



DEAN CLOSE
ST JOHN'S
CHEPSTOW

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN





Hello!

This booklet is here to help you and your child settle into Kindergarten life, and to answer any questions you might have about their first step towards school.

Our Kindergarten is designed to nurture your child in a pre-prep setting, ensuring that they are emotionally and educationally confident to start their reception year.

The children spend time with reception, year 1 and year 2, and will be gradually introduced to everything school life has to offer.



OUR DAY

Breakfast Club

8.00am – 8.20am

Registration

8.20am

Lunch

12.00 – 1:00pm

Home time

3.30pm

Late-stay

3.30pm – 6.00pm

Please note there is no after school care from 4.30pm on Exeats and 3.15pm at End of Half term and End of Term.



Early Years Foundation Stage

As Kindergarten is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, we broadly follow the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, which sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five.

Every child learns in different ways and so we ensure that our activities and environment are tailored to meet each and every learning style.

Playing and Exploring

Active Learning

Creating & Critical Thinking

Our approach is topic-based – this means we take the seven areas of learning and development and blend them into a theme that our children can really get stuck into.

Personal, social & emotional development

Literacy

Communication & Language

Mathematics

Understanding of the world

Physical development

Expressive arts & design

Activities are both child and adult led. Children can choose from the large selection of resources and areas within the room according to their own interests, during which an adult will observe and encourage them to develop skills within their play. Adult led activities are directed at specific areas of development, based on children's interests / next steps, in small groups or one-to-one.

Tapestry

our online learning journal

We make observations throughout the day to see where your child may need further support or greater challenge. Staff will record their findings on Tapestry, our online learning journal which will be available for you to see and interact with at any time.



Our Classroom



Our classroom is a bright and cheerful place for young children. It includes all the usual things you see in a welcoming and engaging Early Years classroom, such as sand and water, paint and construction.

There are regular opportunities for Kindergarten and Reception children to mix together socially, and the children have free-flow access to outdoor activities in their grassy outside area.

There is also a cloakroom and dedicated toilets within the classroom for children to use.

Clubs & Activities

Swimming, forest school, music and French are part of the Kindergarten curriculum and we're pleased to offer them free of charge. There are also a variety of school clubs which run between 3.30pm and 4.15pm. Look out for the clubs letter at the start of term.

Please bring

Swimming Costume

Towel

Bag

Goggles (not necessary)

Armbands (not necessary)



What will your child need?

Please ensure that everything brought into school is clearly labelled with your child's name. We recommend that your child comes to Kindergarten every day with:

- Spare clothes: trousers, tops, pants, socks
- Appropriate shoes for playing outside/running (e.g. trainers)
- Raincoat/winter coat
- Wellies (to keep at Kindergarten)
- Sunhat and sun cream for hot weather
- Any creams they may require
- School bag for bringing home their creations and communication book
- Forest School all-in-one
- Swimming kit
- Water bottles
- PE kit

Uniform

Our Kindergarten children wear the same uniform as our Reception class, which is listed below. A school coat and bag is also available should you wish. Uniform Shop opening dates and times over the summer holidays will be announced soon.

Summer

Blue gingham dress/navy shorts

White shirt

Navy school jumper

White/navy socks

Black shoes

Winter

White shirt

Navy school jumper

Navy pinafore/navy school trousers

Navy socks or tights

Black shoes

Our Food

We follow a routine based around the children's learning and developmental needs, offering a healthy and varied menu that includes vegetarian and vegan options. Our produce is high quality and sourced locally. Please let us know if your child has any dietary requirements so that we can cater for these. Fruit is offered as a snack and drinks are provided in named cups and bottles throughout the day. We are a strictly nut and sesame free

Breakfast

8:00am- 8:20am in the dining room (additional charge)

Mid-morning snack

Fruit and milk

Lunch

12.00pm cooked meal in our school dining room. We always sit with the children to help them eat a balanced meal

Afternoon Snack

Drink and a biscuit.

Late stay snack

4:30pm in late stay (in a Pre-Prep classroom)

School Holidays

Kindergarten is term time only, and will not operate during the holidays. However we are pleased to offer a fantastic holiday club based at the school, which can be booked in advance at an additional cost.

Medication

We are lucky to have a full time Health Care Coordinator on site. If your child needs a prescribed medicine, we'll ask you to complete a form giving us permission to administer this. Terms apply in relation to illness, certain medication and returning to school. Relevant policies are available on our school website.

If you have given paracetamol or ibuprofen to your child please can you inform us on arrival at Kindergarten.

If your child becomes unwell during their time in Kindergarten, you will be contacted and your child will receive the appropriate care.

Health

Staff need to be aware of your child's medical background, in particular, any allergies (e.g. bee stings, dairy food), any dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian or Halal) and any medical conditions that are important for us to know (e.g. asthma or eczema). Abi, our school Healthcare Coordinator will be in contact with you if we need any clarification.

Children can suddenly become ill and therefore it is important that we know we can contact you or another adult relative/friend at all times. Please ensure that the school is kept up to date with your contact details.

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please telephone us to let us know. In cases of vomiting or diarrhoea, your child should remain at home until 48 hours have elapsed since the last episode. In all cases of contagious diseases, the school should be informed immediately and medical clearance must be obtained before your child returns to school.

Wraparound Care

At St John's we know that working parents may have additional care needs for their children beyond the set school day. With this in mind we are happy to provide the following:

8.00am – 8.20am

Breakfast in the Dining hall

3.30pm – 4.15pm

Pre-Prep Clubs (see separate letter)

Or

3.30pm – 5.30pm

Late Stay with a member of Pre-Prep staff. Drink and biscuit provided, with bus children escorted to their bus at 4.25pm. Children may join Late Stay after their Club if additional childcare is required.

5.30 pm – 6pm

Late Stay continues in the Prep School and at 6pm a cooked tea is provided if previously booked in (at an additional cost). Children await collection from the Prep-School.

Please note there is no after school care from 4.30pm on Exeats and 3.15pm at end of Half term and end of Term.

Please can you ensure that your child's form teacher is informed of requirements for wraparound care. This can be done on a daily, weekly or termly basis. Please use the Home/School Diary Book for this purpose or email Mrs Ruddy.

We are aware that sometimes plans do have to change. If for any reason you will not be able to collect your child at the appointed time, or you have had to ask somebody else to collect your child, please leave a message on the school phone by text or WhatsApp. This means we can reassure your child and, of course, we will not allow any child to go home with anyone other than a parent or nominated guardian without permission.

Should you not be able to make it in time to collect your child at 6pm they will be taken to the Boarding House after tea.

Getting your child ready for Kindergarten

Encourage independence, for example, dressing and undressing, and going to the toilet. We are here to help, of course, if your child does need support.

Encourage using a knife and fork when eating.

Play listening games. Phase 1 Phonics is all about hearing specific sounds. You could go on a sound walk listening for specific sounds like bird song or cars. You will be given ideas of games to play by Mrs Bevan and Mrs Ruddy each week.

Play memory games: the tray game, pairs and jigsaw puzzles all build up visual memory which is needed for recognising letters and numbers.

Sing rhymes and songs. You could even make up your own rhymes and songs - this develops aural discrimination and hearing sounds within words.

Share stories, which builds up concentration and listening skills and develops a joy of books, reading and storytelling.

Use playdough and tools such as scissors to build up hand strength, ready for using mark making and writing tools.

Encourage sharing and turn taking: play games such as Snakes and Ladders, or Snap.

Count at every opportunity! For example: steps, toys, jumps, cutlery, looking for numbers in the environment.

Talk about shapes in the environment, for example 'Shall we go and sit next to the square flower pot?'

Use role play to model dealing with problems and finding solutions, and encourage them to use language in order to ask for help from a grown up.

Getting in touch

If you have any questions, concerns or simply need to get in touch about your child's day, we are available on:

School mobile

07471 350 704

School office

01291 62 2045

Head of Pre-Prep

Mrs June Ruddy

ruddyj@deanclosestjohns.org.uk

Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs Isabelle Bevan

bevani@deanclosestjohns.org.uk

Headmaster

Mr Nick Thrower

throwern@deanclosestjohns.org.uk



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