



St Athan Primary School



Reception Handbook

Name - _____

Your child is in Group _____



School Details

St Athan Primary School
Rock Road,
St Athan,
Vale of Glamorgan,
CF624PG

School Telephone - 01446 751480

School Mobile - 07935014292

Main 'E' - Mail: office@stathanprimaryschool.co.uk

Reception Class Teachers:

ckenefick@stathanps.co.uk

ejenkins@stathanps.co.uk

Website: www.stathanprimaryschool.co.uk

Instagram: StAthanPS

Who's Who

Head Teacher

Mrs L. Haynes

Acting Head Teacher

Mrs L. Davies

Acting Deputy Head Teacher - Mrs P. Broomfield

Reception Class Staff

Class Teacher

Mrs C Kenefick

Miss E Jenkins

Learning Support Assistants

Mrs S Thomas

Mrs A Nicholls

Introduction

We understand that starting school is an important step in your child's development and hope this handbook will answer many of the most frequently asked questions from parents and carers.

You can access our main school Handbook via our school website.

Our School Day

8.20am - Free breakfast Club which runs in our school hall - please see staff for further details if required.

8.50am - School Starts

The children are met by the Class Teacher from the entrance gate at the front of the school.

Please note punctuality is important.

10.45am - Playtime

12.00 - Lunchtime (further information below)

2.10pm - Playtime

3.10pm - Home time

The children are dismissed via the gate at the front of the school, and this is where the parents wait.

Please ensure that you inform the school if your child is to be picked up by anyone else. For safeguarding reasons, we will not be able to release the children without consent



Absence

It is much appreciated if you could please ensure you inform the school via phone or email if your child is absent for any reason. Holiday forms can be requested from the main office.

Communication with Reception Staff

At St Athan Primary School we operate an open-door policy. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a member of the Reception Team.

You can contact us via email, phone call or alternatively catch a team member before/ after school, but please be aware that the beginning/ end of the day can be very busy and the children will be our main priority.

Alternatively, appointments can be made with the class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

Keeping up to date with school News

Termly events and Weekly Wednesday Newsletters are emailed, giving information about school and forthcoming events.

Further notices can be sent to you via our texting service "Teachers 2 Parents." Please ensure your mobile numbers are kept up to date.

You can also follow us on Instagram, where lots of photographs are put on weekly, showing what your child is doing in school. Instagram handle - StAthanPS



Lunchtime

Lunchbreak is between 12-1pm.

School lunches are currently provided free of charge, by the Welsh Assembly Government.

You can access the Big Fresh Catering Company weekly menu on the Vale of Glamorgan School Website.

The menu is currently a 3 weekly cycle.

Alternatively, your child may prefer to bring a packed lunch from home. Please ensure their packed lunch bag is clearly labelled with their name.

Please ensure any dietary requirements are brought to our attention.



Snack Time and Drinks

As a healthy school, we ask parents to provide their children with ONE healthy snack each day. Please ensure the snack is labelled with the child's name.

In addition please could you provide your child with a water bottle (clearly labelled) that they will be able to access (and refill if needed) during the day.

The children in Reception are also entitled to free milk and this is available to them every day.

Uniform

Uniform is not compulsory, but we would prefer children to wear it for a number of reasons, such as establishing an identity for our school, and create a sense of belonging.



Red cardigan, jumper or sweatshirt,
Yellow polo t-shirt,
Black or grey trousers/joggers/
shorts/skirt,
Red and white checked or striped dress
(Summer)
Black school shoes

School Uniform can be ordered via the office.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible so if you could help them to take off/ put on jumpers, coats etc it would be much appreciated.

Please could your child bring a spare set of clothes to school everyday just in case your child needs to be changed for any reason e.g. during water play. Thank you.

P.E.

PE takes place twice a week in the Reception class.

PE days will be confirmed in September.

Please can the children wear their PE kit to school on these days.

PE Kit - a pair of black shorts/ joggers and a plain white t-shirt with trainers.

For safety reasons we ask that children do not wear jewellery to school (stud earrings only please).

The Curriculum for Wales

The Curriculum for Wales 2022 is designed for all children from the age of 3 to 16, and will provide a continuum of learning. It will support your child with authentic lessons, with real-life meaning, will suit their needs, and help them reach their full potential.



Our school will support your child to develop the 4 purposes of the new Curriculum. That is to be:

- an ambitious, capable learner, ready to learn throughout their life
- an enterprising, creative contributor, ready to play a full part in life and work
- an ethical, informed citizen, ready to take part in Wales and the world, and a
- a healthy, confident individual, ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

As well as literacy, numeracy and digital skills, there are six areas of learning and experience that will continue throughout your child's school life. Everything your child learns will be connected to these areas

In **Expressive Arts**, your child will explore art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills.

In **Humanities** they'll learn about the world, society and events in the past and present. They'll explore the challenges and opportunities that face us, and what ethical action we can take to safeguard the world and its people in the future.

In **Mathematics and Numeracy**, your child will develop their understanding of numbers and use symbols in maths. They'll explore shapes and measurement and learn about statistics and probability

Health and Well-being is about looking after their physical and mental health including emotional well-being. They'll learn about healthy eating and how to make good decisions, deal with influences and develop healthy relationships.

In **Languages, Literacy and Communication**, your child will learn about languages. They'll understand and use Welsh, English and other languages. They'll study and create literature, and communicate in spoken, written or visual ways. This could include poetry, drama and film.

In **Science and Technology** your child will learn about biology, chemistry, physics, computer science and design and technology. They'll learn about design and engineering, living things, matter, forces and energy, and how computers work.

The curriculum also covers: • human rights • diversity and respecting differences • experiences and skills for careers and the workplace • learning about local, national and international contexts • developmentally appropriate relationships and sexuality education.



Outdoor Learning

Curriculum for Wales encourages children to spend as much time as possible outside, discovering, exploring and learning.

The children will be making use of our wonderful outdoors regardless of the weather and for this reason we would ask that children are dressed appropriately for being outside in the sun, snow or rain.

Please could you send in a pair of wellies that you would be happy to leave in school. Please label with a name.

If you have waterproofs, these may also be sent into school for the children to wear during outdoor learning.

Learning through Play

Whilst your child is in the Reception Class, there will be an emphasis on learning through play, practical and real-life experiences. Learning can be messy and sometimes uniforms can get messy, but this shows what we have been learning.

This splodge is part of my lunch. I am trying hard to use my knife and fork correctly.

This black mark was made with a pen. I am really trying to develop my writing skills.

Painting helps me to develop my creativity. Sometimes I accidentally get paint on my clothes as I work.

Today I made special, glittery cards for my family and told my teacher all about them.

This mud is part of the mud kitchen. It has helped develop my vocabulary.

Sometimes my uniform comes home a little wet. I

This grass stain shows that I have been using the outdoor area to develop my

Authentic Learning Experiences

The children will be given the opportunity to participate in several authentic learning experiences, including school visits and outings linked to their topic of work e.g. trips into the locality and trips further afield.

Behaviour

In our school, we believe that every pupil is entitled to a secure and happy learning environment. To achieve this, we believe that pupils need to be taught appropriate behaviour so that they will be able to foster a sense of self-discipline. Rules, regulations, rewards and sanctions are detailed in our Behaviour Policy, with the emphasis focusing on the positive aspects of behaviour. We believe this is essential, as it reinforces what is expected. All parents are asked to sign a home/school agreement on entry to the school.

We realise that as children begin school they are embarking on a whole range of new learning experiences and challenges. Although our expectations for behaviour are high, we endeavour to introduce children to the idea of following rules in a very simple way.

Our school rules are:

Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Responsible

Parental Consultations and Reports

Parental Consultations are held in the Autumn and Spring Term to discuss progress, with all children receiving an end of year report in the Summer Term. Please, however, feel free to make further appointments with your child's teacher if needed at any time throughout the year.

Parental Support

Building strong home-school links are important to support the development of the children's skills and confidence during this important initial first year in school.

During the school year parents will be invited to join us in school for a variety of reasons including school fairs, watching special events such as concerts, class topic celebration events or Sports Day. News of these dates will be in the weekly Wednesday Newsletter.

At times, we may send out pleas for parental support with certain activities and would greatly appreciate your help.

If you are interested in helping in school, or joining our PTA, please see staff for more details.

Any parent helping in school will need to be DBS checked first.

Homework and Home Reading

Homework will be given out as and when appropriate, to consolidate or extend learning in class. Your child will also be given a home reading folder. Further details relating to the home reading folder will be communicated to you once the children have settled into life in Reception.

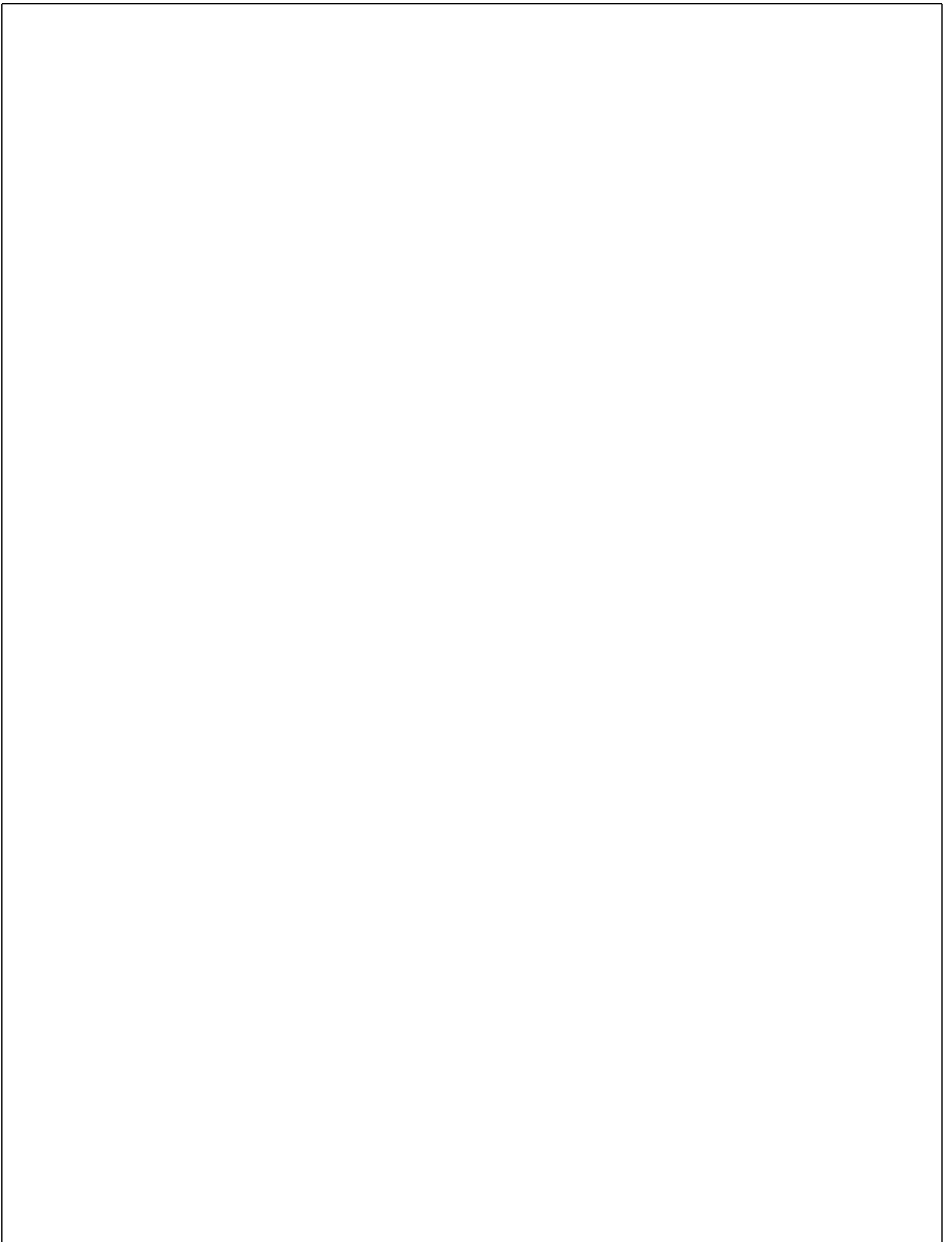
A.P.P. (Assessment, Planning, Preparation)

For your information all class teachers are allocated 10% non-contact time dedicated to assessment, planning and preparation.

We hope that this handbook has been useful to you in answering some of the most common. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any of the points covered, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

We hope that you and your child will enjoy this important first year in full-time education, and it is the beginning of a happy and successful journey in St Athan Primary School.





Reception Collection from School Details

Name of Child _____

Please provide details of who will be collecting your child from school and return to school on your child's first day.

Monday - _____

Tuesday - _____

Wednesday - _____

Thursday - _____

Friday - _____

*Please ensure you inform the school via email, phone or letting a member of reception staff know, if someone different will be collecting your child.

Without consent, we will be unable to release your child without first contacting yourselves.

All About Me

My name is

I am _____ years
old

My Birthday is on

My Family

Great things about
ME!

Things that I enjoy...

Things that are
difficult for me...

The best way to
support me

I'd like my teacher to
know...