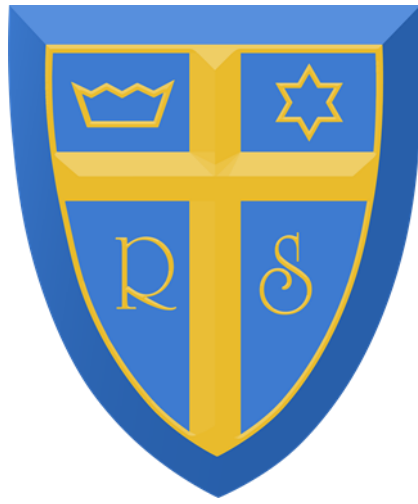




Starting School

An information Booklet for Parents



“We do our best, following in the steps of Jesus”

The Rosary Catholic Primary School
Beeches Green, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4AB.

Telephone: 01453 762774 Website: www.rosaryschool.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs R Savory

Reception Class Teacher: Miss S Perkin

Reception Class Assistant: Mrs G Wilson

Office Staff: Mrs A Mason, Mrs K Gibbons and Mrs M von Zschock

Welcome to the Rosary School

Starting school is a big step for your child. We hope to make it a happy and positive experience.

At the Rosary School we aim to provide a happy and secure environment with planned play and learning experiences. Your child will have the opportunity to explore, develop and extend their skills and knowledge. They will be encouraged to develop a sense of independence and self-confidence.

“We do our best, following in the steps of Jesus”



Our vision

Happy, confident children, achieving their full potential in a creative & inclusive Christian learning environment.

Starting School

Together with your child you may be invited to a programme of visits during the Summer Term. This will provide an opportunity for you to meet their new teachers, classmates and other parents. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, these may not take place, you will be advised at a later date.

The first parents meeting will give you an opportunity to meet staff, find out about school routines and ask questions. A practical tour of the school will help you to bring your child to school feeling calm and confident.

If you would like us to visit your child in his/her pre-school setting please make sure you give us details of the name, address, contact, phone number and opening times so that this can be arranged.

In September your child will start school with part time sessions and with a small group. This allows teaching staff to give each child more attention, get to know them and assess their individual needs.

Children join the full class and stay for lunch from the third full week in school. Attend full time from the fourth week, although you may prefer your child to continue on a part time basis.

You are welcome to make an appointment to discuss your child's individual needs with the class teacher during the first weeks of term.

Settling In

If your child seems upset when you leave, try not to worry, the teachers are used to dealing with this. It is often just the moment of parting that is upsetting, within minutes they are distracted and playing with new friends and toys. You can help by remaining calm and reassuring. If you are concerned you are welcome to contact the school office later in the morning.

The School Day

Morning	8.50am – 12.00pm
Afternoon	1.00pm – 3.15pm

Children are not permitted to be on the premises before 8.40am. However, if you do need to drop your child off earlier, BarBar offer a Breakfast Club from 8.00am (at an approximate cost of £8.25, including breakfast of toast or cereal). BarBar will then take your child into school. They also offer After school facilities 3.15pm – 5.30pm - £11.55 and 3.15pm – 6.00pm - £14.30.

At **3.15pm please wait until you hear the bell** before you proceed to the infant playground to meet your child at the classroom door. This may be subject to change due to COVID restrictions. We will let you know.

If you are delayed **DON'T PANIC** contact the school as soon as possible. Your child will be taken to wait by the school office/library.

It is VERY IMPORTANT to inform school by letter or phone message if you have arranged for someone else to collect your child. It is a good idea to also let your child know who they should expect to collect them at the end of the day.

School Office Number 01453 762774

Always leave a message with the school office if you have asked someone else to collect your child from school. If an adult unknown to staff arrives to collect your child, they will be asked to wait at the office until you have been contacted and given your permission.



Snack Time

During the morning your child will be given 10-15 minutes to have a drink of milk or water and a piece of fruit. Free milk is available for under 5s and milk can be purchased direct from the suppliers after your child's 5th birthday. Please complete the form provided and send direct to the suppliers. At the present time a free piece of fruit is supplied daily for each child from the government fruit and veg scheme. It would be helpful if your child had experience of eating from whole pieces of fruit as we do not have the facilities to cut fruit up.



Playtime

Most days your child will play outside on the field and a pair of wellingtons to remain in school is a must, waterproof trousers may also be worth considering as children do like to get muddy! Remember coats, hats and gloves for cold weather and sun hats and sunscreen for hot Spring and Summer days.

School Dinners

The school lunch hour is between 12.00pm and 1.00pm. Your child can have a school dinner or bring a packed lunch.

Your child will be cared for by the midday supervisors both in the dining area and the playground/ field.

If you would like your child to have a cooked dinner, the class teacher will take your child's menu choice at registration time in the morning each day. It will be beneficial for you to go through the menu choices in the mornings as we don't know your child's preferences and this will allow them to choose something suitable for themselves. Children in Year Reception, Year One and Year Two will be entitled to Universal free school meals, or Free school meals which is income based. You will need to register for Universal and Free School Meals. Please log on to www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals your child will then be added to our school list in September to obtain free meals (Universal and free school meals). Please see the letter in the pack for further details. However, thereafter there would be a charge (the current rate is £2.34 per day), unless your child qualifies for free school meals. Caterlink are the catering contractors who use high quality local food cooked by Katharine in the kitchen. **If your child has a special diet or any allergies**, please ask for a Caterlink **Special Diet/Allergy Form** at the school office.



If your child will be late in school due to a medical or other appointment, please telephone before 9.30am to book your dinner.

If you are sending a packed lunch please use a lunchbox or cool bag clearly labelled with your child's name. Please make sure drinks are in leak proof plastic bottles (no glass or fizzy drinks please). Healthy lunches include fresh fruit and vegetables and please avoid sweets, chocolates or crisps.

What do I need to buy for school?

Uniform

Please check the school uniform list. Blue and gold ties, jumpers and cardigans are available from Batemans Sports, 2 Kendrick Street, Stroud, Glos, GL5 1AB. Telephone 01453 764320. All other uniform is available from local shops and stores and are reasonably priced.

P.E. Kit

A drawstring bag is useful. To begin with children will only require navy blue shorts and a white T shirt and daps. In the winter months children will need a navy tracksuit. (You may wish to include spare clothes in case of little accidents). Children should come to school on designated P.E. day in P.E. kit.

Forest School

The following kit is required for Forest School sessions – you will be advised when your child is taking part.

- A warm, long sleeve top – maybe two if it is a cold day. OR a cool long sleeve top in cooler weather.
- A rain jacket.
- Long trousers they do not mind getting wet/muddy (not tights or jeans).
- Some spare socks for after the session.
- A pair of shoes/wellington boots.
- Possibly a hat or gloves (optional).
- Waterproof trousers, jacket or all in one suit.

Children should come to school in Forest School kit on designated Forest School days.

Book bags

These may be purchased from Batemans Sports, as detailed above. (Soon your child will begin to bring reading books home please keep these safely in the plastic wallets provided, damaged or lost books are very expensive to replace.)

You will receive a letter regarding lost books at a later date.

LABEL! LABEL! LABEL!

Please label **ALL** of your child's clothes (anything they may have to take off at school including such things as shoes!), bags, lunch boxes, water bottles etc. Show your child where to find the label to help him/her identify their own things. **Check labels regularly as they fall off, fade and need replacing. Remember everything will look almost exactly the same at the beginning of the year!**



Welfare at School

Health and safety

If your child is ill you must notify school of their absence with a telephone call or a note.

Please do not send your child to school if they have recently been sick or had diarrhoea. In addition to feeling unwell and unhappy, they may spread any infection to the rest of the class. Keep them at home for at least 48 hours after being sick or had diarrhoea. The 48 hours starts from the last time they are sick or have a loose movement.

If your child suffers from any long term illness such as diabetes, asthma, hay fever please inform the school and advise of the use of medication, inhalers etc. Please update this information on a regular basis.

On occasion your child may become ill at school. ***PLEASE ENSURE THAT WE HAVE UP TO DATE CONTACT NUMBERS*** for you ***and at least one other family member or friend*** and notify the school of any changes as soon as possible.

Accidents can and do occur. Injuries are dealt with by staff with first aid training. Where necessary a note may be sent home or you may be contacted to inform you of the injury.



How is he/she doing at school?

You are welcome to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher any day after school. On occasions the teacher will be busy with after school activities or meetings but will make arrangements to see you as soon as possible.

During the first year in school your child's progress will be assessed. We will identify particular areas of strength and areas for development and plan how to help your child continue to develop and achieve their potential.

You will be invited to attend parents' evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms. Prior to these evenings you will receive an interim report about your child showing their progress over that term.

You will receive a full written report in the Summer term. If you wish to discuss the report an appointment can be made with your child's teacher.

The most precious commodity you can give your child is your time. The child who gets most from home gets most from school.

Please remember that a mutual consideration and respect between parents and school staff is vital, not only before your child starts school, but for as long as your child is at school.

If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Promoting Independence.

Your child will really benefit from being as independent as possible when they start school. Of course the teaching staff will always be on hand but children feel a real sense of achievement when they can accomplish things by themselves. Examples include being able to dress independently, as this will really help with PE sessions. Learning to tie shoelaces can be tricky, so provide opportunity to practise this skill and also explore different types of fastening, for example Velcro.

Children in reception will also have access to an outside space throughout the day, so being able to put their coat on and zip it up independently will really help them as will being able to put on a pair of shoes or taking off their jumper when they get hot. It also means that they can get straight to their playing and learning without having to stop and ask an adult to help.

Another important part of being independent at school is being able to use the toilet independently, including washing and drying their hands. It will also be useful if they are able to blow their nose on a tissue and put it in the bin.

Having lunch independently may also be new to your child. If they will be having hot dinners, practise using a knife, fork and spoon. If they are taking a packed lunch, practise opening the packets and containers of food they will be taking.



Our Church Community.

As part of our life at the Rosary School we will be visiting church regularly, as a school for mass and visiting to enrich our RE curriculum. Faith is an important part of our school day and having links with our local parish is beneficial. The children will be learning the responses and special hymns. At different times of the year we will be visiting for special services to mark important times of the year.

Our church is a safe space for anyone to visit and we love to invite parents to join us as often as they can. You will find it right at the end of the school lane.

Church of the Immaculate Conception.



The Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage has been revised by the Department for Education for September 2012. The curriculum is split into these 7 areas:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development.**
- **Communication and Language.**
- **Physical Development.**
- **Literacy.**
- **Mathematics.**
- **Understanding the World.**
- **Expressive Arts and Design.**



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will encourage your child to:

- Learn to share toys and equipment.
- Learn how to value and interact with others.
- Develop independence and confidence.
- Understand the difference between right and wrong.
- Be aware of their own needs/feelings and those of others.
- Learn about the Catholic faith.
- Develop respect for a range of cultures and beliefs.
- Form good relationships with adults and their peers.
- Work as part of a team.



This will be achieved through:

- Circle-time activities.
- Games.
- Stories.
- School worship and celebration.
- Religious education topics.
- Group and independent work.
- Free and structured play.

Communication and Language

We will encourage your child to:

- Interact with others.
- Use language in a variety of situations.
- Listen and respond to stories, poems.
- Use their imagination for role-play stories.
- Speak clearly and with confidence.

This will be achieved through:

- Free and structured play
- Imaginative role-play.
- Listening activities.
- Story time.



Physical Development

We will encourage your child to:

- Move with imagination and in safety.
- Be controlled and co-ordinated in their movements.
- Use a range of balancing and climbing equipment.
- Be aware of space and of others.
- Understand how to keep healthy.
- Understand what happens to their bodies when they are active.
- Handle tools, objects and materials safely.



This will be achieved through:

- Activities to improve scissor control.
- Outdoor toys.
- Construction toys.
- Making models.
- Using play-dough.
- Games.
- Practising basic skills in climbing, balancing,
- Dance and games

Literacy

We will encourage your child to:

- Learn letters by sound and name.
- Use phonic knowledge to enhance their reading and writing skills.
- Learn to form letters correctly.
- Choose books and handle them correctly.
- Build up a sight vocabulary of words.

This will be achieved through:

- Drawing and colouring.
- Books.
- Games/jigsaws.
- Phonics scheme activities.
- Guided reading/writing.
- Writing in a wide range of situations.

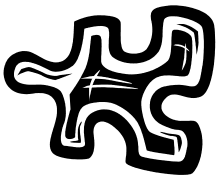
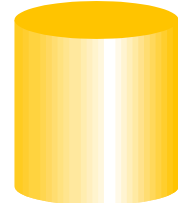


Mathematics



We will encourage your child to:

- Use, recognise and write number names.
- Count reliably.
- Solve mathematical problems.
- Develop their mathematical language and skills.



This will be achieved through:

- Games/Puzzles.
- Practical activities.
- Whole class carpet sessions.
- Number rhymes.
- Describing and devising simple patterns.
- Sorting and matching.
- Using Mathematical language.
- Sand and water play.
- Small world/role-play.
- Using 2D and 3D shapes.
- Using the computer.
- Counting, reading, writing and ordering numbers.

Knowledge of the world

We will encourage your child to:

- Use their senses for variety of activities.
- Find out about living things, objects and events.
- Look at similarities, differences, patterns and change.
- Ask questions about how things work.
- Build a wide range of objects.
- Find out about technology.
- Find out about past and present events.
- Identify features in the natural world.
- Discuss simple environmental issues.
- Know about some features of other cultures.



This will be achieved through:

- Investigating materials and objects.
- Asking questions.
- Gaining information from a range of sources.
- Construction toys.
- Class/group discussions and practical activities.
- Choosing materials and toys.
- Sand and water play.
- Using the computer.
- Growing/caring for plants/
- Visits/visitors.
- Nature walks/activities outside.

Expressive Arts and Design



We will encourage your child to:

- Explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in 2D and 3D.
- Sing simple songs from memory.
- Recognise sounds and patterns in sounds.
- Match movements in music.
- Use their imagination in art, music, design, dance and role-play.
- Respond, express and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings in a variety of ways.



This will be achieved through:

- Singing.
- Experimenting and performing with instruments.
- Imaginative role-play.
- Drama.
- Responding and listening to different types and styles of music.
- Exploring materials e.g. paint, clay, chalk, pastels, pencils,
- Collage and junk modelling.
- Observing artists work.
- Appreciating and evaluating their work and that of others.
- Music and movement sessions.
- Producing pictures, models etc. linked to topic work.

Ways to help at home

Routine

Try to establish a routine for school days.

- Wake your child in good time to have breakfast and wash and dress in peace.
- Make time after school to listen to them telling you about what they have been doing and to read with them.
- Your child will be tired when he/she comes home from school. Please ensure that he/she goes to bed at a good time. If they get a good nights sleep it will help them learn more effectively.



Speaking and Listening

- Always use good speech, as a model for your child's language skills.

Reading

When parents share books with their children regularly reading becomes a more enjoyable experience and progress in learning to read is enhanced.

- Share books as often as possible.
- Talk about print you see at home or when you are out.
- Let them see you enjoying reading.
- Discuss stories, predicting what might happen next.
- Share poems and rhymes with your child.
- Talk about the cover and pictures in stories. Ask your child to tell their own story using the pictures.
- Encourage your child to finish a sentence by pausing at a suitable place, e.g. Humpty Dumpty sat on a
- Playing I-spy, - use letter sounds rather than names.

Writing

- If your child is ready to write you could begin by helping them to trace shapes or letters to develop their pencil control. Try writing with a highlighter pen for your child to copy over.
- Encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly – it is better to learn slowly, using the correct technique. If your child alternates the pencil between hands don't worry as dominance takes time to develop.
- Have lots of paper and writing implements readily available so that they can practise drawing and writing whenever they want to.
- If you choose to teach your child to write his/her name please use a capital for the first letter and lower case thereafter. Once children have formed the habit of writing in capital letters it is very hard to break.

Mathematics

Encourage your child to:

- Learn counting rhymes.
- Weigh and mix ingredients for cooking.
- Count in different situation e.g. stairs, buttons on coats etc
- Identify shapes and colours inside and outside your home.
- Describe and sort things into sets e.g. big/small, heavy/light, rough/smooth.
- Recognise numbers up to 10, then 20.
- Gardening (let them help you care for a small section of plants).

Useful websites

You can use these websites to play games with your child at home.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>

<https://epicphonics.com/games>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=37>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06kbsbz> (Nursery rhymes)

You can find clips and videos alpha blocks and number blocks on You Tube.

