



St Antony's RC Primary School

St Antony's School is part of the Roman Catholic community of the Holy Family

Where Jesus Christ is our inspiration

as we raise standards and aspirations for all our children.



*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. **Proverbs 22:6***

Welcome to St Antony's

A very warm and heart felt welcome to you and your child from everyone at St Antony's RC Primary School. We look forward to working with you throughout your child's time at school. Together we will ensure that your child is happy, secure and successful on their faith and learning journey with us. We are first a Catholic school; Christ's teaching is at the centre of all we do.

In this school, we are educating our children to:

- Know who they are - a special and unique gift from God.
- Know why they are here – we all have a purpose and responsibility to look after God's world.
- Work hard and aim high for their future- find and use their God given talents to be what God intended them to be.
- Know how members of our faith community live as a family and how they worship.
- Show respect for those within and outside our own faith, community just as Jesus did.

Starting in September

We would like to invite you to join our class DOJO page where we can interact with our new families and offer videos, pictures and activities alongside information sharing in preparation for their Faith and Learning journey at St Antony's RC primary school. We are offering home visits, transition meetings, stay, and play sessions.

As partners, you are the first educators of your children and as you join this school, we become partners. Together we will nurture your child's faith and learning journey and ask that you engage with our class and school DOJO as much as possible.

School Hours

Normal Nursery hours are 8.30am to 11.30am

Normal School hours for Reception are:

Morning: 8.30am to 11.30am

Lunchtime: 11.30am to 12.30pm

Afternoon session: 12.30 to 3.00pm

First day at school

Nursery- You and your child will start in our Nursery class by attending for a one-hour session. They will arrive at the Nursery door at their given time. Providing that they have been happy and settled they will attend their second day on their own for a full session and remain on full sessions for the rest of the year. This could be staggered over a matter of days but we aim to have all children attending full sessions by the end of the week. Your child's start date will be given to you at the induction meeting or via the class DOJO.

Reception- You and your child will start in our Reception class by attending one morning session. They will arrive at the Reception door at their given time. Providing that they have been happy and settled they will attend their second day on their own for a full session and remain on full sessions for the rest of the year. This will be staggered over a matter of days

but we aim to have all children attending full sessions by the end of the week. Your child's start date will be given to you at the induction meeting or via the class DOJO.

"Children settle well into the early years. Adults provide stimulating activities that engage and interest the children" (Ofsted 2019)

Home Time

Please collect your child from the classroom doors at 11.30 for Nursery and for Reception at 3.00pm. Children must only be collected by a recognised adult who is listed on the consent form. Parents must give a password to the class teacher and if another adult is collecting your child, they MUST give this password. Pupils will not be released to an unfamiliar adult.



What is the EYFS?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children develop, learn and are kept healthy and safe. Our outdoor learning area is as important as the inside learning environment with carefully planned activities that help children to develop and make excellent progress.

The Seven Areas of Learning and Development

The 3 prime areas ensure children have the core skills to learn.

The **prime** areas are:

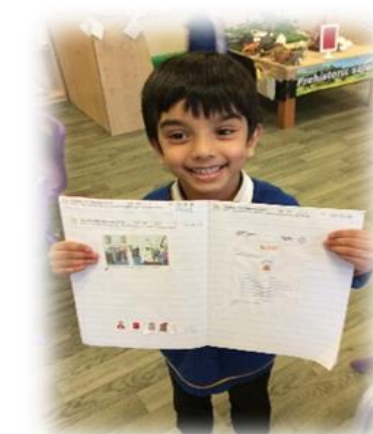
Communication and Language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment: to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves: and to speak and listen in a range of situations.



Physical Development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; to have confidence in their own abilities.

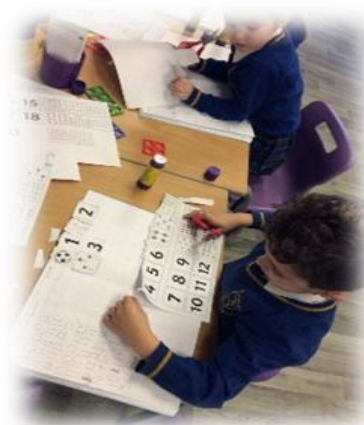


The four specific areas are:

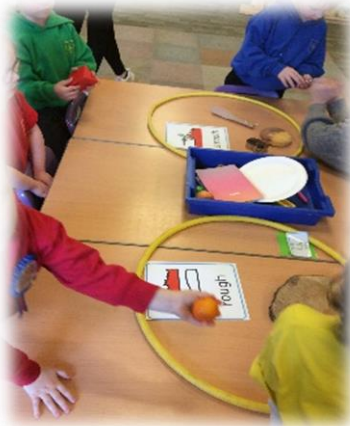
Literacy involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write using a wide range of reading materials including books, poems, and other written materials to ignite their interest.



Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.



Understanding the World involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.



Expressive Arts and Design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.



“The quality of teaching is good. Language skills are well promoted and there is a real buzz of conversation as children learn and play. A varied range of exciting opportunities are available for children to develop their reading, writing, scientific and mathematical skills” (Ofsted 2019).

Starting to Read

Reading is the key to academic success; it is proven that children who enjoy reading at home do better in school. The first, most important thing is to encourage a love of books and make reading a pleasure. Reading at St Antony’s is taught through Little Wandle resources: stories, guided group reading and individual reading books. Please see our school website for more information. <https://www.stantonysrc.co.uk/phonics/>

Reading Diary

When your child is given a reading diary, we ask that you write a comment and date each time your child has read with you. These books can also be used as a communication tool and should be returned to school each day please.

Special Educational Needs

Every child has the right to the best education that can be offered; this means our staff are highly trained using the latest educational research and that they develop their curriculum to be inclusive and representative of our community. We ensure all children are given the support that they require to meet their entitlement.

If your child needs additional, individual support, this means they may have an additional need and we will seek advice from experts to support them in the best way. As a school, we work hard to identify, monitor and seek support and guidance through the Local Offer and SENDS support services. Children diagnosed with Special Educational Needs are given tailored plans, reviewed termly by teachers and parents, to help them receive the support they need to ensure they thrive in school. Where necessary, children are supported further through interventions with direct adult supervision; this may be through our staff or specialist staff who come into school. We also ensure the success of SEND pupils by maintaining our school community as a safe and inclusive space so that every child feels part of our family.

[Local Offer link: https://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk/kb5/blackburn/directory/localoffer.page](https://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk/kb5/blackburn/directory/localoffer.page)

***'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.'**
(Ofsted 2019)*

Pupil Premium

Pupil premium is a grant given by the Government to support schools for resourcing their classrooms for children whose parents are in receipt of any of the following: Income Support. Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit. If you are not sure then please ask us as it could greatly benefit your children.

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-meals>

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach. **Romans 12:6-7***

Your child will be provided with one free reading book bag and one free school tie when they join our school. Children in receipt of pupil premium will also receive a logo embossed school jumper.

School Uniform

At St Antony's we encourage children to dress smartly and we encourage you to share in our high expectation of appearance. Please help us by ensuring that your child is always smart, clean and tidy and that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Boys

- White shirt with top button and collar
- School tie
- Royal blue and gold school logo jumper
- Black tailored trousers
- Black shoes (not trainers) shoes with Velcro fasteners are ideal
- In Summer boys may wear black shorts.

Girls

- White shirt with top button and collar
- School tie
- Royal blue and gold school logo jumper
- Checked pattern school skirt or pinafore
- Black shoes (not trainers and flat heeled)
- In Summer girls may wear a blue checked gingham dress.



PE Kits

- T shirt colour to match house team, plain with school logo
- Black nylon shorts
- Black pumps
- Draw string PE bag

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8

Jewellery

We do not allow jewellery in school as it can be dangerous. If you wish to get your child's ears pierced, please do so at the beginning of Summer. Earrings must be removed for school in September.



Class DOJO

Whilst your child attends St Antony's we invite you to join class and school DOJO. This is a safe application that can be downloaded to your mobile phone or computer. Class DOJO allows the class teacher to send you messages and photos of your child's learning. There will be lots of information about what is happening in your child's classroom so that you can become engaged in their learning.

“Children's individual development is captured in detail in learning records. These clearly highlight the good progress that current children are making. Positive relationships have been established with parents. They take an active part in their children's learning.” (Ofsted 2019).

Good to be Green







At St Antony's we believe that children should be rewarded for the good behaviour and use a “good to be green” system throughout school. It follows our school Prayers for Life where children are rewarded for showing their resilience, care, thankfulness and generosity through their hard work, friendships and attitudes. If your child follows the rules and routines, they will be invited to a half-termly treat or visits outside of school or activities in school.

Prayers for Life

At St Antony's we teach children that we are here on God's earth to be the best we can be and to do His work. We believe the children should learn behaviour through Gospel values, and that good behaviour should come from the heart because it is the right thing to do, not just because you might be told off!



We use the following Prayers for Life to guide the children on their faith and learning journey.

-  **Dear Jesus, help me to forgive.**
-  **Dear Jesus, help me to share what I have.**
-  **Dear Jesus, help me never to give up.**
-  **Dear Jesus, help me to care for others.**
-  **Dear Jesus, help me to always say thank-you.**
-  **Dear Jesus, help me to be generous.**

Safeguarding

Here at St Antony's we pride ourselves on the safety of all our children. All staff are regularly updated with Safeguarding training and all parents must engage with our password system to ensure the safety of all children.

DSL (Designated Safeguarding Leads) are Pastoral Manager Ms Ali and Head Teacher Mrs McGowan, Deputy DSL is Deputy head Mrs Malak.

Safeguarding & Child Protection Statement and Pastoral Manager (Ms Ali)

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. Where it is believed that a child is at risk of or is suffering significant harm, the school will follow the procedures set out in the Blackburn with Darwen Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Procedures.

These are available in electronic form at: <http://www.lscb.org.uk> <https://st-antonys-rc->

[primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/](http://www.lscb.org.uk) [Mental Health and Well Being](https://st-antonys-rc-)

When your child joins St Antony's school your family becomes our family. The well-being of our children is paramount and we have devised a strong curriculum that will focus on the well-being and mental health of all our children. Through a focussed approach we will seek to develop children's understanding of their feelings and emotions, special people around them, resilience, meaning and purpose, healthy body, healthy mind and relaxation. Our family support Mrs Ali is always on hand to support your family through life's ups and downs. A happy home means a happy child.

Ms Ali runs a Parenting course in school covering topics such as parental wellbeing, parenting styles, behaviour management; age appropriate milestones e.g. sleep routines, self-care and toilet training etc. Ms Ali can also support families that may be struggling with a listening ear, through a hardship grant for white goods or food parcels or signposting on for support with housing, debt and counselling etc. She can also offer family support more formally through a CAF. Ms Ali is our Senior mental health Lead and Mrs McGowan is also a mental health first aider and are always happy for parents to call in for a chat. Parent drop ins run every Friday morning in the community Hub Library. Everyone is welcome for brews, biscuits and cake. Sometimes we have special guests from support agencies and once every half term we have a SEND drop in.

Attendance and Punctuality

Children must attend school regularly and on time. If your child is ill, please inform school as soon as possible by ringing the office and leaving a message or dojo the office manager Mrs Saunders. You may receive a phone call requesting evidence for your absence. The school office should also be notified of medical appointments in advance; routine appointments should be made out of school time. Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success. Every day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Persistent late arrival

after the register has closed is also considered to be very disruptive to your child and to the rest of class.

Taking your child on holiday/leave during term time

At St Antony's RC, we follow the Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority policy regarding leave of absence. We do not grant leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any parental application for leave in exceptional circumstances must be made at least 4 weeks in advance. The Head teacher will consider if the individual circumstances warrant leave being granted. Retrospective approval will not be given.

Breakfast Club

We have a very successful Breakfast Club which is available every day from 8.00am in the school hall. Breakfast club begins at 8.00am and is only £1.00 a day, children can choose from a selection of cereal, toast, juice and milk.

Teatime Club

Teatime club runs from 3.00pm until 5.00pm each day. Our teatime club is based in our beautiful community hub and is staffed by our own St Antony's staff so that the children already know them well. Each session costs £5 and includes a snack, picnic tea and organised art, craft and sports activities. Places should be booked online through our School payment system, in advance. Places are restricted to 10 places per session for working parents so please book early to secure your place.

Healthy Snacks

Children are provided with a piece of fresh fruit every day which is free of charge. Milk is also available every day and is free until your child reaches the age of 5, when there is then a small charge each term. All Reception pupils are allowed to bring a clearly named water bottle.

School Lunches

At St Antony's we encourage school lunches, as we believe that learning to eat together with good table manners is very important. Children are encouraged to try a range of foods. School lunches are freshly prepared on site and are currently Government funded for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children are able to choose from three healthy options, one of which is suitable for vegetarians. Our school cook Mrs Saunders can cater for particular dietary requirements such as allergies.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask and please do look at our school website for more information. <https://www.stantonysrc.co.uk/>

We cannot wait for September!

Mrs Macneal, Mrs Duxbury and the St Antony's Team.