



*A place of educational excellence
with Christ at the centre*



Welcome to Farmers Class





A Welcome from the Foundation Team

Dear Parents

Welcome to St Mary's Catholic Primary School! As one of the Early Years Teachers and Farmers Class Teacher, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce you and your child to our wonderful school community.

At St Mary's, we believe that the early years of education are essential for a child's development. Our play-based curriculum is designed to nurture curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning. Through a variety of engaging activities, your child will have the opportunity to explore and discover in an enriching, child led environment that ensures that each child's interests and needs are at the forefront of their educational experience. We encourage children to take an active role in their learning journey, fostering independence and confidence. We are also excited to offer weekly Forest School sessions, where children will have the chance to connect with nature and develop essential life skills.

Communication and collaboration with parents are extremely important to us. We have an open-door policy and are always available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Building a strong partnership between home and school is key to your child's success and happiness.

I hope you find this pack helpful in preparing your child to start their learning journey at St Mary's. If you have any further questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Warm regards,

Mrs Clarke



A Vision for Early Years

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Our vision is to foster a nurturing environment where every child is valued as a unique individual. Through respectful relationships, play-based learning, and a love of nature, we empower all learners to navigate their own learning journey with resilience, purpose, joy, and wonder.

Our work is underpinned by the principles of the Early Years Framework, which emphasises the importance of secure, respectful, and reciprocal relationships; partnerships with families; high expectations and equity; respect for diversity; and ongoing learning and reflective practice. This framework guides our commitment to fostering the best outcomes for every child, including those with Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND).

Practitioner quality and performance are at the heart of our strategic direction. We prioritise continuous training, mentoring, and reflective practice to ensure our educators are equipped to provide the highest quality of care and education. Transparent communication and parent partnership are core values of our organisation. Our strategic direction is shared with our whole community through newsletters and regular updates, and it is refined through open dialogue and parental feedback. We believe that strong partnerships with parents and families are essential to the success of our vision.

Together, we lay the foundation for lifelong love of learning and well-being, ensuring that every child thrives in a community of support, nurture and collaboration



What do you need to bring to school?



Water bottle



Rucksack or book bag



PE kit and trainers



Coat



Hats, gloves, etc



Welly boots and waterproofs



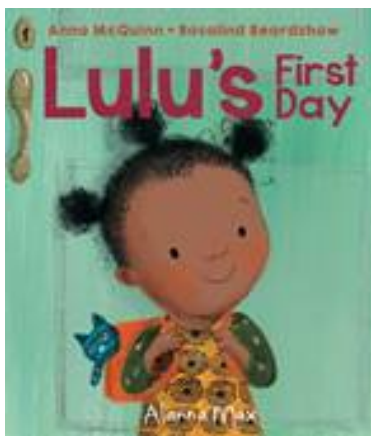
Medication

(Handed to teacher with completed medical forms)

Please name all of your child's belongings to help us match it with the right owner!



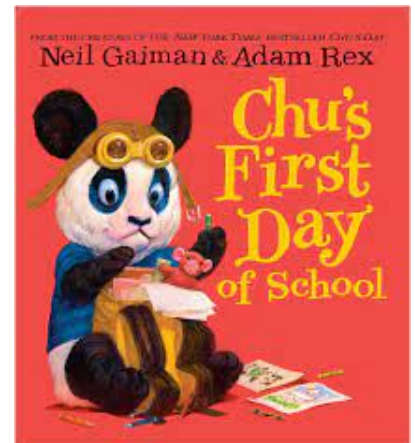
Books About Starting School



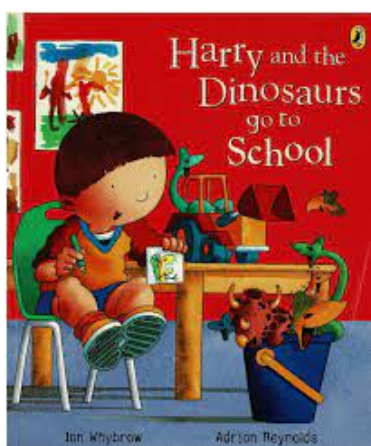
Lulu's First Day
Anna McQuinn



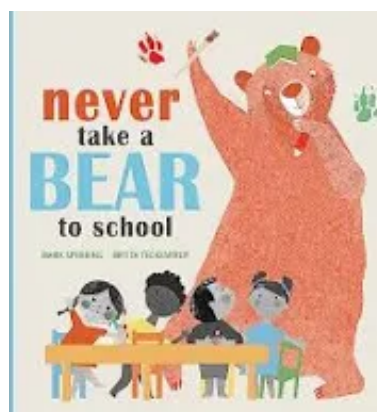
Hello Friend
Rebecca Cob



Chu's First Day of School
Neil Gaiman



Harry and the Dinosaurs Go to School
Ian Whybrow



Never Take a Bear to School
Mark Sperring



First Day at Bug School
Sam Lloyd



What can I do to get ready for school?

At St Mary's, we believe that every child is a unique creation made in the image and likeness of God; uniquely precious and uniquely gifted. All children grow and develop at different rates, and therefore there is no requirement for a child to complete certain tasks before starting school.

Below are some helpful info-graphics that you may wish to use as a guide to develop independence with you child prior to them starting in Farmers Class. Please don't worry if your child is not ready to do all of it yet as we will continue to work towards these goals throughout the Reception year.





Supporting Transition

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are excited to introduce a series of engaging summer activities that will help ease the transition to school life and provide wonderful opportunities for creativity and learning.

Over the summer, we would like the parents and children to participate in the following activities:

1. **Complete the Enclosed "All About Me" Form.** This form will help us get to know each child better and understand their interests, favorites, and unique qualities. Please take some time to fill this out with your child, encouraging them to express themselves freely.
2. **Collect items for your All About me Scrapbook.** In September, as part of our transition into the new school year, each child will be creating their very own All About Me book. This special book will help us get to know each other and celebrate what makes us unique. Over the summer, we'd love for you and your child to collect things that could be included in their book—this might be leaflets from days out, photos of special people, pets or places, drawings, tickets, or any little treasures that are meaningful to them. If you don't have access to a printer, photos can be emailed to Mrs Vale in September and she'll be happy to print them for you.
3. **Share the 'My New School' story.**

We believe that these activities will provide meaningful and enjoyable experiences for your child, helping to foster a love for learning and creativity. The scrapbooks, in particular, will serve as a wonderful tool for children to share their personal stories and interests with their new classmates, making the transition to school smoother and more enjoyable.

Please look for more detailed information and additional resources in our upcoming newsletters and on our school website. If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your support and involvement. We wish you a summer filled with fun, creativity, and wonderful memories.