

## When in Reception Class...

The children's school life starts in Reception and to guide and teach them are Miss Miles (Teacher), Mrs Markwick and Mrs Arnold (Teaching Assistants). The children are taught from the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which follows on from their nursery and pre-school learning experiences. The children continue to learn through play by 'actively doing' and are challenged to take responsibility for their independent and self-initiated learning. At St Catherine's, we believe that children learn best through quality experiences inside and outside and therefore, ensure that all children receive a good balance in each setting. The children are well equipped to face the outdoors in all weather conditions and are encouraged to take risks in a safe and monitored environment.



To ensure that our children settle into their new school life, the children are paired up with a child in Year 5 who act as their 'Guardian Angel'. Children will meet with their Guardian Angel for four mornings a week and will take part in a range of activities.



Children in Reception are rapidly introduced to new letter sounds through the Jolly Phonics, Read Write Inc and Letters and Sounds schemes. They are then taught how to apply these new sounds to reading and take part in daily group phonics lessons. We believe that reading is the key to success and so we encourage children to read a book on a daily basis, and have a class reading challenge where the children can win prizes for reaching a certain number of home reads by the end of each half term. We also invite parents and guardians to 'Chatterbooks' every Thursday morning to share a book with your child.

Writing in Reception is a process which includes large and small movements. The muscles used for writing begin in the shoulder and so we encourage children to start 'mark making' on a large scale that then progresses to smaller movements (pen to paper). Children are taught to form their letters in the pre-cursive format which will later support them when joining in Year 2. The children are then challenged to develop their skills further by writing 'super sentences' which include a capital letter at the start, finger spaces between words, good letter formation and a full stop at the end.

In Reception, we value the importance of real life experiences and make sure that children are provided with opportunities to explore and discover the world independently and through organised visits. For example, children in Reception will go on a trip to see their local environment, have special visitors in school such as the police and fire brigade, a trip to a local farm or Wetland centre and the beach, as well as workshops including circus skills where children can take risks and learn new skills. We believe that these positive experiences will support children beyond the classroom and into the world around them.

