

Welcome to St James CE Primary School

Welcome to St James CE School's Early Years Foundation Stage Unit. We are proud of our wonderful school and our EYFS unit which gives credit to our school slogan, 'building on strong foundations'. 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!

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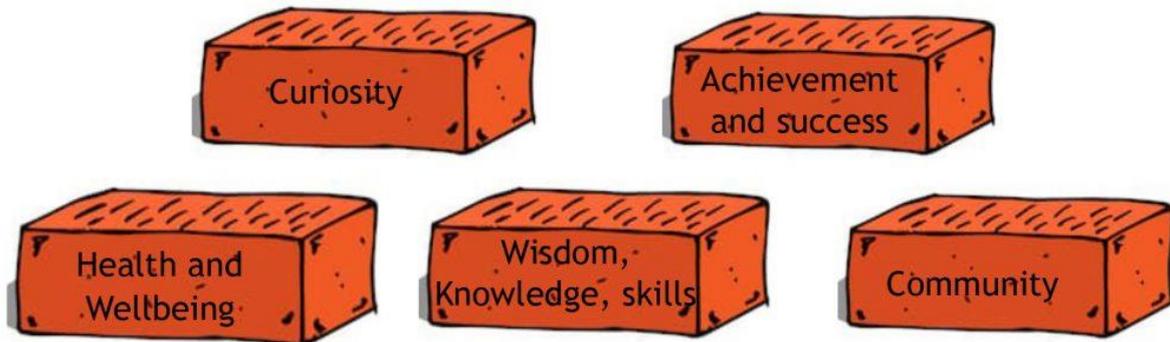
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Vision, aims and values

St James School is a welcoming, warm, secure learning environment where our focus is the wellbeing of each member of our school family. Our core Christian values provide strong foundations on which we can all develop and flourish, developing the confidence to be aspirational, independent, spirited and creative.

Our vision is shaped by five core strands.



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.

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Teaching and learning in the Foundation Unit

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.

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. These areas of learning and development are subdivided into a further seventeen aspects, as seen below.

Prime Areas of Learning and Development	Specific Areas of Learning and Development
<p><u>Communication and Language</u> -Listening ,Attention and Understanding -Speaking</p> <p><u>Physical Development</u> -Gross Motor Skills -Fine Motor Skills</p> <p><u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u> -Self-Regulation -Managing Self -Building Relationships</p>	<p><u>Literacy</u> -Comprehension -Word Reading -Writing</p> <p><u>Mathematics</u> -Number -Numerical Patterns</p> <p><u>Understanding the World</u> -People, Culture and Communities -The Natural World -Past and Present</p> <p><u>Expressive Arts and Design</u> -Creating with Materials -Being Imaginative and Expressive</p>

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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>

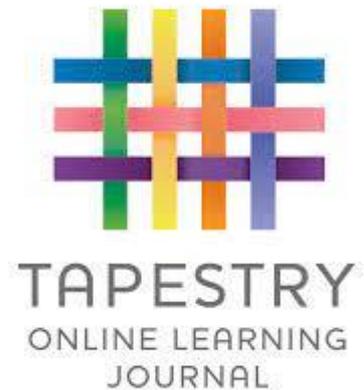
Activities and provision are carefully planned and the indoor and outdoor learning environments are set up in order to challenge and support children in reaching their next steps. Children are encouraged to develop as independent learners who are confident and capable within the school and the wider community.

The Early Years team plan and provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all children. 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.

Tapestry

Learning Journeys

Observation and assessment are a vital part of the adults' role in the Early Years. Progress is documented and monitored throughout the school year. Each child has a digital 'Learning Journey', which can be accessed and added to through our online system Tapestry. Staff will regularly collect pieces of work, observations and photographs to add to this document in order to track your child's progress, identify next steps and plan accordingly. We highly encourage families to upload anything the children have done at home that they would like to share with us – we love to celebrate the children's achievements at home too!



We just need your email address to sign up to Tapestry; then you will be able to access the content we have uploaded. We encourage you to use it over the summer to tell your new teacher about yourself and keep in touch. You can upload pictures, documents and even videos. There will be an introductory video to show you around your new classroom and let you get to know your teacher a little more.

Practical day-to-day information

The Inkpen Day

The day starts for Reception children at 8.50am and ends at 3.20pm. The day is mostly child-initiated play time, with three group sessions which the children come together for. One session is always a phonics session, about which you will be given more information as the term starts. Other sessions will usually include numeracy skills and other areas of the EYFS curriculum. We will also have smaller group focused activities continuing throughout the day. We make lots of time for quality storytelling in our setting, and the children will always have story time at the end of the day.

Collecting your child

Please promptly collect your child at 3.20pm from inside the EYFS outdoor area. Please bear with us as we learn who you are! 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,

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it is imperative that we receive your 'Collection Arrangements' form 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 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

We participate in the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme which entitles Nursery and Reception children to receive a free piece of fruit or a vegetable each school day. You do not need to send in any snacks to school.

Please bring a named water bottle to school.

Lunch

All children in Reception are entitled to a Universal Free School meal. This is primarily a cooked meal, a school packed lunch can be ordered in exceptional circumstances. 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.

If you would prefer your child to bring a packed lunch, then please make sure food is brought in a sturdy container which is clearly named. We ask that children are given

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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.

School uniform

Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. The school colours are navy blue sweatshirts with grey skirt or trousers and white or navy shirts. Long or short trousers may be worn. During the summer, the children may wear blue checked dresses.

Children need to be able to take their shoes on and off independently. Therefore we recommend Velcro straps – no laces in the Reception class. No open-toed sandals or Crocs please.

To order uniform, visit [Wovina's website](#) and follow the online instructions.

PE Kit

Children need to wear their PE kit to school on PE days, which are currently **MONDAYS**.

- plain navy or black shorts;
- plain white T-shirt (an additional school polo shirt is suitable);
- trainers for outdoor games/PE sessions; and
- tracksuit or hoodie.

Long hair must be tied up for all PE sessions, so a hair band is also essential.

Outdoor learning

As part of our commitment to outdoor learning and the creative curriculum, we follow a Forest School programme, as well as making the most of all opportunities to have outdoor lessons. We spend time outside whatever the weather! We are keen to encourage and inspire our children to engage with nature through positive outdoor experiences.

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; and
- a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school.

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Please put your child's name on **everything!**

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 school?



Book bag

Literacy packs (provided by school) should be kept inside book bags. The Literacy pack will have a reading diary, phonics workbook and any books borrowed from school. No water bottles in book bags please!



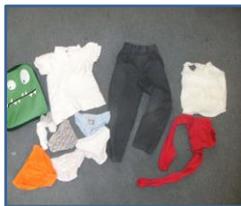
Water bottle

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 that they can **keep in school**. Children need to wear wellies to access some of the outside spaces.



Spare clothes

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

We suggest a few spare pairs of underwear and socks. Plain trousers/leggings/jogging bottoms and a t-shirt. Spare clothes do not have to be uniform.



PE kit

Your child will need a Plain navy or black shorts and a Plain white T-shirt (an additional school polo shirt is suitable).



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.

Supporting your child to be school ready

Being independent

At school your child will be encouraged to have a go at doing lots of things for themselves, especially in terms of organising their own things! Help your child to remember what their belongings look like and help them by getting them to have a go at being responsible for carrying them into school!

Willingness to communicate

Being able to talk to the adults and other children in school is vital for every child as they settle into school. Your child will want to talk to their friends as they play, to explain their ideas and create stories.

They will also need to be able to ask for help if they need to.

At home, encourage your child to talk clearly and confidently about the world around them, especially when exploring new situations.

Eating

At school, the children will eat their lunch with their friends and will be supervised by familiar members of staff. If your child is having hot dinners please help them to practice using a knife and fork, as well as sitting at a table to eat. If not, support them in being independent in opening their own packets and eating tidily.

Toileting

At school, it is essential that your child is able to manage their own toileting and personal hygiene. We will be there to help any child who needs some support, but it is important that they are willing to have a go on their own.

Dressing and undressing

At school, we will often change clothing: pull on coats and water proofs, swap into wellies and even try on dressing-up clothes! Zips, buttons, Velcro, tights and pulling clothes on can all be tricky for children so praise your child at home when they have a go! Help them to practice getting dressed independently and show them how to make sure their clothes are the right way around!

Separating from carers

Settling into the school environment can be tricky for some children and they may feel unhappy when you drop them off. Help your child by reassuring them that you will be back to pick them up soon and keep dropping off times brief. Having a 'goodbye routine', e.g. kiss, cuddle and wave, which has been practiced before, can reassure children who feel a little nervous about separation.

Reading and counting

Share books with your child every day. Encourage a love of stories and show them how to look after their books. Ask them to answer questions about the story, recognise familiar characters and join in with repeated phrases. Make learning letter sounds fun by keeping sessions quick and easy and by looking for letters everywhere you go, especially those in their name! Being able to count is a fundamental skill. Help your child to develop a love of numbers by counting everyday objects and actions, such as steps, stairs and cars.

Scissors and pencils

Using pencils and scissors can be really tricky for little hands and it requires lots of practice.

In school, we will do lots of activities to strengthen gross and fine motor skills but there are lots of fun things you can do at home to help too. Why not play games such as Operation or Buckeroo? Try threading games, using tweezers, playing with dough and using pegs!

Positive attitudes towards learning with others

Your child will interact with lots of other children at school, in many different situations. We will do lots of work on sharing, empathy, cooperation and taking turns. All children and adults will be expected to show respect to each other and their learning environment and resources.

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.

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

Class Dojo: You can directly message your class teacher through 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 virtual ‘monster’ that receives points when they have done something above and beyond at school.



Stay and Play: We invite families into the classroom once a term. This is an important event as it encourages the children to share their learning with their families and it also aims to provide useful information about the way we support children in their learning in a relaxed environment.

Parents meetings: Each term we will hold a parent’s evenings during which you are invited to come and discuss how your child is doing in school.

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

The Vale Academy Trust

The Vale Academy Trust’s Vision

The Vale Academy Trust is a family of schools recognised for providing exceptional, stimulating, inclusive learning opportunities in a safe, happy environment where all can flourish.



More information can be found by visiting the website <https://www.vale-academy.org/>.

School contact details

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Email: office@hanneyce.vale-academy.org

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