



Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your children to Reception. We are sure that they will quickly settle into school life.

Below is some information about what to expect this year, including the curriculum and assessments.

General reminders

- **Water bottles** – must be named, contain water ONLY and not carried in book bags (in case they leak!)
- **Uniform/ PE kit** – please make sure that all clothes, including socks and shoes, are clearly named and that your child's PE kit is in school. We will be starting PE when the class is settled and we feel that they are ready. Please help them to prepare for their PE lessons by encouraging them to dress and undress independently when at home. As the weather gets colder we encourage the children to wear a tracksuit for outdoor PE lessons. As part of our school uniform policy, earrings are not permitted and long hair must be tied back.
- **Pick up/ drop offs** – if someone else will be picking up your child, please put it in writing and give it to your child's class teacher/ TA at the morning drop off or, in an emergency, leave a message with the School Office.

Safeguarding and communication

At The Marist, the safety of your child is paramount. E-safety is an integral part of our curriculum and we ask for your support in demonstrating responsible internet and social media use to our children: this includes awareness of privacy when sharing photographs online.

Keeping children safe means fostering an open channel of communication between home and school: if you have any concerns, we would request that you speak to your child's class teacher or another member of staff in the first instance. Please support all our children by refraining from discussing school matters in an open forum – in our experience, the best way to resolve any issues is by speaking to us.

EYFS Curriculum and Assessment

The EYFS curriculum is built upon independence and learning through play. The curriculum has seven Areas of Learning. The three Prime Areas are: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development; and Communication and Language. The four Specific Areas are: Literacy; Maths; Understanding the World; and Expressive Arts and Design. We use a combination of whole class, small group and 1:1 teaching and learning. We continually assess the children by working with and making observations of them. These observations and assessments go into an online Learning Journey, which we share with you. Many of you may already be familiar with the assessments from your child's nursery, as we assess using the same development matters age bands and are working towards the Early Learning Goals. However, you may find that our baseline assessments of the children are lower than the assessments made by your child's nursery. This is due to the different expectations within a school environment.

R.E.

Our topics this year are as follows:-

Autumn	Myself, Welcome, Birthday
Spring	Celebrating, Gathering, Growing
Summer	Good News, Friends, Our World

Alongside these topics the children will also take part in a weekly Circle Time, with a focus on personal, social and emotional relationships and behaviour. We will also be learning about Judaism during Other Faiths week.

Class Worship Dates

-	Leading Whole School Worship 9 to 9.30 am in Hall
St Anne	Friday 14 th July 2017
St David	Friday 30 th June 2017



Reading and phonics

We use the Letters and Sounds phonics scheme to introduce the children to the letter sounds. They will be given a homework file with opportunities to practise new sounds and words learnt. We will be starting our formal reading scheme during the week beginning 3rd October 2016. The adults in class will provide plenty of opportunities for individual, small group and whole class reading through our planned learning experiences each week. Once per week the children will practise their word lists. Details of these, our book band scheme and assessments will follow in due course.

Writing

At The Marist we use 'Penpals' handwriting scheme. Children will be taught to write each letter with a specific 'patter' designed to help with correct formation. We will provide a copy of these for your information. When helping your child to write at home, please encourage them to say the patter as they form their letters. We especially ask that you help your child to practise their name writing at home in lower case with only the first letter being a capital. Please also encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip for all writing or drawing activities.

Maths

The EYFS curriculum identifies 2 strands of Mathematics: Numbers and Shape, Space and Measure. Maths is a very practical, hands-on area of learning and we ask parents to encourage careful counting, number recognition, shape activities, recognising and creating patterns, sorting objects, measuring, recognising and using coins, and exploring capacity using different containers. By the end of the Reception Year children are expected to be competent at number operations within 20 and are able to count and recognise numbers to 20 (and hopefully beyond!)

Topics

We have half-termly topics, within which we cover all areas of learning. Our topics for this year are:

Autumn	Adventures and Fairy tales (This includes traditional tales, superheroes, princesses, pirates and dinosaurs)
Spring	Space / Ourselves and Others (including People Who Help Us)
Summer	Animals and Habitats / Our World

Computing

The children have the opportunity to use computing equipment continually in the classroom. This includes the computers, interactive whiteboard, recordable microphones, walkie-talkies and role-playing with keyboards and phones. After October half term they will also be able to visit the Computer suite each week and there will be opportunities throughout the year to use the new school laptops.

Music

The children have a weekly music lesson taken by Mrs Mather, as well as Hymn Practice. We also do lots of singing in the classroom and the children have the opportunity to explore a variety of instruments in their learning and play.

P.E.

The children have an indoor and an outdoor lesson each week. P.E. kit is left in school and sent home half-termly for a wash. During the Summer Term they will have weekly swimming lessons.

Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE)

Outdoor learning is a vital part of the EYFS curriculum and the OLE is an extension of the classroom. We therefore ask that you provide your children with raincoats and wellies (named) for rainy days. A lot of time and effort goes into creating and organising learning experiences for your children in the OLE and so we ask that you do not allow your children to play with any of the resources, or on the climbing frame before or after school.

We hope this has given you some idea of what to expect from the Reception Year.

Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

Miss Saunders
St. Anne

Mrs Heaney
St. David