



A warm welcome to
St John Fisher
Catholic Voluntary
Academy



Our Learning Areas

Home corner



Open classroom space



Creative area



Busy fingers



Outside space



Role play area



Stepping stones



Water wall



Construction area



Calm area





Learning through play



Our Play Park, Field and School Garden



Forest School



Crafting



Den building



Mud kitchen



Fire pit



Fun in the mud



Balance bike

Working on gross motor skills.



Teamwork and fine motor skills.



Balance and coordination.



The Early Years Curriculum

- This is divided into seven areas of learning which we cover through play-based learning as well as adult lead activities. Our main topics are space, continents, and water.
- The children are encouraged to explore the classroom freely. Moving around both the inside and outside spaces using their imagination and curiosity to develop the key areas of learning.
- Within the two spaces the children will have adult influenced play as well as unlimited access to child lead play. Resources are freely available for the children to use and develop their ever growing skills.
- Forest School supports the children to expand in all their learning areas. Reinforcing the importance of child lead learning and seeing them transfer skills to the different areas.



The seven areas of learning:



Children develop skills and knowledge in these areas through a mixture of child initiated and adult directed activities.



A typical school day in the first term

- School opens at 8:30 with gates closing at 8:45
- The children will come in and have story time as everyone arrives.
- 8:50 morning register
- 9:00 the children will have free flow child lead learning (between both inside and outside)
- 10:00 we sit together for milk and fruit whilst listening to a story followed by free flow play.
- 11:00 we come together for a short carpet time session.
- 11:35 we get ready for lunch
- 11:50 – 12:50 lunch
- 1:00 afternoon register followed by a short carpet time session
- 1:30 free flow child lead learning
- 2:30 story time before getting ready for home
- 3:00 home time



A typical day as the year progresses

- School opens at 8:30 with gates closing at 8:45
- The children will come in and complete a morning starter as everyone arrives.
- 8:50 morning register
- 9:00 phonics
- 9:45 milk and fruit followed by free flow child lead learning
- 10:30 focused time on the carpet for topic
- 11:00 free flow child lead learning and small group work
- 11:35 story and getting ready for lunch
- 11:50 - 12:50 lunch
- 1:00 afternoon register
- 1:10 maths
- 1:30 free flow child lead learning and group work
- 2:30 story time and getting ready for home
- 3:00 home time



Early Reading

We believe that early reading is very important. We want our children to become life-long readers and promote the love of books through daily story time sessions. We encourage our children to use our lovely indoor and outdoor reading areas every day.

We also offer a personalised, online library through the *Reading Eggs* website. The children are taught how to become 'reading detectives'.



Phonics

- We follow the Ruth Miskin Read, Write, Inc phonics programme.
- The children will have a daily phonics lesson which will consist of a mixture of learning sounds, reading, sentence writing and spelling.
- Support for home learning will be sent home on a weekly basis with access to the RWI phonics portal.
- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MI6i0NKN/JEwINbsk>



Monitoring and next steps

- Monitoring and next steps are done on a day-to-day on-going process which is done through play-based activities and by observing what the children have learned. This allows us to identify their next steps and helps us to lay out and create our learning through play activities for the following week.
- When making our observation we use all the learning areas to support the children's next steps.
- We share some of the work we do at school through an online platform called ClassDojo. Parents can also share “wow moments” from home by using the portfolio.



Forest school

- The children will be joining in with regular forest school session. This will be led by Mrs Fletcher and offers the children the opportunity to expand their learning and understanding of our great outdoors.
- The children will develop a variety of skills. They will learn how to identify plants, design and make crafts, build dens, and become self-confident in their play.



Uniform



Please see the *Uniform* page in the *Parents* section of the school website for more details.



PE Kit

- The children will need to bring their PE kits into school on the first Monday of half term. These will then stay in school ready for the children on PE days and will come home at the end of half term.
- They will need.....
- White polo shirt
- Black or navy shorts
- Black or navy jogging bottoms and a zip up hoodie.
- Trainers



Houses

St Mark



St John



St Matthew



St Luke



Outdoor Clothing



A sunhat will be required during hot and sunny weather.

We ask that sunscreen is applied at home before coming into school. In the height of summer this can also be sent in for reapplying in clearly named bottle.



Your child will need wellies in school from the start of the term as well as a waterproof coat and trouser set. These will be used in both the playground and during Forest School.



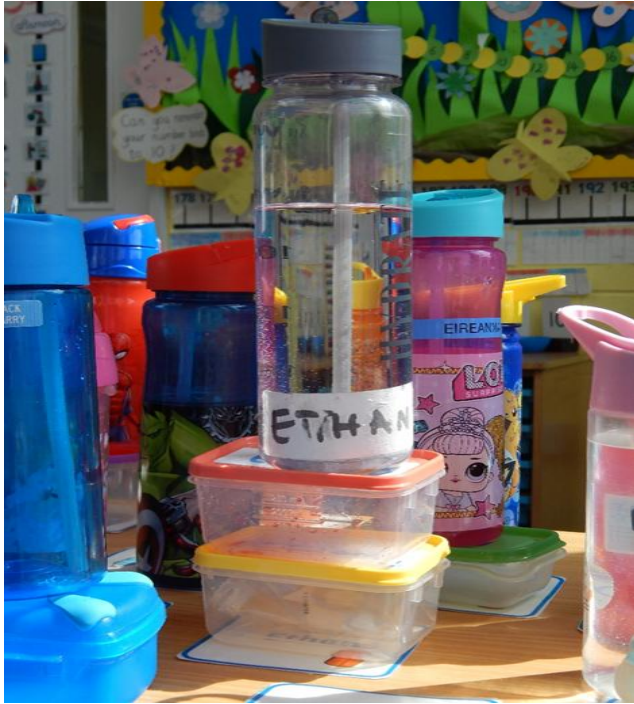
Your child will need:

- A book bag to keep their books and phonics folder in.
- A PE bag to keep their kit in, which can stay at school over the course of the term.

Please DO NOT send in big bags or rucksacks, we simply don't have the space for them.



Your child will also need a named water bottle...



...and a pair of plimsolls to wear whilst they are inside school.

Everything your child brings to school must be marked clearly with their name.



Snack and milk time



- Every day, the children will be offered a healthy snack. This is either a piece of fruit or a vegetable. Alternatively, they are allowed to bring in their own fruit snack or vegetable snack from home or two plain biscuits.



- Through the *Cool Milk* scheme all children up until the age of 5 receive free milk and there is an option to pay for this scheme when your child turns five.



Lunches

- All Reception children are offered a free school meal. Alternatively, they can bring in a packed lunch from home.
- We ask that you select their meal choices for them using the on-line system “Arbor”



Breakfast Club and After School Provision



St John Fisher provides wrap around care in the form of an on-site breakfast starting from 7:30am and after school club finishing at 5:15. Contact the school office for details.



Parents' afternoons



Preparing for school.

Help your child to...



Recognise their own name



Eat independently



Put on and take off their own shoes



Manages all aspects of going to the toilet



Get themselves dressed



Put on their own coat





Our School Motto

Aim high, Work hard, Be kind.

