

WELCOME TO EARLY YEARS

Information for Parents and Carers



Trinity St Mary's CofE Primary School



Dear New Family,

A very warm welcome to Early Years at Trinity St Mary's CofE Primary School (TSM). We are delighted and feel privileged that you have accepted a place at TSM for your child. Beginning Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is such a special and exciting milestone, and we are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, valued and inspired from the very beginning of their journey with us.

At Trinity St Mary's, we believe that children learn best when they feel happy, secure and confident. Our nurturing Early Years environment encourages curiosity, independence and creativity through meaningful play, exploration and high-quality learning experiences both indoors and outdoors. We are proud to offer a rich curriculum that supports every child to flourish socially, emotionally, physically and academically.

This welcome booklet has been designed to provide you with helpful information about life in our Nursery and Reception classes, including the organisation of the day, our approach to learning and the many exciting opportunities available to your child. We hope it answers many of your questions and helps you feel prepared for the start of this important new chapter.

However, we also understand that a booklet cannot answer everything. We warmly encourage you to speak to our staff team in person or contact the school if you have any further questions or concerns. Building strong relationships with families is at the heart of everything we do, and we greatly value the partnership between home and school. By working together, we can provide the very best experiences and outcomes for your child.

As parents and carers, your child's happiness and wellbeing are paramount — and they are equally important to us. At TSM EYFS, we strive to provide a stimulating, safe and caring environment where children are encouraged to take risks, develop confidence and enjoy learning through play and discovery.

We understand that starting school or nursery can feel like a big step for both children and families. Our experienced and caring staff will support you through this transition carefully and sensitively, arranging settling-in opportunities that suit the needs of your child and family. From your child's very first day with us, we will work closely with you and maintain open communication every step of the way.

We are excited to welcome you into the Trinity St Mary's family and look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming months and years.

With warmest wishes,

Lynn Anderson
Headteacher
Trinity St Mary's CofE Primary School

Our Vision & Values

Nurturing minds,

Filling hearts,

Flourishing together

Our Christian vision is underpinned by the verse “Love God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your strength and with all of your mind and love your neighbour as yourself” Luke 10:27

Trinity St Mary’s is a small community school where everyone is welcomed and respected and where every person commits to our school core values of **kindness, unity and courage**. Our Christian values encourage all to make the world a better place through love, fun and understanding. All members of the school community live out our vision through our core values.

At TSM, we have a half-termly focus value that all children learn about through worship. These values are: generosity, compassion, courage, forgiveness, friendship, respect, thankfulness, trust, perseverance, justice, service and truthfulness.

School Rules

At TSM, our children ensure their behaviour remains at the highest quality and they demonstrate through their actions respectful behaviour to each other and towards adults. In partnership with the children, we created key rules that we follow every day. These are:

- ❖ We are respectful
- ❖ We are honest
- ❖ We are gentle
- ❖ We try our best



Life in Early Years

Trinity St Mary's Early Years setting consists of Nursery and Reception. At TSM, our aim is to create a nurturing and inspiring learning environment where strong relationships support, enhance and encourage every child's curiosity, confidence and individual strengths to flourish, regardless of background, circumstance or need.

We work closely in partnership with parents and carers to develop enthusiastic, independent learners who thrive and reach their full potential. Our intention is that children begin their lifelong learning journey by developing physically, verbally, cognitively, socially and emotionally, whilst also building a positive attitude towards school and a lifelong love of learning.

To ensure children make excellent progress in EYFS, we carefully consider each child's starting points, interests and individual needs. Every child has access to an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum which prepares them for both their immediate experiences and future learning opportunities.

At Trinity St Mary's, outdoor learning is an integral part of our EYFS curriculum. We believe children learn best when they are active, engaged and able to explore the world around them through hands-on experiences. Our outdoor environment provides opportunities for children to investigate, problem solve, take managed risks, develop resilience and build confidence through play and exploration in all weather conditions.

Children regularly access a range of outdoor learning experiences including mud kitchen play, water and sand exploration, climbing and balancing activities, gardening, storytelling, construction, mark making and nature investigations. Outdoor learning supports children's physical development, communication and language, creativity, teamwork and wellbeing, while fostering curiosity and independence.

In addition to Development Matters and the Early Learning Goals, our TSM-specific curricular goals and Christian ethos enrich and enhance each child's experiences.

Our EYFS curriculum aims to enable our children to become:

- Competent and creative learners who are curious about the world around them and proud to be part of the TSM family
- Secure, confident and independent learners who enjoy developing new skills and knowledge
- Skilled communicators who connect with others through language and play in a language-rich environment
- Children who practise shared moral values and celebrate our Christian distinctiveness as a Church of England school

Meet our Early Years Team

Miss Gemma Beale - EYFS Class Teacher

Miss Joana Alves - Nursery Nurse

Miss Sarah Henson - Nursery Nurse

Learning Through Play

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), children learn best through meaningful play experiences that encourage curiosity, exploration and creativity. Activities are carefully planned to support communication, problem-solving, social development and physical skills while allowing children to develop confidence and independence.

At Trinity St Mary's, staff create an engaging environment where children are encouraged to ask questions, investigate ideas and build positive relationships with others. Play-based learning also helps children develop resilience and imagination. Through role play, construction, storytelling and outdoor exploration, children practise important life skills such as sharing, collaboration and decision-making. The school's nurturing Christian ethos promotes kindness, unity and courage, helping every child feel valued and secure as they begin their learning journey.

The EYFS Curriculum

The EYFS curriculum provides a broad and balanced foundation for learning and development from Nursery through to Reception. It focuses on the seven areas of learning, including communication and language, personal and social development, literacy, mathematics and understanding the world. At Trinity St Mary's, the curriculum is designed to meet children's individual starting points while promoting high expectations and a love of learning.

Teachers plan exciting opportunities that combine adult-led teaching with child-initiated learning. The curriculum supports children's physical, emotional, verbal and cognitive development, ensuring they are well prepared for future learning. Vocabulary-rich environments and practical experiences help children become confident communicators and enthusiastic learners.

Nursery

The Nursery environment provides a safe, welcoming and stimulating space where children can settle happily into school life. Daily routines help children build confidence and independence while developing friendships and communication skills. Learning opportunities are carefully planned around children's interests to encourage exploration and active participation.

Children in Nursery take part in creative activities, early mathematics, storytelling, music and outdoor play. Staff support language development through conversation, songs and shared reading experiences, helping children develop the foundations needed for future success in literacy and learning.

Reception

In Reception, children continue to build on the skills developed in Nursery while becoming more independent learners. The classroom environment encourages curiosity, problem-solving and collaboration through a balance of structured teaching and purposeful play. Teachers support children in developing early reading, writing and mathematical understanding through engaging and practical activities.

Reception children are encouraged to develop confidence, resilience and positive attitudes towards learning.

Regular opportunities for storytelling, discussion and exploration help children strengthen their communication skills and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Phonics and Reading

Phonics teaching begins early in Reception to help children develop secure letter and sound knowledge. Daily phonics sessions support children in blending sounds, recognising words and developing fluency in reading. Staff regularly assess progress and provide additional support where needed so that all children can become confident readers.

Reading is promoted as an enjoyable and valuable part of everyday learning. Children listen to stories, share books with adults and develop comprehension skills through discussion and questioning. Trinity St Mary's places a strong emphasis on reading for pleasure both at school and at home, helping children develop a lifelong love of books.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is an important part of the EYFS curriculum and provides children with opportunities to explore, investigate and develop physically. Outdoor spaces are designed to encourage imaginative play, problem-solving and teamwork while supporting gross motor development and wellbeing. Activities such as water play, construction and nature exploration help children learn through hands-on experiences.

Children benefit from regular access to outdoor environments where they can build confidence, resilience and independence. Outdoor learning also supports language and mathematical development as children describe their discoveries, compare quantities and use new vocabulary in meaningful contexts.

Parent Partnership

Strong partnerships between school and home are central to children's success in the Early Years. Trinity St Mary's works closely with parents and carers to ensure children feel supported, secure and valued throughout their learning journey. Open communication between families and staff helps build positive relationships and supports children's development both academically and emotionally.

Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's education through reading at home, attending school events and sharing achievements from outside school. By working together, families and staff help create a consistent and supportive learning environment where every child can flourish.

Lunch

Under the Government scheme, all children in Reception are entitled to a **free**, healthy hot school lunch every day. However, if you would prefer your child to have a packed lunch, please provide this in a named lunchbox. All of our Early Years children enjoy their lunches in our main school hall that prepares them for the transition when they progress onto the main school.



What do we bring to EYFS?

To ensure your child has everything they need during their time in EYFS, we ask parents to supply a bag for your child, containing the following:

Water Bottle: Please provide a named water bottle each session for your child to have access to at all times. (We do have a water jug available but a child's own bottle does encourage them to drink more) Water is provided at snack times and lunch times.

Weather appropriate clothing:

- A waterproof coat
- Wellington boots (These can stay at nursery or brought to each session)
- Warm hat, scarf and gloves in winter, and a summer hat for the warmer weather
- All in one waterproof for winter (This allows children to enjoy outdoor play whatever the weather!)

Dress for Mess!!!!

Unlike the rest of the school, the reason we have polo shirts and TSM sweatshirts, is so they are easily washable and are able to get messy. Our children have lots of sensory play activities and creative activities to join in with - please dress your child for mess so that they can enjoy these activities without having to worry. We do provide aprons but children can be in the sensory/messy areas without an apron and are likely to get splashes and dabs on their clothes. Dressing for mess allows children to fully explore whilst encouraging self-care and independence.

Spare clothes: At least 2 tops and 2 pairs of underwear, socks and bottoms if your child is not toilet trained. It is useful for all children to bring a spare set of clothes in case of getting wet/muddy etc. and need changing.

Shoes: Please try to avoid shoes and boots with shoelaces. Children will need to be able to put on their shoes/boot without help or very little help.

Nappies/Pull-ups and Cream (Nursery Only): A supply of nappies/pull ups/wipes is essential. If you wish for nappy cream to be applied, please provide a named pot/tube that can be kept at nursery or in your child's bag. We will send a note home if we are running low. **We encourage the Nursery Children to come to nursery toilet trained, but we are here to help if needs be.**

Sun cream: In the summer, we ask for all children to arrive to nursery or Reception with sun cream already applied and if they are staying for a full day session we ask for a bottle to stay at nursery to allow it to be reapplied in the afternoon.



Trinity St Mary's
C of E Primary School
Kindness, Unity and Courage

Our Nursery Day

Learning, playing and growing together



Morning Session
8:45am – 11:45am



Afternoon Session
12:15pm – 3:15pm



Full Day Session
8:45am – 3:15pm



A Guide to Our Daily Timetable (Subject to change depending on children's interests)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45 – 9:05	Carpet time / Welcome / Hello song / Weather song / Days of the week / Months of the year 🎵				
9:05 – 10:00	Learning Choices Introduce provision the day (indoor / outdoor play)	Learning Choices Introduce provision the day (indoor / outdoor play)	Learning Choices Introduce provision the day (indoor / outdoor play)	Learning Choices Introduce provision the day (indoor / outdoor play)	Learning Choices Introduce provision the day (indoor / outdoor play)
10:00 – 10:15	Snack				
10:15 – 11:15	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices Focus (indoor and outdoor)
11:15 – 11:30	Sound of the Week / Nursery Rhymes / singing / Story	Sound of the Week / Nursery Rhymes / singing / Story	Sound of the Week / Nursery Rhymes / singing / Story	Sound of the Week / Nursery Rhymes / singing / Story	Sound of the Week / Nursery Rhymes / singing / Story
11:30 – 11:40	Story Prayers and handwashing	Story/ Nursery Rhymes Prayers and handwashing	Story/ Nursery Rhymes Prayers and handwashing	Story/ Nursery Rhymes Prayers and handwashing	Story/ Nursery Rhymes Prayers and handwashing
11:45	AM Children Leave				
11:40 – 12:10	Lunch in Hall	Lunch in Hall	Lunch in Hall	Lunch in Hall	Lunch in Hall
12:15	PM Children Arrive				
12:15 – 1:15	Outdoor Explore	Outdoor Explore	Outdoor Explore	Outdoor Explore	Outdoor Explore
1:15 – 1:35	Singing/ Story/ Prayers/ RE/ Relax / Reflection / Maths Meeting	Singing/ Story/ Prayers/ RE/ Relax / Reflection / Maths Meeting	Singing/ Story/ Prayers/ RE/ Relax / Reflection / Maths Meeting	Singing/ Story/ Prayers/ RE/ Relax / Reflection / Maths Meeting	Singing/ Story/ Prayers/ RE/ Relax / Reflection / Maths Meeting
1:45 – 2:15 (nappy changes)	Learning Choices (maths focus)	Learning Choices (maths focus)	Learning Choices (maths focus)	Learning Choices (maths focus)	Learning Choices (maths focus)
2:00 – 2:15	Snack 🍌				
2:15 – 2:40	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)	Learning Choices (indoor and outdoor)
2:40 – 2:50	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
2:50 – 3:15	Story Time / Nursery Rhymes / Compliments / Getting Reading for Home	Story Time / Nursery Rhymes / Compliments / Getting Reading for Home	Story Time / Nursery Rhymes / Compliments / Getting Reading for Home	Story Time / Nursery Rhymes / Compliments / Getting Reading for Home	Story Time / Nursery Rhymes / Compliments / Getting Reading for Home

The 7 Areas of Learning and Development

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language**
Listening, attention, understanding and speaking
- Physical Development**
Building gross and fine motor skills, health and self-care
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
Building relationships, confidence, self-regulation and independence

Specific Areas

- Literacy**
Stories, letters and sounds, early reading and writing
- Mathematics**
Numbers, counting, patterns, shape, space and measures
- Understanding the World**
People, communities, the natural world and technology
- Expressive Arts and Design**
Art, music, dance, role play, imagination and creativity

We Love Outdoor Learning!

Our outdoor environment is a big part of our learning every day. Children explore, investigate and take risks in a safe and stimulating space.

- Mud kitchen & messy play
- Sand, water and sensory play
- Climbing, balancing and riding
- Gardening and growing
- Nature walks and bug hunts
- Building, construction and den making
- Physical play and teamwork



Our Curriculum

Our ambitious, play-based curriculum is carefully planned around children's interests and provides rich experiences across all areas of learning.

- Hands-on and purposeful
- Real-life experiences
- Enriched environments
- Christian values at the heart
- Preparing children for life-long learning



Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and Exploring**
Children investigate and experience things, and have a go.
- Active Learning**
Children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties.
- Creating and Thinking Critically**
Children have and develop their own ideas, make links and choose ways to do things.



Working in Partnership

We value our strong relationships with parents and carers. Together we can help your child thrive and reach their full potential.

- We keep you informed
- We listen and value your views
- We celebrate achievements
- We support every family
- Together, we make a difference!



Our Christian Values

We are a Church of England school where every child is known, loved and valued.



Love



Love



Kindness



Community



Peace



Courage



Respect

★ At Trinity St Mary's, we learn together, play together and grow together in God's love. ♥️ ★





Trinity St Mary's
C of E Primary School
Kindness, Unity
and Courage

Our Reception Day

Learning, playing
and growing together



Full Day
8:45am – 3:15pm



Full of curiosity.
Full of confidence.
Full of potential.

A Guide to Our Daily Timetable

(Subject to change depending on children's interests)

Time	Our Reception Day
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome & Morning Meeting Hello song, register, days, months, weather and news
9:00 – 10:00	Learning Choices – Child Initiated Learning Indoor and outdoor provision linked to interests
10:00 – 10:20	Snack & Talk Time
10:20 – 11:15	Phonics / English Focus Sound of the Week, phonics, letter formation, early writing
11:15 – 11:30	Story / Singing / Makaton / Reflection
11:30 – 11:45	Prayers & Handwashing
11:45 – 12:15	Lunch in the Hall
12:15 – 1:15	Outdoor Explore & Investigation Continuous provision in our outdoor classroom, including physical play and nature exploration
1:15 – 1:35	Maths Meeting / Story / RE / Reflection Key maths concepts, number talk and discussion
1:35 – 2:15	Focused Learning Adult-led activities linked to the curriculum (phonics, maths, literacy, topic or RE)
2:15 – 2:30	Snack & Hydration
2:30 – 3:00	Learning Choices – Apply & Practise Child-initiated learning indoors and outdoors
3:00 – 3:15	Story / Compliments / Getting Reading for Home Celebrating the day and preparing to go home

The 7 Areas of Learning and Development

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language**
Listening, attention, understanding and speaking
- Physical Development**
Gross and fine motor skills, health and self-care
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
Building relationships, confidence, self-regulation and independence

Specific Areas

- Literacy**
Reading, writing, comprehension
- Mathematics**
Number, patterns, shape, space and measures
- Understanding the World**
People, communities, the natural world and past & present
- Expressive Arts and Design**
Creating with materials, art, music, role play, design and technology

We Love Outdoor Learning!



Explore



Investigate



Imagine



Create



Collaborate

Our Curriculum

- ★ Ambitious and engaging
- ★ Hands-on and purposeful
- ★ Real-life experiences
- ★ Enriched environments
- ★ Christian values at the heart
- ★ Preparing children for Year 1 and beyond



Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and Exploring**
Children investigate and experience things, and have a go.
- Active Learning**
Children concentrate and keep trying if they encounter difficulties.
- Creating and Thinking Critically**
Children have and develop their own ideas, make links and choose ways to do things.



Working in Partnership

We value our strong relationships with parents and carers. Together we help every child thrive and reach their full potential.



Our Christian Values



Love



Kindness



Community



Peace



Courage



Respect



★ At Trinity St Mary's, we learn together, play together and grow together in God's love.



TRINITY ST MARY'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT CALENDAR DATES



Important dates for our school community!

2026



MAY 2026



20th & 21st May Year 3 & 4 Parent Meetings



22nd May Meeting for Summer Fayre – Parents

JUNE 2026



2nd June Special Merit Collective Worship at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



4th June Collective Worship in church at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



4th June Balham Library – Year 5/6



1st – 12th June Year 4 Multiplication Check



8th June World Ocean Day



9th June Merit Collective Worship at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



8th – 12th June Phonics Check – Years 1 & 2



8th – 12th June Assessment Week – Years 1–5



11th June Balham Library – Year 1/2



11th June Year 6 – Chessington World of Adventures



12th June Quiz Night – Parents



12th June Non-Uniform Day (Donations for Summer Fayre)



15th – 19th June Science Week



16th June Merit Collective Worship at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



17th June PC Montanarini in to talk to Years 5 & 6



18th June Collective Worship in church at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



18th June Balham Library – EYFS



19th June Sponsored Sleep Over in School for KS2 Only



23rd June Merit Collective Worship at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



25th June Collective Worship in church at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



25th June Balham Library – Year 3/4



26th June Non-Uniform Day (Bottle Tombola Donations for Summer Fayre)



30th June Merit Collective Worship at 9am – All parents and carers welcome

JULY 2026



1st July Sports Day



2nd July Collective Worship in church at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



3rd July New EYFS Parent Meeting with Coffee and Stay & Play



7th July Merit Collective Worship at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



9th July Collective Worship in church at 9am – All parents and carers welcome



10th July House Winners Non-Uniform Day



10th July Spencer Hockey in with Year 4



13th July Musical Extravaganza at 9:15am – All parents and carers welcome



13th July Reports to parents



14th July Attendance & Punctuality Assembly at 9:00am – All parents & carers welcome



17th July Year 6 Leavers' Service at 2:30pm in church followed by drinks for Year 6 parents and families



17th July Last day of term



20th July **INSET DAY**

SEPTEMBER 2026



2nd & 3rd September **INSET DAY**



4th September Children Back

THANK YOU!

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. We look forward to a fantastic year together!



For further information please contact us:

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Facebook: Trinity St Mary's Balham

We look forward to being part of your child's Early Years journey.