



# St Mary's CE VC First School

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Head Teacher: Suzanne Garner BA (HONS) QTS

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed a lovely half term in the sunshine. It has been such a treat to be able to spend time with family and friends and to enjoy the simple things in life!

I am writing to let you know about our revised induction programme in light of the Covid pandemic. Fortunately, around a half of children starting have a sibling currently in school which is helpful for you, as parents, as you are already familiar with school life and routines. I am really looking forward to meeting those of you who are new to our school and getting to know all of the children alongside our staff.

We are delighted to have 35 children joining us in Reception this year. Willow Class will be a pure Reception Class and Oak Class will be a Reception/Year 1 mixed-age class with just a group of Reception children within it. Willow Class teachers are Mrs Jenny Beale and Mrs Caroline Drysdale. Our current Oak Class teacher is retiring next month and we are currently recruiting for September 2021. Each class is supported by a full time Teaching Assistant; Mrs Pippa Simpson in Willow Class and Mrs Jo Hardy in Oak Class.

Classes will be decided by teachers following conversations with yourselves, as parents, and with your pre-school provider or child minder. You will be informed of your child's class following our Stay and Play sessions.

On our website ([www.charminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.charminster.dorset.sch.uk)) You will be able to find out lots of information including school times and uniform. Our prospectus contains further information about our school. In addition, under our Reception 2021-22 tab there will be further useful information and forms to print out if needed. These include:

- Walking Trips Permission
- Admission Form
- Acceptable Use of the Internet
- Library Permission
- Pupil Premium Registration Form (if applicable)
- DASP Photo Consent
- GDPR Photo Consent

A prospectus and these forms will be handed out at the Stay and Play sessions detailed below.



In normal circumstances we would have liked to offer a 'home visit' where our teachers come to meet you and your child at home. However, in order to still have those important conversations between teachers and parents we would like to find a time for one of our teachers to phone you at home at a time convenient to you. This would be a useful opportunity for us to find out about your child's interests, likes and dislikes. **Teachers will be making these phone calls on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Please ring into the school office on 01305 263880 or alternatively you can email to make an appointment [office@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@charminster.dorset.sch.uk) When you arrange your phone call, please ensure that we know the best number to call you on.**

Once our teachers have been able to have conversations with you about your child we would like to invite you and your child to a 'Stay and Play' session after school one afternoon in the small Reception playground. These sessions will give you and your child an opportunity to meet with teachers, Karen Bennett (our Parent Support Adviser) and myself informally in a play-based session. There will be a maximum of 12 children per session and we would ask that only 1 parent/carer attends with their child and no siblings please. These sessions will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 3.30pm-4.30pm. The date for you and your child will be emailed on 28<sup>th</sup> June once the teachers have put together the 3 groups.

We have already begun carrying out visits to Charminster Pre-School's garden area and will be speaking with and visiting other settings which are attended by your child. When you speak with one of our Reception teachers please let her know which pre-school your child currently attends.

All Reception children will be allocated a start day in September. Either Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. These session will be from 8.30am-12noon. This enables each child to settle in a small group on their first morning so that they can become familiar with routines. From Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> parents will be able to drop children off in the small playground with their teacher between 8.30am-8.45am daily. The school day begins at 8.45am and ends at 3pm. If you feel that your child would benefit from mornings only as they settle into school life for the first half term please discuss this with the class teachers during your phone call.

Your child will be allocated a Year 4 Buddy who will collect them for playtimes and support your child where possible. Once the Reception children begin to join the whole school in our hall for Collective Worship then we will ensure that your child's buddy will take your child into the hall and sit with them.

School Lunches are free to Reception and Key Stage 1 children (Universal Infant Free School Meals - UIFSM). These are provided by Local Food Links and booking is an online system. Once the autumn term menu is available along with your personal log in details then we will hand these out to you at our Stay and Play sessions.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection took place in June 2019. Our report can be viewed by clicking on this link:

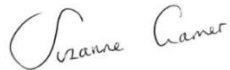


<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/113784>

At present we are hopeful that school will return to a new normal from September 2021 and that bubble groups will no longer be required as a safety measure. We will keep you updated as new guidance is issued.

Please let us know if there is further information you require or have any questions ready to ask when you speak with Mrs Beale or Mrs Drysdale in the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely



Suzanne Garner