



# Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy

## Starting School Frequently Asked Questions

### **What will my child be expected to know/do when they start school?**

Reception teachers expect to see a wide range of abilities in new starters so don't worry if your child is not yet able to write their name or recognise any letters or numbers. The staff will carry out a detailed, observation-based Baseline assessment of your child in his/her first 4 weeks in Reception to enable them to tailor the teaching to your child's needs. We ask you to complete an 'all about me' transition document prior to your child starting school to provide staff with as much information about your child's likes and dislikes. This really helps the staff to help settle your child and is also used as part of our baseline assessment.

It's always a good idea to spend time reading books and playing listening games e.g. 'I spy' with your child at any age to help build simple literacy and numeracy skills in a fun way. There is no pressure to get your child to a certain level. The most important skills that children can have when starting school are self-help skills – getting dressed independently, putting on and taking off shoes and coat, putting away their own belongings and remembering to collect them at the end of the day, independently toileting including wiping their own bottom and washing hands afterwards, blowing their own nose and using a knife and fork (the latter is now assessed as part of the Physical Development Early Learning Goal).

### **Does my child need to bring anything with them to school?**

Your child will need a filled water bottle (water only please), black school pumps, their purple book bag, a coat, a pair of wellies, spare underwear, a piece of fruit or veg in a named container or bag (optional). A PE kit (black shorts or joggers and white T-shirt) will be required after October half-term. Please ensure each item of clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name.

### **What should I do if my child gets upset when I leave?**

It is perfectly normal for children to be anxious about saying goodbye to their adult and the staff in the Foundation Stage are very experienced in managing this. We recognise that this can be a very upsetting time for both children and parents. As hard as it is to leave your child crying, it is often best to leave promptly and avoid the prolonged goodbyes and final kisses. If you are worried, leave it for half an hour then ring school to check on how your child has settled. It is not uncommon for children who have come to school happily at the beginning to become reluctant to separate once they realise that they have to come to school every day.

### **Can my child bring a favourite toy/teddy to school?**

We prefer children not to bring their own toys to school as we can not guarantee to keep them safe. In exceptional circumstances e.g. when a child is struggling to settle beyond the first few weeks, we may ask for a familiar toy to be brought in but kept in the child's bag and used only as an initial comforter.

### **My child is a fussy eater, should I send him/her with a packed lunch?**

Currently the government fund free school meals for all children from Reception to Year 2 and we encourage all parents to allow their child to try the school meal option initially. The dinner menu is published on the website and on ParentPay. Parents choose their child's lunch using the online booking system. If there isn't anything on the menu that your child will eat, we offer the flexibility of sending a packed lunch on those days. The lunchtime staff



will monitor your child's eating over the course of the week and the Reception staff will speak to parents if they have any concerns.

### **My child doesn't want to talk about what he/she has done at school. Does this mean he/she is not enjoying it?**

Don't worry if your child is reluctant to talk about school, it is perfectly normal! It does not mean that they haven't enjoyed it. Try not to bombard your child with lots of questions as soon as you pick him/her up. Children often like to keep their school and home world separate but you may be offered snippets of information when you are least expecting it. If you would like to find out more about what your child has been doing at school, log on to our online learning platform to view your child's observations. Log on details will be sent in the first few weeks of your child starting school.

### **What Curriculum will my child follow in Reception?**

This year the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is being reformed and there is a new EYFS framework that all schools and settings will have to follow from September 2021. These national changes have been made to better support all young children's learning and development. It is also the aim that the new framework will better prepare children for the transition into key stage 1. There is a parent guide to the curriculum on the website and we will be inviting parents to a curriculum information session in the Autumn term.

### **How will my child be assessed?**

During the first 4 weeks of school, the Early Years staff will be carrying out an informal 'Baseline Assessment' for each child. This year we will also complete a new statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) but scores are not shared with schools or parents as it is intended to track the progress pupils make throughout their whole primary school journey. Towards the end of the Autumn term parents will be invited to a parent consultation, where you will have the opportunity to discuss how well your child has settled and how best to support their learning and skill development. A further consultation evening will be offered in the Spring Term and a detailed written report will be sent home at the end of the Summer term indicating whether your child is on track for their age.

### **When will my child bring home a reading book?**

Reception children will begin to bring home a 'sharing' book very soon after they start school. Once the children have learnt the first set of sounds that we will be teaching in our Read, Write Inc phonics lessons and can 'blend' the sounds they know to read simple words, they will bring home an appropriate reading scheme book. Our Reading Leader will be inviting you to a Read, Write Inc information evening early in the first half-term.

### **Will my Reception child get homework?**

Yes. We expect parents and carers to read regularly at home with their child and practise letter sounds and high frequency words. We occasionally send home other learning challenges via our online learning platform which are optional, but we would encourage you to complete with your child to support their learning in school.

### **I need my child to be collected by an adult other than those named on my contact list. What should I do?**

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Holy Trinity, and we have strict procedures to ensure the safety of every child. If you know in advance that a different adult



will be collecting, make sure that you let the teacher know. If the staff have not met the adult before we would need to you to complete a form at the school office with a password which we will ask the collecting adult to provide. If you need to arrange for a different adult to collect in an emergency, ring the school office to let them know and provide a password over the phone. We will NOT allow your child to be collected by an adult who is not on your contact list without prior notification.

### **My child has allergies and dietary requirements. How will school manage these?**

Allergies or food intolerances need to be recorded on the Admissions form. This is then passed onto all relevant staff and the school meals service. The catering agency will contact you and you may be asked to provide additional information in order that they can provide your child with an appropriate menu.

If your child requires medication in school, this must be prescribed and a medicine consent form must be completed and returned to the school office. Where a child has an ongoing medical condition, an Individual Healthcare Plan may need to be put in place by the SENCO who will work in collaboration with parents and relevant agencies.

### **My child has asthma. Can staff administer his/her inhaler in school?**

Any prescribed medication can be administered in school provided a medicine consent form is completed by an adult with parental responsibility. These are available from the school office. Reliever inhalers (blue) are kept in a named container in the classroom and will be administered as required by a Paediatric First Aider. We would also ask you to provide a copy of your child's Asthma Plan.

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

Children do not generally need to be kept at home with minor ailments such as common coughs and colds, though we recognise that during the Pandemic we have been particularly vigilant around these symptoms and asked parents to follow our COVID flowchart. It is likely that this procedure will continue into the next academic year and we will update our policies according to the current Government advice.

All absences need to be reported to the school office before 9am. A voicemail can be left on the school answering service.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher at [reception@holytrinityce.co.uk](mailto:reception@holytrinityce.co.uk) or emailing the school office at [info@holytrinityce.co.uk](mailto:info@holytrinityce.co.uk)