



THREE SAINTS FEDERATION
Shepton Beauchamp Church School
&
St Mary & St Peter's Church School

Together We Flourish

Starting School Handbook

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Contact Details



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Welcome



We are a Federation of two small, friendly Church Schools promoting the Christian values of wisdom, trust, friendship and awe and wonder.

At our Schools, the children come first, supported by staff, parents, governors and the wider community. Children are individuals, and it is important to us that their voices are heard. We recognise that children learn and develop in individual ways. We aim to guide children along their individual paths to reach their personal, social and academic potential. Inclusion is paramount, and we strive to ensure that all children have equal opportunities across the curriculum.

We aim to instil the qualities of self-belief, resilience, honesty, cooperation and a desire to learn through a practical, creative, challenging and innovative curriculum, initiated by the children, and with fun and enjoyment at the centre. Enjoyment is the key to successful learning and achieving the high expectations that we have of our children.

Our approach to the curriculum and our commitment to the outdoor environment are aimed at nurturing children's natural curiosity and harnessing their creativity. Despite our size, many enrichment opportunities are available during and outside of School hours to further children's interests.

Our Schools ensure a very safe environment, where children are cared for and learn to care for each other.

Ian Rumbelow - Headteacher

Three Saints Federation

*Together
We
Flourish*

Early Years Curriculum



The EYFS Curriculum is made up of **Prime** areas and **Specific** areas of learning. **Prime** areas are those that are developed quickly in response to relationships and experiences, they are part of and support learning in all other areas. **Specific** areas include essential skills and knowledge and grow out of the prime areas to provide context for learning.

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Physical Development
Communication and Language

Specific Areas

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressing Arts and Design

4 key themes underpin the Early Years curriculum.

A Unique Child - Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.



Positive Relationships - Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments - Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between teaching staff and parents and carers.

Learning and Development - Children develop and learn in different ways. We teach children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the prime and specific areas of learning and development.

"Children are born ready, able and eager to learn."

Other Information



Sickness Absence

There will, of course, be times when your child has to miss school because he or she is ill. We ask parents to ring the school as soon as practicable, whenever children are ill. The school operates a 'first day contact' policy in order to ensure the safety of children and, if we have heard nothing by 09:15, the School Office will telephone you at home. We also ask you to send a note/email explaining the reasons for absence. Please note that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to school for forty eight hours after symptoms clear.

Other Authorised Absences

Any absence for a family holiday will not be authorised unless it is classed as 'exceptional circumstances'. Any absences for such occasions as a family bereavement, religious observance or medical appointment must be requested as far in advance as possible. Please do not hesitate to ask at school if you are unsure.

Communication

We keep parents as fully informed of events as we can through newsletters or flyers, both via email and paper copies on request. Please check daily with your child as to whether they have brought home any correspondence from school. We sometimes ask for return slips - please do try to help us by returning any replies as promptly as possible.

Class newsletters are also sent out each term to celebrate the children's achievements.

We invite parents into school to view children's work throughout the year, including Open Afternoons.

Reports

Children receive end of year reports, as well as mini-reports during spring term, alongside parents evenings during the year.

Severe Weather/Emergency Procedures

If the decision is made not to open one or both schools in our Federation because of deteriorating conditions overnight, a notice will be put up outside the closed school as early as possible to tell you that the school will not be open.

A message will be posted on the homepage of the school website to say that the school will be closed, and an email sent to all parents and carers. If possible, the school telephone will be staffed from 8.30 am to 10.00 am so that enquiries can be made, and again from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm. Occasionally this may not be possible if members of staff are unable to get to the school.

If worsening weather conditions indicate that by 3.15 pm children and staff may have difficulty getting home, every attempt will be made to contact you, initially by email, to ask you to come and collect your children from school. Please respond to this by email/telephone to let us know you have received it and are able to collect your child.

If you anticipate difficulties collecting your children later in the day due to the weather conditions, please come early and collect children from school, or telephone us to let us know what arrangements to make. The Headteacher or other authorised person will remain at school until all children have been safely collected.

Clubs



The Three Saints Federation offer a range of clubs across the sites.

Morning Drop Off Club is offered from 8.00am.

Letters are sent out each term to inform parents of the clubs that are on offer. Parents can then select the club or clubs they wish their child to take part in.

Clubs change termly and recent examples include:

- ◇ Athletics Club
- ◇ Cricket & Rounders Club
- ◇ Target Sports Club - soft archery, curling, boccia, Nerf
- ◇ Gymnastics Club
- ◇ Football Club
- ◇ Wellies & Wonder/Mud Club
- ◇ Stay & Play Club
- ◇ Lego & Construction Club

All clubs are available to all year groups. Parents will be invoiced for all Wrap Around Care attendance. Financial assistance with these costs is available to all parents via Tax Free Child Care. Additional financial support is available to children for which the school receives Pupil Premium funding. All clubs require a minimum number of participants to run and may be subject to a maximum number of children—early booking is recommended.

Early Years Vision



*"Children are
born ready,
able and eager
to learn."*

- To provide a safe, nurturing, exciting and creative environment which supports the flourishing of curiosity, independence, resilience, collaboration and a love of learning.
- To provide an enriched and enjoyable learning adventure where each child is valued and enabled to achieve their potential
- To create happy, confident and compassionate children through building relationships with families and communities.

Within the Three Saints Federation we want our children to be happy, confident and well-rounded individuals with a love of learning. We believe in providing children with a safe and stimulating environment that builds on everyone's wants, needs and interests.

Children should have the opportunity to learn through play. Learning should be fun, engaging and suitably challenging. We value the importance of our outdoor environment and believe that it offers children the opportunity to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills. Adults provide high quality interactions; they are role models for learning.

We are committed to providing the best possible start to their school life, teaching them skills and giving them experiences, which ensure their well-being now and success in the future.



Starting School

Starting school is an exciting new experience for you and your child and it helps to think ahead and be ready for the first day.

With this in mind it would really help your child and the school if your child:

- ◇ Can dress and undress all by themselves
- ◇ Can put on their own shoes and do them up without help
- ◇ Use the toilet on their own
- ◇ Can wash and dry their hands independently
- ◇ Recognise their own name
- ◇ Hold a pencil, crayon, paintbrush and scissors correctly
- ◇ Can sing and join in with simple songs and rhymes
- ◇ Knows how to look at books and hold them correctly
- ◇ Can put on their coat and do it up independently
- ◇ Can look after their own belonging carry them and hang them up



Meet the Staff

St Mary's and St Peter's Church School

Senior Leadership team

Mr Ian Rumbelow — Headteacher
 Mrs Jo Best — SENCO
 Miss Caroline Middleton

Ash Class—Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Mrs Jo Best — Teacher
 Mrs Tracy Paul—Learning Support Assistant
 Mrs Lana Mitchell—Learning Support Assistant
 Mrs Di White- Learning Support Assistant

Oak Class—Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Mrs Jane Shields —Teacher
 Mrs Mary MacKay -- Teacher
 Mrs Lana Mitchell—Learning Support Assistant

Lunchtime Supervisors and Wrap Around Care

Mrs Moya Taylor
 Mrs Tracy Paul
 Mrs Emma Adams
 Miss Jemma Harris

Curriculum Support

Mrs Helen Morgan (Somerset Music)
 Premier Sports (P.E. and After School Clubs)
 Pro-Coaching (P.E. and After School Clubs)

Administration & Finance

Mrs Sarah Wright—School Office
 Mrs Claire Salzer — School Office

Premises

Mrs Moya Taylor—Cleaner
 Mr Paul Adams—Caretaker



Meet the Staff

Shepton Beauchamp Church School

Senior Leadership Team

Mr Ian Rumbelow — Headteacher

Mrs Jo Best — SENCO

Miss Caroline Middleton

Coles Class—Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Mrs Gill Pape—Teacher

Mrs Jo Lock —Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Emma Adams — Learning Support Assistant

Seymour Class—Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Miss Caroline Middleton —Teacher

Mrs Alison Hallesy—Learning Support Assistant

Lunchtime Supervisors & Wrap Around Care

Mrs Jayne Yelland

Mrs Nisa A'Court

Premier Sports

Pro-Coaching

Curriculum Support

Mrs Helen Morgan (Somerset Music)

Premier Sports (P.E. and After School Clubs)

Pro-Coaching (P.E. and After School Clubs)

Administration & Finance

Mrs Claire Salzer — School Office

Mrs Sarah Wright — School Office

Premises

Mr Kevin Priddle—Cleaner & Caretaker



Preparing for School

You can help your child at home in many different ways:

- ◇ Playing simple games such as snap, lotto and I spy.
- ◇ Singing songs and learning nursery rhymes.
- ◇ Explain how things work.
- ◇ Providing a variety of resources for making things e.g. cardboard boxes, tubes, variety of paper, shiny tops, old Christmas, birthday cards, magazines, glue, paint, scissors, sellotape.
- ◇ Encourage sorting into different groups by size shape and colour.
- ◇ Talk about the shapes of objects.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for counting.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for matching - socks, gloves, labels on tins.
- ◇ Play shops with different household items such as tins and packets. Exchange pennies supporting your child to count correctly.
- ◇ Thread beads, trace, paint, colour and do simple puzzles to develop muscles in fingers and thumbs to help with writing.
- ◇ Play ball games, kicking, throwing, catching and bouncing.
- ◇ Take your child out and about and talk about what they see or discover.

Most of all have fun with your child!

Early Days in School



All children in the Three Saints Federation may attend full time in Year Reception from their first day at school,

As a parent, if you prefer to have a staged start, you may wish to consider the following timetable. In the children's **first week** at school they **may finish at 12:00**. This would allow the children to settle in gently to their new surroundings and routine. The children should arrive at 8:45; this allows them 15 minutes to settle allowing them to get ready to start the day at 9:00. The children may finish the school day at **1:00, after lunch**, during the second week and **3:15 thereafter**.

Parents will be able to say goodbye to their child at the school gate. It is much better to give your child a reassuring kiss and cuddle, a reminder of when you will be back to pick them up and leave promptly.

If you have any worries then the Class Teacher or the Teaching Assistant will be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Please let them know in the morning if your child has been upset by anything at home that is likely to affect them coming into school. We get to know your child as an individual and will give them all the support they need.

Please let them know in the morning if your child has been upset by anything at home that is likely to affect them in school. We get to know your child as an individual and will give them all the support they need.



Uniform



Uniform is available to order from the school offices. All school uniform should be marked **clearly** with your child's name.

Shepton Beauchamp Church School

BOYS	GIRLS
Red school sweatshirt	Red school sweatshirt or cardigan
Red school polo shirt	Red school polo shirt
Grey trousers or shorts	Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
	Summer - Red and white dress

St Mary and St Peter's Church School

BOYS	GIRLS
Purple school sweatshirt	Purple school sweatshirt cardigan
Yellow school polo shirt	Yellow school polo shirt
Grey trousers or shorts	Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
	Summer - Purple and white dress

Shoes should be sensible with fastenings that your child can manage- Velcro or buckles are most suitable. Please **do not** wear sandals or trainers.

Also available:

- ◇ Book bags
- ◇ Rucksacks
- ◇ School fleeces
- ◇ Coats
- ◇ Caps for the summer
- ◇ Water bottles

Food and Drink



Fruit - Your child will be offered a piece of fruit during the morning.

Milk - Free milk is available for children under 5 years of age but milk can be provided at a small cost to parents for children over 5. Please register with Cool Milk (www.coolmilk.com) to order free and paid for milk.

School Lunches - Currently children up to the end of Key Stage 1/end of year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). Menu choice slips are sent out every 3 weeks for you to make your selection. Menus are on a three weekly rolling programme with a meat option, vegetarian option, special diet option or jacket potato option available to order.

Please send your child in with a drinks bottle for each day. School drinks bottles are available to order from the School Offices.

*"On Monday
he ate
through one
apple but he
was still
hungry."
The Hungry
Caterpillar*

Reading and Phonics



The Three Saints Federation use a synthetic phonics reading programme that is delivered daily. Through this scheme the children will:

- ◇ Learn sounds and matching letters/letter groups.
- ◇ Learn to blend sounds to read words.
- ◇ Read lots of specially written books.
- ◇ Talk a lot about what they have read to show they understand.
- ◇ Listen to and discuss other ideas to deepen understanding.

Your child will be given a book and reading record book to bring home once they have settled in school. They may not be able to read the words to begin with but it gives you and your child the opportunity to discuss the book. Talk about events in the story, the characters and encourage your child to predict what may happen next. Please keep a record of when you read with your child in their reading record book.

As your child begins to recognise some words they will bring books home that they can attempt to read. You can encourage your child to read by discussing the pictures, asking them what they think the words might be and by looking at the words carefully and 'sounding out' the letters. Doing a little reading each day can be a great benefit to your child.

Children should bring their reading book and reading record book to school in their named reading bag **each day**.

*"The more
that you
read, the
more things
you will know.
The more
that you
learn, the
more places
you'll go."
Dr Seuss*

Physical Education



P.E. takes place twice a week. Please ensure that your child always has their PE kit **named** and in school in a drawstring bag.

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP CHURCH SCHOOL	ST MARYS AND ST PETERS CHURCH SCHOOL
White school P.E. Shirt	White school P.E. Shirt
Dark Shorts	Dark Shorts
Dark jogging trousers	Dark jogging trousers
Plimsolls (daps)/Trainers	Plimsolls (daps)/Trainers

These items should be kept in school in a named drawstring bag on your child's peg.



Federation Days



These occur to enhance the learning of the children. We come together across the two schools. They are based on a theme and they allow the children from the two bases to mix with each other.

Federation Days allow the children to enjoy the experience of outside visitors and workshops that may not be possible for the individual schools on their own.

Children always look forward to these days, mixing with the other children in their year group and they always work well together.

"...opportunity for children to share experiences together."

"...opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness"

Forest School



Children will be having some Forest School lessons each term. It gives them the chance to learn about the natural environment and allows them to handle risks. They are encouraged to use their own initiative to solve problems and to communicate and co-operate with others.

What Happens in Forest School?

- ◇ Communication/Cooperation game.
- ◇ Activities - designed to help appreciate the natural environment and develop curiosity.
- ◇ Plenary/reflection.



Children need a **named** bag of **named** suitable clothing e.g. jeans, jumper, waterproof coat and a pair of wellington boots that you don't mind getting muddy.



"...chance to learn about the natural environment and allows them to handle risks."

Assessment



The Three Saints Federation use an online learning journal to assess and record the children's achievements. This allows parents to play an active role in their child's learning journey.

- ◇ Each observation or page can include notes, photographs and EYFS assessments, characteristics of learning and videos. They can be enhanced by comments from other staff and parents, and each page appears in a pleasing and coherent way.
- ◇ Each child's journey can have individual accounts set up for parents and relatives to access.
- ◇ Parents can comment on new entries and even add their own.
- ◇ Mobile apps allow new entries to be made from iPhones, iPads and Android devices.
- ◇ Convert to PDF and give to parents as CD.

"...observing what a child can do to help identify where the child may be on their own development pathway."

