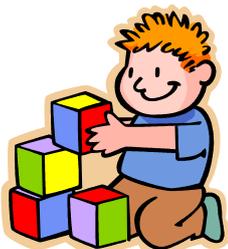
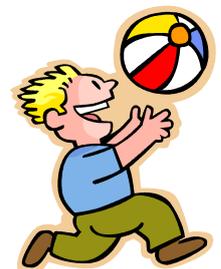




**ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL, BARRY**



**GETTING READY FOR
RECEPTION
2020-2021**





STARTING SCHOOL

Welcome to St Helen's Catholic Primary School. We hope that this booklet will be of help to you and your child during the forthcoming weeks as they move from Nursery into full time education in Reception.



PARKING

There is plenty of parking around the school in Maesycwm Street, Court Road and Wyndham Street. Please do not use the Presbytery or Church car parks. These are private car parks for clergy and parishioners and should not be used when dropping off or collecting your child.

Under no circumstances should you park on the zig zag lines in Maesycwm Street, even if only for a few seconds.

We are part of the Green Cones project and they are placed there to stop any parking on the lines. They are there to protect our pupils and are regularly patrolled by the community police.



THE SCHOOL DAY

**SCHOOL STARTS AT
9AM**

**SCHOOL ENDS AT
3.15PM**

The School gates is opened at **8.50am**. A teacher will be at the gate so that you can pass on any messages e.g. if there are any changes in the usual collection arrangements etc.

Please ensure that your child arrives at school **before 9am**. Arriving late for school is not only disruptive to the lessons, but your child can become upset or embarrassed at having to join their class late.

Our school day ends at 3.15pm when the gate is unlocked. If you are delayed when collecting your child at the end of the day please telephone so that a message can be passed on to prevent your child from worrying.

Please be aware that we cannot allow children to be collected by anyone under the age of 16. In the interests of Safeguarding and Health and Safety all children are collected from their classrooms.



EARLY DAYS

During the first few days some children may become anxious about leaving their parents. If this happens please do not worry. We would encourage you to leave promptly and if you are worried, please feel free to telephone the school a little later in the morning to check that they have settled.

When children first start school, they become easily tired, and your child may feel exhausted at the end of the day. The children will need plenty of early nights so please try not to plan too many activities for the evenings, keep these to weekends for a while.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils wear their School uniform with pride.

The uniform policy states:

- Yellow Polo Shirts
- Green Cardigans/Jumpers
- Grey Trousers/Pinafores/Skirts/Shorts.

In hot weather our uniform is green/yellow checked dresses.

School uniform with our School logo is available from local suppliers. Basic items are also available from local supermarkets. Please ensure that your child wears sensible shoes.

Most importantly please ensure that each item of clothing is marked with their name.



BREAKFAST CLUB

We have a breakfast club in the hall each morning. Children are admitted between 8.00am and 8.20am and receive a healthy breakfast. Children are required to eat breakfast each day under the terms and conditions of Welsh Government funding.

There are a limited number of places and priority is given to children who are already on the waiting list or who receive Free School Meals. To register your child for Breakfast Club, please complete the Breakfast Club application form and return it to the School Office.



HEALTHY EATING

Our School follows the Welsh Government guidelines for promoting Healthy Eating in our School.

All children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school milk, funded by the European Union. If your child does not drink milk please inform their teacher and they will be given water as an alternative. Water is available in the classroom throughout the day, please supply a clear water bottle for your child.

Only fruit is allowed to be eaten at snack time. Please provide this in a named recyclable container.



SCHOOL MEALS AND LUNCHTIME

If you think that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please make your application to the Benefits Office at the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Civic Offices, Holton Road.

For parents who pay for their child's school meals, payment can only be made by credit or debit card at www.Parentpay.co.uk. In your pack you should have a letter with your user name and password and instructions of how to log in. You may not be able to make payment until your child has had their first school meal. We ask that once your child has had their first school meal, you do not allow your child's account to go into arrears again. If your child's account is in arrears, the catering staff will not be able to give them a meal. **The School operates a strict NO debt policy.**

Please only give them as much as they eat. We are a healthy school so please avoid giving your child sugary items such as chocolate, biscuits, sweets, fizzy drinks etc and encourage them to bring healthy food such as fruit, yoghurt, juice or water etc. We will not throw anything away from your child's lunch box so that you can see how much your child has eaten.

Lunch boxes are stored during the day on a trolley in your child's classroom so they should not measure more than 26cm x 21cm otherwise they will not fit – no bulky rucksacks please.



P.E.

Shortly after starting school, you will be informed of your child's P.E. day. For P.E. days please send in a T-shirt and a pair of shorts in a small bag clearly marked with your child's name. The children will take the P.E. kit home at the end each half term to be washed.

It will help your child to practice changing in and out of their uniform before they start school. **Please label all items of school uniform with your child's name, especially jumpers and cardigans.** We would ask parents to remove earrings before school on P.E. day. Earrings worn should only be small studs.



BIRTHDAYS

We like to celebrate each child's special day and on their Birthday the children may wear their own clothes.

If their birthday is at a weekend or during a holiday, non-uniform can be worn on the first day back. Please, in order to comply with the Welsh Government Food and Fitness guidelines we are unable to distribute sweets or cake on birthdays. Under new Data Protection Legislation we are not able to provide parents with class lists for birthday invitations etc.



HEALTH CARE NEEDS

If your child is unwell whilst at school we will contact you to arrange for them to be collected. Please ensure that you keep us informed of any telephone/address changes for all your emergency contacts. As illness can strike unexpectedly at any time, it is important that you remain contactable during the day.

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please telephone the school to inform us. Foundation Phase site's telephone number is 01446 700034. When you phone select option 1 to report your child's absence and the message will be passed on to your child's teacher. You do not have to phone in each day of your child's absence but if the absence lasts longer than a week, please phone again to keep us updated.

Please do not bring your child to school if they have been sick during the night or before coming to school.

Sickness and diarrhoea can be very debilitating for children. Please allow them sufficient time to recover. The Health Protection Agency advises that children should be kept home for 48 hours after their last attack of vomiting or diarrhoea, even if they appear to be well and fully recovered. This will minimise the risk of the virus spreading.

We are committed to supporting pupils with a range of needs. You will be required to complete a short questionnaire to identify these e.g. Asthma, for more complex needs e.g. severe allergies you will be asked to contribute to and Individual Health Care Plan, which will include advice from a Health Care professional who supports your child.

The school nurse visits during Reception year to test eyesight and hearing and we also have visits from the school dental team.

HEADLICE

We ask all parents to be vigilant and check their children's hair regularly and treat if necessary.



TELEPHONING SCHOOL

When you telephone the school, your call will come through to the school office, to speak to Mrs Jones at FPh please select option 2, for Mrs Champ at KS2 select option 3.

The office can often be very busy and may not take your call but please leave a message. Messages are usually picked up regularly during the day. If your call is urgent, please leave your telephone number and request a ring back.

ATTENDANCE

The Welsh Government set very high targets for schools to achieve based on attendance. There is a proven link between attendance and achievement. Welsh Government targets are set at above 96%.

The School Attendance Policy states that holidays should not be taken during term time. However, we recognise that for some families this cannot be avoided.

Only the Headteacher can authorise any requests for holidays. Please complete a holiday request form in advance of any planned holidays for authorisation.



THE FOUNDATION PHASE CURRICULUM

As a Catholic school with a Catholic ethos your child will also follow the 'Come and See' Education Programme. They will also take part in a range of celebrations including School Masses, Liturgical Services and School Assemblies.

We follow the Foundation Phase curriculum under the 7 areas of:

- . Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity
- . Language, Literacy and Communication Skills
- . Mathematical Development
- . Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- . Welsh Language Development
- . Physical Development
- . Creative Development



FOUNDATION PHASE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

During the first six weeks of Reception your child will undertake a Baseline Assessment. This is a statutory assessment undertaken in all schools in Wales.

It will assess your child's abilities and development in four areas of learning:

Personal and Social Development, Wellbeing and Cultural Diversity (PSD, WCD)

Language, Literacy & Communication (LLC)

Mathematical Development (MD)

Physical Development (PD)

Assessments are taken through observations and tasks as part of everyday learning activities in the Reception Unit.

HELP YOUR CHILD

Once your child begins Reception it will help to remember the following:

- . Attend school regularly and arrive on time;
- . Read together at home each day;
- . Talk to your child and encourage their communication skills;
- . Take an interest in their school activities and offer support and Encouragement;
- . Remember to send in their book bag each day (when applicable);
- . Read any letters from school;
- . Help your child to complete any home tasks;
- . Teach your child to eat independently with a knife and fork;
- . Check regularly for head lice and treat as necessary.



THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

As part of the curriculum your child will be involved in a range of activities using the outdoor environment. These activities will take place throughout the year therefore it is important that your child always brings a coat unless it is very warm.

In warm weather, please apply sunscreen before coming to school.

FiSH – FAMILIES INVESTING IN ST. HELEN’S

We have a thriving Parents and Friends Association (FiSH – Families Investing in St. Helen’s) that you are invited to join. They organise and carry out a variety of activities and fund raising events throughout the year and make a valuable and much appreciated contribution to the life of the school.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Communication between Home and School are vitally important. We use SIMs Parent (September 2020), Facebook and Twitter.

Please join our pages:

Facebook ‘St. Helen’s Catholic Primary School Official’

Twitter @sthcpsbarry

During your child’s Reception year you will be invited to attend parent pupil progress meetings to discuss your child’s progress. If you have any other queries or problems you wish to discuss, no matter how small, please contact the class teacher and/or head teacher / deputy headteacher.

St Helen’s Catholic Primary School

Foundation Phase Site (Nursery – Year 2)
Maescwm Street
Barry
CF63 4EH

Telephone: 01446 700034

St Helen’s Catholic Primary School

Key Stage 2 Site (Years 3 – 6)
Tynewydd Road
Barry
CF62 8BB

Telephone: 01446 700034

Email: sthelencps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Website: www.sthelencps.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Kathy Giernalczyk

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Clawson