



Welcome to St James CE Primary School

We aim to provide a nurturing environment where each child can build lifelong skills of independence, confidence and resilience. We have included information to help you and your child settle into school in September. Thank you for choosing us!

Vision, aims and values

St. James Church of England Primary School and Nursery is proud to be situated at the heart of the beautiful rural setting of East and West Hanney. Our Christian values of community, courage and kindness are key to the St. James family, which provides security and nurture, so that all can learn. We celebrate each other's successes and provide support and comfort through times of challenge, enabling all to thrive and flourish. Knowing that we are stronger together with all parts of our community - pupils, staff, parents, governors, the Cambrian Trust, our surrounding villages, St. James Church and the wider community, helps us to work 'for the good of all' and is an essential part of who we are.

Intent statement

At St James, our intention is for all pupils to be filled with curiosity about themselves and the world around them. We encourage them to ask big questions, some of which they will not be able to answer straight away. They will develop a thirst for knowledge in a supportive environment where mistakes can be celebrated and become learning opportunities. We recognise the importance of an individual's spiritual development that allows all pupils at St James to flourish. Our pupils will leave us with knowledge about how to make the right choices for themselves, to enable them to lead healthy and happy lifestyles both physically and mentally.

All children are encouraged to reach their full potential through a wide range of opportunities and activities both academic and throughout the wider curriculum. Being an active member of our school and the wider community is important as we send our children on the next stage of education.

School Curriculum

The EYFS team plan and provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all children. Our curriculum is implemented through an enquiry approach, which uses immersion activities to excite children about their learning and ends with an outcome; an opportunity to celebrate and show-case all they have learnt.

Many of the learning objectives are addressed through practical and engaging activities that may be led by an adult or that develop in accordance to the children's own agenda and interests. The children learn through a thematic and 'topic based' approach within which they are firmly placed at the centre of their learning. The children are encouraged to take ownership over their learning and contribute to topic selection and planning. This approach ensures high levels of interest and engagement from children, which in turn drives their learning and progress.

St James CE Primary School Handbook

The Foundation Stage Unit

Our curriculum intent is shaped by three core strands:



Through our curriculum we:

- Encourage and develop curiosity about the world
- Develop Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills and a desire to learn and flourish
- Aim to have a positive impact on the local community and wider environment
- Utilise outdoor learning opportunities and support pupils to make choices which develop a healthy lifestyle

Early Years Foundation Stage

The government has published an Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for children aged 0–5. This curriculum covers children’s development from birth to aged 5 (end of Reception) and describes how a child’s development needs can be supported. The EYFS curriculum is based on four important themes and principles which underpin teaching.

This is illustrated in the table below.

Themes	A Unique Child	+	Positive Relationships	+	Enabling Environments	=	Learning and Development
Principles	Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.		Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.		The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children’s learning and development.		Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. All the areas of learning and development are equally important and interconnected.

The EYFS curriculum is divided into three prime areas and four specific areas. The prime areas are the most essential for your child’s healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in the four specific areas of learning.

St James CE Primary School Handbook

The Foundation Stage Unit

This is illustrated in the table below.

Prime Areas of Learning and Development	Specific Areas of Learning and Development
<u>Communication and Language</u>	<u>Literacy</u>
<u>Physical Development</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u>	<u>Understanding the World</u>
	<u>Expressive Arts and Design</u>

We also support children in becoming resilient, life-long learners through promoting and celebrating the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' within our learning environment and daily interactions.

These are as follows:

'Characteristics of Effective Learning'
Playing and Exploring – Engagement <i>-Finding out and exploring</i> <i>-Playing with what they know</i> <i>-Being willing to 'have a go'</i>
Active Learning – Motivation <i>-Being involved and concentrating</i> <i>-Keeping trying</i> <i>-Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</i>
Creating and Thinking Critically – Thinking <i>-Having their own ideas</i> <i>-Making links</i> <i>-Choosing ways to do things</i>

Practical day-to-day information

The Nursery Day

The day starts at 9am and ends at either midday or at 3pm. You can also pay an additional fee to stay until 3.15pm, to align with collecting older children within the school. Please drop off and say goodbye at the Nursery gate on the right-hand side of the school.

The day is mostly child-initiated play time, with some group sessions which the children come together for. These are sessions such as phonics and maths. We will then have smaller group focussed activities continuing throughout the day. We make lots of time for quality story telling in our setting.

While the school term begins on Wednesday 3rd September, the first few days in Nursery are set aside for home visits. Normal Nursery will begin on Friday 5th September.

You can see the rest of our term dates on the school website.

Your child will be assigned a key person, a member of the Nursery team who is linked with your child and will complete their assessments. They will get to know your child really well, finding out about your child's preferences and routines and they will be the person that shares information with you about your child's learning and development.

Collecting your child

Please promptly collect your child at 12pm, 3pm or 3.15pm depending on your booking. You can use the buzzer on the side gate to let us know you have arrived.

If someone different from usual will be collecting your child, we need to be informed, so that we can update our 'regular collections' paperwork: we can only release a child to a known adult. For this reason, it is imperative that we receive your collection arrangements before the start of the school year. Please note that we can only release the children to those over 16 years old. We ask that you ring the office if you are running late.

Attendance, illness and accidents

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please telephone the school office at 01235 868232 at the earliest possible opportunity.

If you know that your child is going to be absent from school for any reason other than illness, please see the school office to collect a 'request for absence' form. This will need to be

St James CE Primary School Handbook

The Foundation Stage Unit

completed and handed back to the school office for the Headteacher to approve. Under government legislation, children are not permitted to take holidays in term time. A request for absence will only be permitted by the Headteacher in exceptional circumstances.

Occasionally children become ill at school or have an accident. If this should occur, we will make every effort to contact you using the contact numbers you have given us. If we are unable to do so, a member of staff may act on your behalf. If you change address or telephone number, please ensure that the school has your new contact details. If there is a change in your child's medical details, please ensure that the office staff are informed.

We do ask that children are given a full 48 hours at home to recover from sickness or diarrhoea. This gives your child time to recover fully from their illness and protects them and other children from the spread of infection.

Snacks and lunch

Please bring a labelled healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) for your child and if staying for the full day, please bring a well-balanced packed lunch. If your child has any specific dietary requirements then please let us know by filling in a form, which can be collected from the school office. This will allow us to keep them safe at school.

Please make sure food is brought in a sturdy container which is clearly named. We ask that children are given a healthy, balanced lunch and do not bring sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks to school. Due to allergies, we also ask that children do not bring in any foods that contain nuts, including chocolate spreads that contain nuts.

Children will be entitled to free milk until the age of 5, which will be available in school.

Please also bring a named water bottle to school every day.

School Clothes

Children in Nursery do not need to wear school uniform. We go outside in all weather conditions as we use our outside space as part of our learning environment. Please provide clothing suitable to the weather and changeable conditions.

We ask that the children come to school in appropriate clothing so that they can access the outdoor environment. Here are some of the things you will need:

- warm clothes in winter (hat, gloves, scarf, etc.)
- waterproof coat
- sunhat and sun cream (applied before school) in summer
- a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school

Please put your child's name on everything!

St James CE Primary School Handbook

The Foundation Stage Unit

Use the 'What do I need for school?' checklist on the next page to make sure you have everything ready.

What do I need for nursery?

Snack and Packed lunch (if staying)



Please bring a labelled healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) and if staying for a full day or arriving for the afternoon session, a well-balanced, healthy packed lunch.

Water bottle



Named/ stickers added to the bottle so that children recognise their bottle. These will need to be taken home every day to be washed and re-filled.

Wellies



The children need a pair of wellies during wet weather to access some of our outdoor learning spaces.

Spare clothes



The children will need a bag of spare clothes which they can keep on their pegs in school in a bag.

We suggest a few spare pairs of underwear and socks. Plain trousers/leggings/jogging bottoms and a t-shirt. **Please label everything!**

Slippers



As part of our nurturing 'like home' culture, we ask the children to wear slippers inside our setting and change into outdoor shoes when going outside. This is also great practice for putting on shoes! Please label them.

Weather-appropriate clothing



We go outside in all weather conditions as we use our outside space as part of our learning environment. Please provide clothing suitable to the weather and changeable conditions.

Please ensure children always have a waterproof coat - A lightweight waterproof for summer & warm waterproof for winter. Please apply suncream before school on hot days.

Early Years Pupil Premium



**Ask a staff
member
for more
details**

**Did you know that when your child is 3
your childcare provider may be able to
claim extra funding to support your child?**

St James CE Primary School Handbook

The Foundation Stage Unit

Additional information

Before and after school childcare: the club



We provide a breakfast club and after school care for our students, for more information please go to:
<https://www.stjamesprimaryhanney.co.uk/the-club-st-james/>.

Pupil Premium

Pupil premium is additional funding that is allocated to schools to support children. The government believes that the pupil premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

Does my child qualify?

Your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support;
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190);
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit;
- Universal Credit;
- Families with adopted children, or who are in the forces will also be eligible.

Please contact the school office if you think your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding; this information will be confidential.

How we keep in touch

School Website: General information and news can be found on the school website, which is updated regularly.

St James CE Primary School Handbook

The Foundation Stage Unit

Parentmail: You should receive regular newsletters on a Friday to your email – please look out for these, alongside other important information.

Class Dojo: You can directly message your class teacher through Class Dojo, our online reward system. You will receive an invitation to sign up at the beginning of the school year. Your child can create their own 'dojo' – a little monster that receives points when they have done something above and beyond at school.



Stay and Play: We frequently invite families into the classroom – these might be stay and play sessions or other events that link to our learning. We are keen to involve families in school life and encourage everyone to get involved as much as possible.

Meetings: You may request a meeting with your class teacher and are encouraged to do so – it is not always possible to find time to chat at drop off or collection.

We look forward to starting your child's learning journey with them and seeing what amazing things they can achieve!

St James CE Primary School Handbook

The Foundation Stage Unit

School contact details

St James CE Primary School Hanney
The Causeway
East Hanney
Wantage
OX12 0JN

Phone: 01235 868232

Email: office@sjc.cambrianlt.org

Website: <https://www.stjamesprimaryhanney.co.uk/>