



STRATFORD ST MARY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

WELCOME TO KINGFISHERS



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Welcome

to Stratford St Mary Primary School

We want you to know how important it is for us to make your child's first experience of school a really positive and happy one.

We hope this booklet will provide lots of useful information for you as the parents of children entering our Reception Class here at Stratford St Mary School.

If you find you have any questions, now or after term has started, please speak to either Miss Jones or Mrs Bilner. We are always pleased to hear from you.



SCHOOL TIMES

We ring the bell at 8.45am, so that the children are ready to enter school for 8.50am. Please make sure that you 'hand' your child over to a member of staff before leaving.

Registration 8.50 am.

Break time 10.30 - 10.45 am.

Lunch 12.00 - 1.00 pm.

School finishes 3.15 pm

If, for any reason, children arrive at school after 8.50am, please take them straight to the office so that we can sign them in.

ABSENCES

If your child is away from school we do ask that parents/carers ring the school office by 9am on the first day of the absence, so that we do not ring home unnecessarily to find out where they are. If the school office

is not manned, the answerphone will take a message. (Please do still send a letter explaining the absence for our records)

If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, it is 48 hours before they can return to school once they have stopped being ill, to prevent the spread of infection.

BEGINNING & END OF THE DAY

At either end of the day, children enter and exit the school through the door that opens into the Kingfisher outside area. Children will not be let out of the classroom at the end of the day until a known adult comes to collect them.

It is important that Miss Jones knows who will be collecting at the end of each day, so do please inform her if your arrangements have to change.

Please make sure any younger siblings do not play on the equipment outside as it is designed for older children.



GETTING INVOLVED

Parents and carers are very welcome and encouraged to get involved in the school. There are many ways in which you can do this:

HELPING IN CLASSROOMS

You are always welcome to help in one of the classes in school, either on a regular basis or as a 'one off'. Please discuss with the class teacher in advance so that arrangements can be made.



PARENT GOVERNORS

Becoming a parent governor is very rewarding. If a vacancy occurs this will be published and you will then have the opportunity to put your name forward if you wish. If more than one person shows an interest then an election is held.

PARENT FORUM

Parent forum meetings are held once every term to get feedback and discuss relevant issues.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Miss Jones offers a number of morning or afternoon sessions for family members to come and join the children in the class. We also have special lunches throughout the year to which you are very welcome to join us.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL

Many of the children walk or bike to school and we want to encourage this. There is limited parking in Strickmere for cars and we ask that if your child does come by car, they always leave the car by the door onto the pavement.

Please do not park in the school grounds unless you or your child requires disabled access.

For the safety of everyone, children should not ride bikes or scooters down the school paths.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE

If for any reason the school has to close early you will be telephoned, so it is very important that we always have up-to date contact details for you.

Any children whose parents or carers we have not been able to contact will stay with a teacher until a named adult can come. Any full day closure, for example due to bad weather, will be advertised on local Suffolk radio stations (such as BBC Suffolk) in the morning.

TOILETS

Obviously the children are allowed to go to the toilet whenever they need to but they are still very young and sometimes accidents occur. For this reason we ask you to provide your child with a spare change of underwear and lower garments i.e. trousers or skirt. These can be kept in their PE bag.

PROPERTY

We do try to keep track of the children's possessions, but unfortunately many of the children do not recognise their own belongings!

PLEASE help your child and us by labelling EVERYTHING!! We encourage the children to put things into their book bags for taking home.



LUNCHTIME

Full time children can opt for either a packed lunch from home or a free school meal. The packed lunch boxes are kept on a rack in the practical area. We do ask that you follow our Whole School Food Policy.

SNACKS

The school belongs to the national scheme that provides a piece of fruit or vegetable for children of reception age, and they are also entitled to free milk each day. The children are offered these during morning snack time.

Children should also bring a bottle of water into school and we encourage them to drink water (not juice) during the day. Please do not send in crisps, chocolate or other sweets.

FACILITIES

Reception children share a learning area with Year One and Year Two. There is a fenced play area for class use, although they can access the playing field and larger playground equipment during playtimes. There is also a practical area that houses a small bank of networked computers.

TOYS

As a general rule, children are not allowed to bring toys into school. We have lots of toys for the children to play with and would not want any tears over broken or lost toys. Sometimes special things are brought in for 'show and tell' but these should be kept in their trays until the end of the day, and should not be too precious.



LEARNING JOURNEY

We use Tapestry, an online learning journey, that records photos, videos, observations and comments in-line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. Using this, we build up a record of the children's experience during their time with us and parents can login and see their child's progress.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Educational visits are often arranged to support the curriculum. These may involve children walking to nearby locations around Stratford or travel on a coach.

Apart from local walks you will always be informed in advance of any arrangements to leave the premises. We have very stringent policies and guidelines regarding educational visits, which may be viewed in the main office. Risk assessments are carried out for all visits.

CURRICULUM

The Reception class is part of the Foundation Stage and consequently has its own specific curriculum; the Foundation Stage ends when the child leaves the Reception class and becomes a Year One.

The Early Learning Goals establish the standards a child is expected to reach by the end of the Foundation Stage. These goals are explored through seven areas of learning:

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

The Curriculum is largely delivered through practical activities and play.

Home activities will be sent home from the start of the term. This may involve phonics, spelling, reading or maths activities.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Grey pinafores / skirts / trousers.
White or navy blouses / shirts / polo shirts.
Navy blue cardigans / jumpers / sweatshirts.
Navy, grey or white tights / socks.
Black shoes. (Velcro not laces)

In warmer weather girls may wear blue check dresses.

Children need a pair of trainers and a pair of wellingtons to be left in school for playtimes.

Book bags and school uniform can be purchased through Tesco and ordered online at [Tesco.com/ues](https://www.tesco.com/ues)

PE KIT

Children should have white or navy t-shirt, blue shorts, spare socks, trainers and a navy tracksuit. It would be very helpful if these could be sent in a drawstring bag to be kept on pegs in the classroom. These are sent home periodically for washing.

For their own safety, children are not allowed to wear any jewellery during Physical Education but we do not permit it at school anyway.

COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to speak to Miss Jones if you have any concerns at all. Generally after school is easier for longer discussions.

Parent consultation evenings are held once every term and written reports are sent home at the end of each academic year.

Letters that are sent home are put in the children's book bags. A school newsletter is sent by email every two weeks during term time and the website is updated at least once per week with details of news and events.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please remember that our school is very family-orientated; we see each child as a member of our family and treat them accordingly. We are very keen that you will also feel a part of this close community.

Mrs Bilner will always try to be available at the beginning and end of each day – do make yourself known and have a chat. If you would like to talk in more detail, call the office to book an appointment.

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child.



STRATFORD ST MARY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

You can also find information online at:

www.stratfordstmaryprimary.co.uk

facebook.com/stratfordstmaryprimary

Contact the school on 01206 323236

or email office@stratfordstmary.suffolk.sch.uk

