform

To help both children and teachers please mark **every** item of school clothing with the child's name; many children's clothes are identical and trying to sort out who owns what is a teacher's nightmare!

Outdoor clothing

Outdoor provision takes place every day and we embark on a wellie walk most weeks. It is therefore essential that your child comes to school in a coat with a hood, and has a pair of wellies as well as a waterproof coat that can be left in school. Provide enough warm clothing even on days that look ok – we all know what the English weather is like!

We encourage sensible footwear for the playground. Please select black shoes which your child can fasten, unfasten and walk in! All items of outdoor, including footwear, should also be marked with your child's name.

School meals and snacks

All children in FS2 are entitled to a free hot or cold meal. Children who attend FS1 full time are currently charged for meals. You will be given details of how to pay for these online when your child starts school in September.

Free school meals

Some families may be entitled to free school meals if they are in receipt of certain benefits. If you believe that your child may be entitled to free school meals please contact the Education Department on 0161 253 5858, or talk in confidence to the School Office.

Packed lunches, drinks and snacks

Alternatively, children may bring sandwiches, fruit and a suitable drink. Please do not include cans, glass bottles, leaky cups or chocolate or sweets in your child's lunchbox. As we have children in school with severe nut allergies, please do not include any items of food which contains nuts. Children are not allowed to bring drinks (other than in their lunchboxes) or snacks into school as water, milk and a healthy snack are available in the morning and the afternoon.

Please encourage your child to use a knife and fork correctly.



Curriculum: promoting academic, social, emotional and personal success

Learning through play

Children will learn through play, and our team of Foundation Stage teachers and teaching assistants plan a curriculum to meet your child's needs whilst at the same time following the national 'Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum'. Through teacher directed, teacher initiated and child-initiated activities, children are enabled to explore and extend what they already know and can do, in an environment with which they feel familiar.

Work and play

Children do not draw a distinction between work and play, and play is the most effective way in which young children learn. We recognise that the development of play for the individual child depends on personal development and circumstances, not chronological age, and staff will be looking to extend each child's development during activities.

The Foundation Stage Unit environment has the following areas to enable different types of learning every day:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Book Corner | Creative activities |
| Mathematical activities | Interactive whiteboard |
| Construction activities | Water |
| Sand (wet/dry) | Painting |
| Mark making (writing) | Home Corner |
| Role Play | Investigation/exploration |
| Small World Play | Malleable materials |
| Outdoor activities | |

There are also regular opportunities for cooking, exploring music and singing, listening to stories in a group, playing group games and going on visits.

Areas of learning in the Foundation Stage

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children develop their confidence, their independence and self-respect. They start to become aware of what is right and wrong and how to behave appropriately for different situations. They learn to share and take turns, being sensitive to others' needs. They respond with a range of emotions, and encounter new situations and experiences, including those of a variety of cultures and religions. They learn to work co-operatively, in pairs, groups and as a whole class. Our class teddies will go home with a child each weekend to promote Personal, Social and Emotional development.

Communication and Language

In small and larger groups children listen and speak about their experiences. They expand their vocabulary and begin to express their thoughts more coherently. They listen to stories, learn rhymes and start to make up their own stories. They are taught how to handle books carefully and understand how they are organised.

Physical Development

Children become more aware of their own bodies, with an increasing awareness of space, control and co-ordination. The children will have access to large and small equipment such as balls, hoops, climbing frame and wheeled vehicles. They will be encouraged to handle appropriate tools and objects in construction with pliable and malleable materials, safely and with increasing control.

Literacy

When starting to write young children will use shapes, pictures and symbols and then gradually begin to use

familiar letter shapes. Most start to show an interest in writing their name, which we encourage using lower case letters.

There are many skills to learn before your child can write. These skills depend on developing small muscle control in the hands; this is done through lots of activities, such as threading, play dough, jigsaws and small construction as well as free play with pencils and crayons.

If your child draws a picture you may like to write a sentence under the picture reading it out aloud as you write it.

When your child comes to school they will learn to write using lower case letters: **a sample of how the letters are formed is at the back of this booklet, on page 11, for you to tear out and keep in a handy place if you wish.** Please encourage your child to start the letters in the correct place, holding a pencil in a tripod grip. When teaching your child to write their name please use a capital letter for the first letter of the name ONLY e.g. Karen Holt.

The children in FS1 are introduced to sounds through rhyming words and begin to recognise initial sounds in speech. The children in FS2 are introduced to the sounds of the letters using a scheme called 'Jolly Phonics'. Each sound has an action, story and song to help children learn.

Before children learn to read they have to acquire certain book skills e.g. where a book begins and finishes, reading from left to right and that print has meaning. Children should be encouraged to retell favourite stories.

Words are all around children and they should be encouraged to notice words and read anything from billboards, comics, newspapers and cereal packets! One of the best ways to develop a positive interest in books is to read a bedtime story. Young children love to hear their own favourite stories over and over again.

Mathematics

The children learn about colours and shapes, and the language to describe them. They will count, sort and match familiar objects and gain understanding in concepts such as 'less than' and 'bigger'. They will learn to recognise and recreate patterns.

Song and number rhymes introduce them to number operations, such as addition and subtraction, and they start to use the appropriate language when using objects for counting. Through sand and water activities the children begin to show awareness of capacity, weight and volume.

Number in the Foundation Stage is fun and practically based but this provides an important basis on which further mathematical skills will be built. You can help your child at home by asking your child to match things together e.g. 1 button to 1 buttonhole or 1 cup to 1 saucer etc.

As your child begins to pick up counting skills, encourage them to count things around them e.g. trees on a journey, forks on a table etc. Involve your child in handling money when you are shopping. Sing counting songs or rhymes with your child e.g. Two little dicky birds sitting on a wall; One, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive.

Understanding of the world

This area provides the foundation for geography, history, science and technology work in later years. The children talk about where they live, their surroundings, their families and events past and present. Through exploration and experimentation, they will look at features of living things, objects and events in the natural and man-made world and are taught how to examine similarities, differences, patterns and change.

Through cutting, sticking and building they will learn about materials and tools. Cooking sessions also provide opportunities for observing changes in materials and using technology. They will have access to a variety of Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment including, CD players, programmable toys and various programmes on the computers, interactive whiteboards and iPads.

Expressive Arts and Design

Through painting, craft activities, music, singing, stories and role-play, the children learn to develop their imagination. They develop their ability to listen and observe and develop performance skills.

They explore sound and colour, texture, shape and space in two and three dimensions.

They handle and use an increasing range of materials, suitable tools, instruments, and other resources to express their ideas. There are many opportunities for using paints, crayons, felt-tip pens and scissors, as well as glue, string, Sellotape and modelling equipment.



Key information

Absence

If your child is unwell please do not bring them into the Foundation Stage Unit, as infection can spread to other children. Please telephone to let us know or send a message via another parent or carer. The recommended time to be absent after vomiting or diarrhoea has stopped is 48 hours.

All unexplained absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

Emergencies

Parents/carers are asked to complete a form providing the school with phone numbers on which to contact someone should your child need to go home. This information is important to the welfare of your child and we rely on you to keep it up to date.

Fees for extra session in FS1

Fees for lunchtime sessions must be paid for by standing order once a month. The standing order form will be included in your pack with the cost spread over a 10-month period from September to June. Lunchtime sessions must be paid for even if your child is absent.

Toileting

Please ensure your child can use the toilet independently before starting our Foundation Unit. Please provide nursery-aged children (FS1) with a change of underwear to be left in school, in a drawstring bag.

Foundation Stage contribution

To cover the cost of daily snacks, regular baking, resources and other activities in our Foundation Stage Unit, we ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week. You can pay termly (£1 x no. of weeks in the term) or for the year (£1 x 39 weeks). Either cash or cheque made payable to All Saints C of E Primary School. Please send in an envelope marked with your child's name and 'Foundation Stage Fund'. Thank you.

Your child's achievements: celebrating success

The progress of each child is recorded during their time at All Saints' Foundation Stage Unit using the Child's Profile and it consists of an on-going, positive account of your child's interests and development in all areas of the curriculum. Photographs will be used to record your child's achievements and will be placed in your child's profile and on displays in our unit. These records can be shared and discussed with parents and will be passed on to your child's next teacher when transferring from the unit.

There will be opportunities throughout the year to visit your child in the units and share their experiences. Dates will be advised when available. You will also receive a summary report at the end of each year.

Moving into Foundation Stage 2

Please note, parents of nursery-aged children (FS1) will still need to apply for a school place to continue their child's education in the second year of the Foundation Stage (FS2) and beyond – transfer is not automatic. The Local Education Authority will send you a letter explaining how to apply in November this year. Please look out for this important letter and if you do not receive it by the 1st December please inform the school office.

Getting involved

Parental involvement

We welcome the support, co-operation and interest of all parents. The staff are always willing to discuss any matter concerning your child. Please may we ask you, however, to arrange a mutually convenient time to see the teacher, preferably after school. There will be open sessions throughout the year to discuss your child's progress more fully. As a parent you are automatically a member of All Saints C.E. Primary School Parent Teachers Association and we look forward to seeing you at forthcoming social events, meetings and activities. There are frequent newsletters sent home with your child to keep you informed of these.

Happy start at school

Finally, may we thank you for your co-operation. We hope this information booklet will help to make your child's start at school a happy one.



SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



Mission statement

Happy are we who Journey Together in Faith and Love

Through our mission statement, we aim to:

1. Provide a safe, caring community.
2. Respect and appreciate each other in an atmosphere which reflects our Christian values.
3. Encourage everyone to work together.
4. Develop partnerships between parents, school and the wider community.
5. Create a happy place where people matter.
6. Encourage a love of learning and creativity.
7. Bring out the best in every child and help them grow into confident, independent citizens.
8. Be responsible for our environment and ourselves.

How to find us

All Saints Church of England Primary School, Stand
Rufford Drive,
Whitefield,
Manchester,
M45 8PL

Telephone: 01617 963392

Email: allsaints@bury.gov.uk

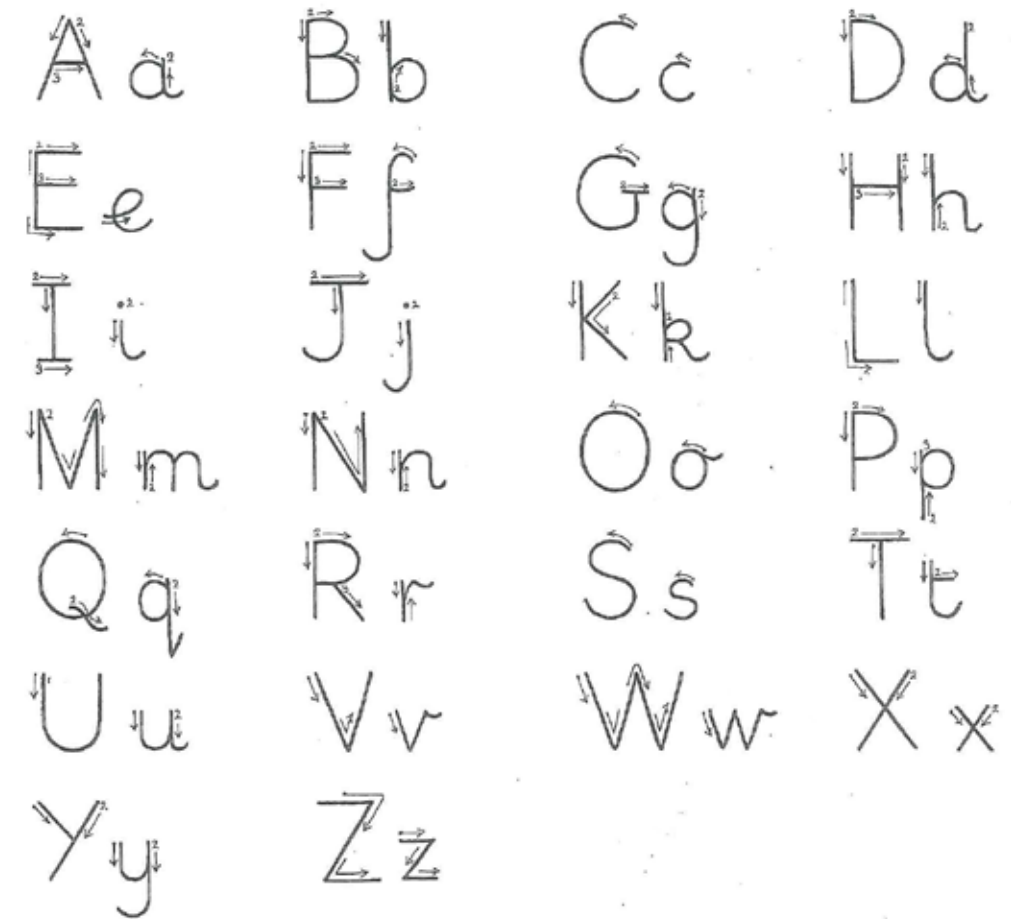
Website: www.allsaintscoepswhitefield.co.uk

Head Teacher
Deputy Head Teacher
Foundation Stage Manager
Foundation Stage Teacher
Foundation Stage Teaching Assistants

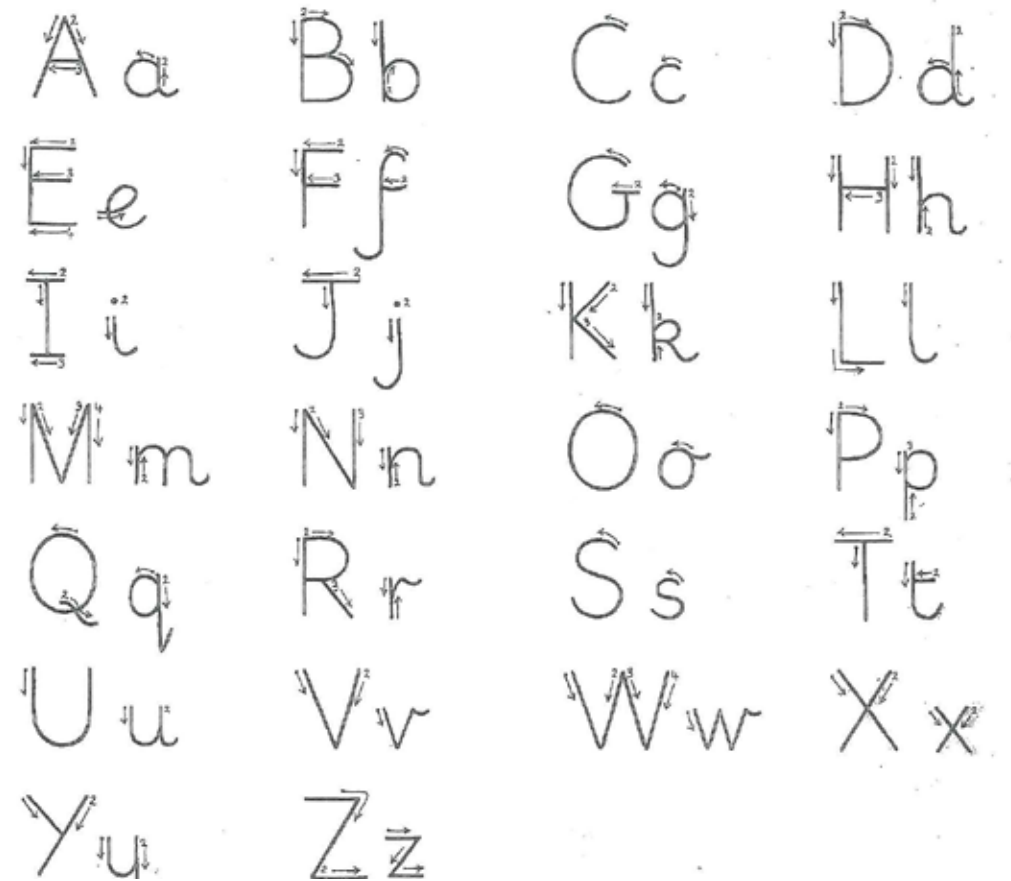
Mrs Branch
Mrs Farrell
Mrs Barrett
Mrs Yates
Mrs Halsall & Mrs Kelshaw



Letter Formation for Right-Handed Children



Letter Formation for Left-Handed Children





Living out our Christian Values