



September 2024

Welcome to...

St Aloysius Catholic
Primary Schools



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Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Welcome to St Aloysius

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to St Aloysius.

We are delighted that you have chosen St Aloysius as your child's school and will aim to ensure your child is happy and fulfilled during their time with us. We will encourage, motivate and support them to reach their fullest potential.

We hope this brochure provides you and your child with some useful information and answers some of the questions parents may have as they prepare for their child to start Reception class.

If you have any further questions about your child starting school, please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss them further.

We want the transition from Nursery to Reception to be as smooth as possible for both you and your child and are looking forward to sharing in the many successes your child has ahead of them.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Tumelty and Julie Broadhurst

Executive Head Teacher and Acting Head of School (Infants)



CONTACT US

Address: Sharpendon Street, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 1RZ

Telephone: 0191 483 2274

E-mail: info@st-alloysius.co.uk

Reception Teachers: Miss Cunningham and Mrs McDermott/Mrs Cawthorn

School Hours

All Reception children will begin school on **Tuesday 3rd September 2024**. It is crucial that all pupils are punctual for school and that they attend school each day. The Reception year is fast paced and school absence will impact significantly on your child's learning. The school day will be organised as follows:

Doors open	8.45am
School day starts	9.00am
Lunch	12.00-1.00pm
School day ends	3.15pm

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45-9.00am each morning.

After School Club runs from 3.15-5.00pm each night from **Monday to Thursday**.

If you wish to make use of our Breakfast Club or After School Club please contact the school office for further information.

All Reception children will receive a school dinner, freshly cooked on site each day. Due to the universal free school meal offer there is no additional cost for this meal. However, parents in receipt of benefits can claim further entitlement by completing the relevant forms via the school office. As a school we will then receive additional funding to support your child at school.

Children will receive a piece of fruit each day as a snack. We encourage children to bring water bottles to school each day. Fizzy pop or juice are not permitted in the classroom.

School Uniform



Our school uniform can be purchased from [J K Clothing in Jarrow](#). Please speak to school if you have any difficulty purchasing the branded school uniform. Please note, plain blue polo shirts can be purchased at well-known stores.

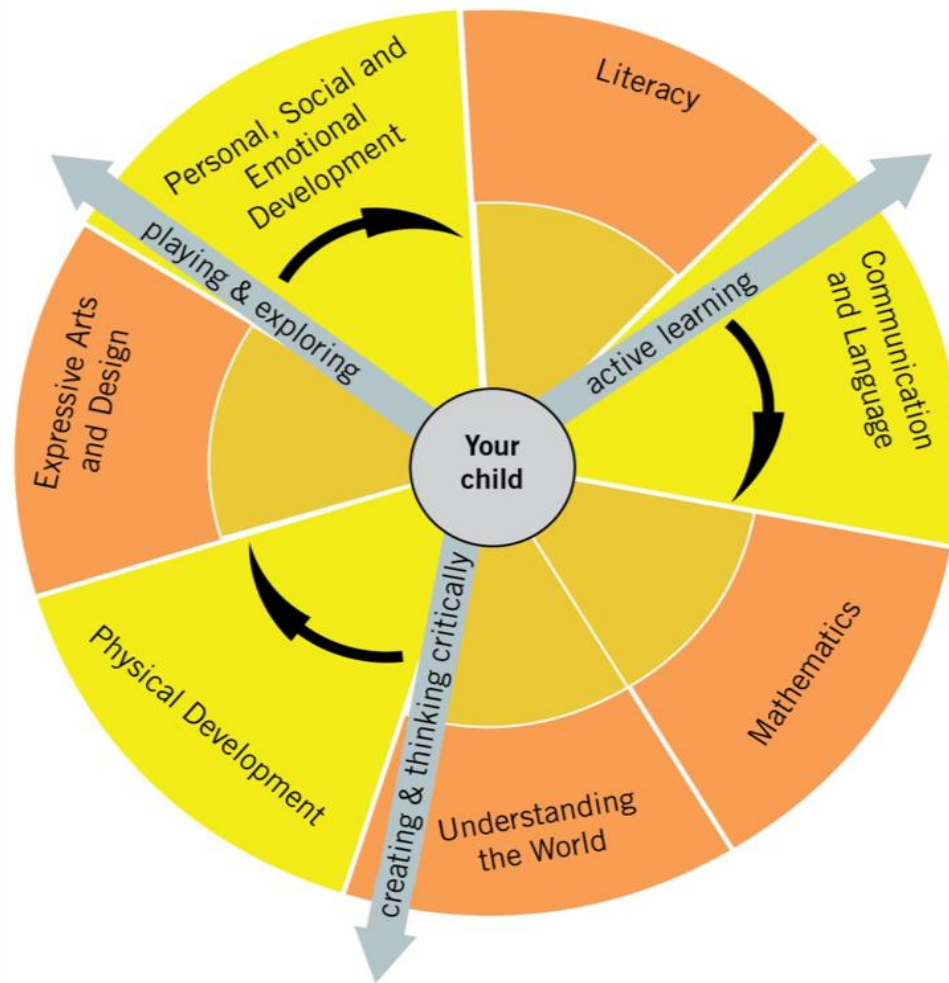
Please label each item of clothing clearly with your child's name.

Children are expected to wear full school uniform as follows:

- Jumper, tank top or cardigan with school logo
- Light blue polo shirt with school logo
- Grey trousers/shorts/skirt or blue summer dress
- Black shoes (not trainers)

PE Kit

For PE pupils are asked to wear a school PE top with a school logo and navy shorts (no logo) with plimsolls or trainers. Children do not get changed for PE until after the October half term.



Children learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding in 7 areas of learning and development.

Prime Areas

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Children will typically develop in the 3 prime areas first, which then supports development in the specific areas.

These 7 areas support and guide the teaching and learning of the EYFS.

The Sounds-Write programme is used to teach phonics and spelling. We begin teaching an awareness of sound and sound identification in Nursery and as children show readiness, they begin to access the initial code of Sounds-Write phonics. All pupils in Reception begin the initial code in the September of their Reception year. They continue on their phonics journey throughout Year One and into Year Two, with the aim of leaving KS1 as fluent readers, secure in word building and recognition.

We explicitly teach the 3 skills of:

- Blending
- Segmenting
- Phoneme manipulation (sound swapping)

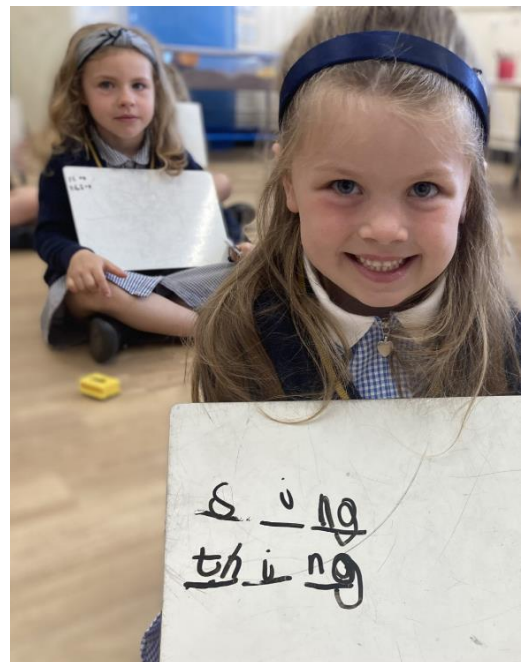
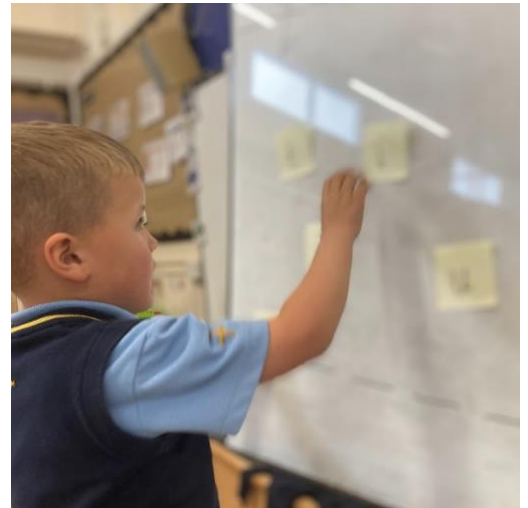
The children are taught to decode and encode by understanding 4 clear concepts:

- Letters are symbols that represent sounds that they say
- Sounds can be spelt using 1,2,3 and 4 letters – f, oa, air, eigh
- The same sound can be spelt in different ways – bone, coat, toe, window, shoulder
- The same spelling can represent different sounds – bread, eat, great

All adults in school use the same consistent, concise language about sounds and spelling when teaching. We say that the letters spell sounds they do not say sounds. We use phrases such as:

- In this word...
- If this was...this would be...
- This can spell...what else can it spell?
- Say the sounds and read the word.

The discrete teaching of phonics and reading has become a natural and everyday part of every aspect of the curriculum. Pupils are given additional support as required to master their phonics.



Find out more about how we teach phonics in school by accessing this free online parent course:
<https://www.udemy.com/user/54e5c34e6b89b/>

Reading is such an essential skill to master in order to access the curriculum fully for learning. Please read with and to your child daily.



Helping Us

We acknowledge the importance of parents as a child's first educator and aim to work together with parents. We attach great importance to the relationships between home and school in maximising the learning of your child. Children settle into school more quickly and make more rapid progress with their learning when parents and school work together in partnership.

Parent workshops

During the course of the year you will be invited to join us for a range of focused workshops. These are intended to support you at home when helping your child to learn and provide an opportunity for us to share some of the strategies we use in our teaching that your child will be familiar with.

Please do support these workshops wherever possible.

Home-School diary

At the beginning of the year your child will receive a home-school diary. This is an opportunity for you and your child to record anything they would like to share from home. This may be in the form of photographs, bus/cinema tickets, drawings etc. your child will share this weekly with staff and peers.

Reading together

Supporting your child's reading development is one of the most important things you can do for them over the coming year. Children who read and are read to often at home, make accelerated progress in reading. Reading contributes to all areas of learning across the curriculum. Your child will have a reading record for you and the class teacher to comment on your child's progress. This is a great way of communicating with staff about your child's reading.

Behaviour

From their first day in school, children are supported to follow the rules and routines of our school, intended to promote a happy and effective learning environment. We have few rules and those we do have are deliberately wide. We aim to support your child to behave in a way that will lead to self-discipline and encourage children to perform at their very best in all aspects of school life.

We use a rainbow, sunshine, rain cloud and thundercloud visual to help your child remain aware of their behaviour choices.

Care and Share: Everyone should behave in a considerate manner, treating each person with respect at all times.

Work Well: Work hard. Always be proud of your efforts.

Play Safely: Be sensible. Care for each other in your play so you do not hurt yourself or your friends.

Tidy as you go: Keep the school and the classroom clean and tidy – it's your building, be proud of it!



Special Educational Needs

Through observations children with a special educational need are identified at an early stage and strategies are developed between school, home and any other appropriate service to address any concerns and to ensure school can best meet the needs of your child.

Please do inform school of any specialists currently involved with your child or if, at any point, you have concerns about your child's progress at school then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Medication/Dietary Requirements

Please inform school immediately of any medical condition your child may have. Children with asthma must have an inhaler in school at all times.

All prescribed medicines should be administered at home as far as possible. If your child requires medicines while in school these should have been signed in with a first aider at the school office. All medicines must carry a dispensing label with the child's name and required dosage. A dosage spoon should also be provided.

If your child has any specific dietary requirements, please inform school so kitchen staff can be notified in good time.

Helping your child

You can help your child settle quickly into school by talking positively about the experience. Use our introductory video to prompt conversation. It would also be useful to encourage your child to carry out tasks for themselves, such as getting dressed, putting their shoes on and zipping up their coat. Independence is a great confidence booster. The children quickly want to manage those tasks alone to show how grown up they are!

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital. The Reception year is fast paced and full of fun learning opportunities. New learning, especially with phonics, is introduced daily. It is important your child is both present in school but also punctual for the start of the school day. There are occasions, due to illness, when your child may be unable to attend school. If this happens please ensure that you contact the school office, stating the reason for your child's absence from school.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to St Aloysius in September. We are excited to watch them thrive as they begin their learning journey with us. In the meantime, we wish you a lovely summer break!

