

Welcome from the Early Years team!



Miss Julian
Class Teacher



Mrs Price
Teaching Assistant

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your little ones to Reception Class this September! It's such an exciting time as your child begins their school journey, and we are excited to being part of this special time. Together, we look forward to creating a nurturing and inspiring environment where your child will grow, explore, and develop a love for learning. We can't wait to meet you all and work closely with you throughout the year to ensure a positive start to school.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Best wishes,
Miss Julian and Mrs Price

Contact Information

If you ever need to contact the school, please contact the office via email or telephone, they will be able to help you with any questions or concerns you may have. Please also visit our school website where you can find out about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and stay up-to-date with the latest news and events happening around the school.

☎ 01273 418 416

✉ office@stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk

🌐 <https://www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk/>



Key Dates

Home Visits

Monday 8th September

Tuesday 9th September

Settling in

morning/afternoon

Wednesday 10th September

First Full day

Thursday 11th September

Meet the Teacher

Tuesday 16th September
3:10pm



EYFS Curriculum

7 Areas of Development

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards for the learning and development of children from birth to age 5. It is divided into 7 key areas of learning, which are designed to support children's growth and prepare them for future learning.

1. Communication and Language

Children develop their speaking, listening, and understanding skills through conversation, storytelling, songs, and role-play. This builds strong foundations for reading and writing later on.

2. Physical Development

This focuses on both gross motor skills (like running, climbing, jumping) and fine motor skills (like holding a pencil, using scissors, doing up buttons). It also includes learning about healthy choices, self-care, and hygiene.

3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children learn to understand their emotions, develop confidence and independence, and build positive relationships. They also begin to understand rules, routines, and how to work as part of a group.

4. Literacy

This includes early reading and writing skills. Children begin to understand how sounds and letters work (phonics), enjoy books and stories, and start writing letters, words, and simple sentences.

5. Mathematics

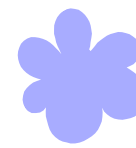
Children explore numbers and begin simple counting, addition, and subtraction. They also learn about shapes, patterns, size, weight, time, and measurement through play and practical activities.

6. Understanding the World

This area helps children make sense of the world around them. They learn about their families, communities, the environment, technology, and different cultures, often through hands-on exploration.

7. Expressive Arts and Design

Children use a variety of materials and media to express themselves. This includes painting, music, dance, role-play, and building with blocks or other materials, helping to develop creativity and imagination.



FAQ

How often do I have to read at home?

At St Mary's, we have high expectations for reading at home. Your child will receive a reading record and books in their first week, and we ask that you read with them daily and record it. Books will be changed three times a week.

What happens if my child has an accident or needs the toilet?

There are toilets within the Reception classroom for easy access. If your child has an accident, we have spare uniform available and will let you know discretely at the end of the day.

How will I know how my child is doing?

You'll be kept informed about your child's progress in Reception through regular updates on Seesaw, as well as parent evenings held throughout the year.

What if my child is upset at drop-off?

This is very common at the start of the year. We work hard to build strong, trusting relationships with the children and can usually help them settle into the classroom quickly. If needed, we'll be in touch to let you know how they're getting on.

Can parents get involved?

We are always looking for parents who would like to get involved. If you're interested in joining the PTA or can spare an afternoon to come in and read with the children, we'd love to hear from you! Please come and speak to us—your support makes a big difference!