

**Believe in the light, whilst you have the light, so that you may become children of light.'**

**John 12:36**

**Reception Starter Information**

**2025-2026**

**Welcome from our Headteacher,**

For me - being a headteacher in a Church of England school is about taking the opportunities to make a difference to our world; To God's World and to find the light in each and every child who grows and flourishes at KSJ.

It is a great privilege to lead this unique and caring school.

I strive to lead a school where all staff work in collaboration to ensure the highest possible standards of education.

Alongside the governors, I endeavour to ensure that there is a personalised approach to the learning and teaching of each individual pupil, so that they can reach their true potential.

Personally, I will leave no stone unturned to ensure that this happens.

I believe very strongly that KSJ is a school family and take that approach in the day to day running of the school.

I also work hard to strengthen the links between the school, church and community.

Ultimately, we provide care beyond the classroom, resulting in high achievements for all pupils.

You will usually find me on the school playground at the start and end of the school day, cuddling puppies or babies.

Rachel Jones

**Our school day**

Our school day begins at 8:35am when the gate opens. Staff are on the playground from 8:40am to greet the children and answer any questions or concerns.

At 8:45am the school bell is rung, and the children line up with their class teacher. Whilst we understand that for our Reception children this transition can be tricky, we work with parents to encourage the children’s independence in entering school on their own.

Our Reception children have snack provided daily as part of our routine, this offers opportunities for social interaction, language development, and learning about healthy eating habits. We encourage our children to help in preparing their snack.

Whilst Reception have access to our well designed EYFS outside area we are also able to use our beautiful and extensive school grounds at breaktime under the supervision of Reception staff.

Lunchtime is at 12:10pm and a range of home cooked style meals are prepared by our cook. There are always two options with salad and fruit being available daily. Our children sit in ‘family tables’ with children from each year group. Y6 take a lead and support our younger children with good manners and trying new foods. Staff are also on hand to support at lunchtime.

Our school day finishes at 3:15pm. The children are brought outside by the class teacher and handed over to parents, if there is anyone different collecting your child, please do let staff know.

If you have any questions or concerns your child’s class teacher can be contacted via email or alternatively at the beginning or end of the day. If you wish to have a longer conversation, please do make an appointment and we will be happy to accommodate you.

**School Uniform**

Our school uniform policy tries to ensure full inclusion and acceptable costs for parents.

If you think your child cannot meet the expectations in our uniform policy, please speak to Mrs Gibson or Mrs Jones where reasonable adjustments can be made.

School Uniform requirements

Grey skirt, trousers, shorts or skorts

white polo shirt (with or without the school logo)

Royal Blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without the school logo)

Black shoes

In the summer term, blue and white gingham dresses may be worn.

Logo sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts can be ordered directly from [schooltrends.co.uk](https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/KingsleyStJohnsCEPrimarySchoolWA68EF)

PE kit

Plain white t-shirt

blue or black shorts

pumps or trainers

Book Bag

A school book bag is available to carry reading books, letters home and homework.

School bags and PE bags are available from the school office

**After School KSJ – Buddies**

Our on-site Buddies club offers wrap-around care for all pupils at Kingsley St John's. Buddies is run by members of our staff team: Mrs Sherlock is our Buddies manager with Mrs Waring and Miss Kasingakore supporting throughout the week. It is very important to us that Buddies is part of our school and upholds our school values and ethos, which enables a smooth transition to and from school.

All staff are DBS checked and have paediatric first aid qualifications.

We aim to provide:

* A warm, welcoming start and finish to the school day, extending our school's family feel.
* A familiar environment where you know your child is safe and cared for.
* Healthy and nutritious snacks before and after the school day
* Familiar staff, enabling positive relationships
* A range of activities including accessing our beautiful and extensive school grounds.

Buddies sessions run daily, Monday to Friday, from 7:30 am to 8:45 am before school and from 3:15pm to 6:00pm after school, we offer an early pick-up option at 4:30pm.

Breakfast is available for our early starters and tea is served at 4:30pm with sandwiches, beans on toast, wraps, pizza muffins, tomato pasta and pancakes on the menu. Fruit is always available.

For more information, please contact the school office: 01244 738434

**Should you need to contact the After School Club in an emergency during its open hours, please use the main school number :01244 738434**

**What to expect in Reception**

In Reception, your child will follow the [Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974907/EYFS_framework_-_March_2021.pdf). This sets the standards for the learning, development, and care of your child.

The things your child will learn in Reception have been organised into three prime areas of learning:

* Communication and Language
* Physical Development
* Personal and Social Development

And four specific areas of learning:

* Literacy
* Mathematics
* Understanding the World
* Expressive Arts and Design

**What will my child do in Reception?**

In the EYFS, play is a very important part of your child’s development, and most learning will be introduced through a mixture of carefully planned play and some adult-led focused activities. Don’t be too concerned if your child says that they have been playing all day – it just means that we have made their learning fun and enjoyable! As the Reception year progresses, the learning may start to become more formal in preparation for Year 1 and the National Curriculum.

**What kind of assessment is there in Reception?**

Throughout your child’s time at school, they will be assessed regularly. This is to check their progress and identify the next steps in their learning. The school will carry out a [baseline assessment](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment) to see what your child can do already early in the year. This is nothing to worry about – it is not a test and it is unlikely they will even know it is happening.

At the end of Reception, your child’s teacher will assess them again. This assessment is carried out by the Reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child have observed over a period of time. All of the information collected is then used to assess where your child is currently in the seven areas of learning.

**How can I help my child in Reception?**

Play rhyme and sound games

These simple word games will help practise beginning and end sounds (without them noticing):

* Play ‘I spy’ as you walk to school.
* Play ‘Into the pot’: with your child, pretend to be putting items that rhyme in a pot, such as a bat, a hat, a cat you could even have a real pot (but not a real cat!).
* Begin at the end: Say a word to your child, such as ‘top’. Can they say a word that starts with last sound of your word, for example pen? You would then say a word beginning with *nnn*, such as nut. This will help them to listen closely to beginning and end sounds.
* Odd one out: Say four words, such as *cat*, *bat*, *bird.*Ask your child to help you spot the word that doesn’t rhyme.
* Say four words such as *cat*, *bat*, *bird*, *bath* and ask your child to spot the word that starts with a different sound.

Develop a love of reading for pleasure

* Set aside a special time – just a few minutes a day is enough to create a reading habit.
* Get caught reading yourself– show that reading for pleasure is not just for children.
* Once your child has a reading book try and read every night, even 5 minutes makes a huge impact on your child’s progress.

Count everything!

* One of the first number skills your child will learn is counting. Try and get in the habit of counting when you’re out about.
* How many buses have we seen?
* How many stairs in our house?
* How many bananas are we buying?

Sing number songs, 10 in the bed, 5 Little Speckled Frogs, 10 Green Bottles.

**School Ready**

Parents and carers are the child’s greatest teacher and role model.

School readiness can mean different things to different people and

we want to work together with you to make sure our children

feel happy, cared for, safe and ready to learn.

Children learn and play by being creative, being active and being asked questions.

All children develop at their own rate and all children are different.

It is important to remember one child may have only just turned four whilst their classmate is about to turn five, there is a wide gap in their abilities in that fact alone.

As long as together we are supporting children in their work

toward responsible self-care and self-regulation that is the best that can be done, the rest will come in time.

West Cheshire Children’s Trust have produced a booklet which includes important areas to consider around school readiness and is available to download from our new starters page on the school website or from the school office.

**Useful information**

Our school website: <https://www.kingsley-st-johns.cheshire.sch.uk/>

Office email: [admin@kingsley-st-johns.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kingsley-st-johns.cheshire.sch.uk)

Mrs Gibson: [senco@kingsley-st-johns.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:senco@kingsley-st-johns.cheshire.sch.uk)

Office phone number: 01244 738434

X: @ksjaided

Facebook : Kingsley St John’s CE Aided Primary School