



St Christophers Academy

EYFS Handbook

2025-2026



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Welcome to St Christophers Academy

St Christophers Academy aims to create a caring and stimulating atmosphere for every child's learning and growth. The school recognises early childhood as an important phase for development and offers a curriculum that supports physical, social, emotional, and cognitive skills, utilising a curiosity approach. This method encourages children to explore, ask questions, and engage in hands-on activities, fostering critical thinking and creativity. The goal is to instil a love for learning, boost problem-solving abilities, and promote collaboration among children. Parents are encouraged to reach out with questions or concerns about their child's education and development.

Contact Details

- **Mr T Clarke, Executive Head teacher**
tclarke@bestacademies.org.uk
- **Miss Hayes, Head of School**
mhayes@bestacademies.org.uk
- **Mrs Chilakapati, Early Years Lead**
lchilakapati@bestacademies.org.uk
- **Mrs Hales, Reception Teacher**
vhales@bestacademies.org.uk
- **Mrs Mazzey, Reception Teacher**
cmazzey@bestacademies.org.uk
- **Miss Woolridge, School Office – Admissions**
sca-admin@bestacademies.org.uk
- **Mrs Lay, Family Worker**
klay@bestacademies.org.uk



Executive Principal, Mr Clarke,
and Head of School, Miss Hayes.

About Us

St Christophers Academy in Dunstable is a two-form entry primary school for children aged 2 to 11. It is part of the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST), focusing on high expectations, community support, and dedicated staff.

St Christophers Academy has a simple exterior but is spacious and welcoming inside. It has a warm atmosphere, a thoughtful layout, and a community-focused environment, making it a special place for everyone.

St Christophers Academy maintains high expectations for all children, promoting confidence and independence. The school emphasises community support and communication with families. Its main goal is to help each child reach their full potential through positive relationships and a quality curriculum with extracurricular activities.



Our Vision

At St Christophers Academy we are a community of ambition.

We open doors for children to enable them to exceed expectations. Our vision for our school is to be a safe community of happy, well-rounded individuals who aspire to achieve high standards in all of our endeavours.

Our Values

Ambition, community, respect and responsibility form the four core values of our school. These principles underpin every interaction and guide the decisions that we all make.

Our Aims

St Christophers Academy is committed to academic excellence, especially in reading, writing and maths, using research-based teaching and collaboration.

We value ensuring a broad, enriching curriculum in areas such as science, arts and sports by supporting personal development through clubs, trips and special events.

The diverse school community celebrates inclusion and is united in helping every child reach their potential.

Reception Staff



Mrs. Hales
Class Teacher
Wren Class



Mrs. Mazzey
Class Teacher
Sparrow Class



Miss. Hoda
Support Staff



Miss. Powell
Support Staff



Mrs. Oliver
Support Staff

Nursery Staff



Mrs. Chilakapati

Early Years Lead



Mrs. Bright

Room Lead



Miss. Hammond

Early Years Worker



Miss. Cracana

Early Years Worker



Mrs. Falace

Early Years Worker



Mrs. Shehu

Early Years Worker



Mrs. Young

Early Years Worker

Our Classrooms

Our classrooms are carefully designed to create a warm, welcoming and engaging environment, where children feel safe, valued and inspired to learn. Each classroom is set up to promote independence, curiosity and a love of learning through play and exploration.

Our purpose-built Nursery is warm and inviting, with a quiet, cosy area where children can relax and enjoy listening to or sharing a story. There are two main carpeted areas where children take part in adult-led group sessions, including early phonics, maths, and literacy activities. These areas also provide space for building and imaginative play. There is a separate area for our 2 year olds to engage in activities linked to their developmental needs although they do have access to the whole area. The role play supports children to re-enact their own experiences and is changed regularly to match the children's interests. The toilets are just the right size for the children to use, with sinks at an appropriate height to enable independence.



Our Outdoors

We see the outdoor classroom as essential part of our early years provision. Outdoor learning is not an optional learning extra but it is a vital extension of the indoor environment, where children can explore, create, problem solve and thrive in a natural setting. Children are encouraged to play in all weather conditions so please read the outdoor play section in order to understand how to accommodate for your children.

We know how important outside space is to all children and that many children learn best when they are outdoors. The children in our Nursery have daily access to the outside area. There is a canopied area to give shade in the summer as well as shelter from the rain. Our equipment provides the children with many opportunities to develop their skills. We even have a designated outside area for our 2 year olds and new starters.



Enrolment & Eligibility

Nursery/Pre-school

Children can start in the nursery the day after their second birthday. Many parents can access the new funding available from '**childcare choices**' currently at 15 hours, increasing to 30 hours in September 2025.

All children are entitled to access 15 hours of nursery education funding for their child from the term after their third birthday. We also offer 30 hours of funding to children of parents who are eligible. Please ask for more details at the school office.

Additional hours are available for nursery children by accessing the day care facility we provide. This can include a hot meal from the main school or, alternatively, children can bring in a packed lunch.

If you are interested in joining our nursery or preschool, please complete the request form on our website stating your preference of 5 mornings, 5 afternoons or full-time and return to school either in person or email **sca-admin@bestacademies.org.uk**.

If you would like to see our school please call **01582 500960** to make an appointment.

Enrolment & Eligibility

Reception

To apply for a place at St Christophers Academy and you are a Central Bedfordshire resident, visit their website for online applications or to download a form. For Luton residents, go to Luton Borough Council's website. Admission follows the statutory Admissions Code. For questions, call **01582500960** or email **sca-admin@bestacademies.org.uk**.

In-year admission to St Christophers Academy after the academic year starts is managed by the Central Bedfordshire School Admissions Team. To apply, contact them at **0300 300 8037** if you live within Central Bedfordshire. For Luton residents, contact the Luton Borough Council Admissions Team at **01582 548016**.

If the desired year group is full, applications may be denied, and parents will be advised to consider other options. For unsuccessful applications, parents can appeal by contacting the School Admissions Team.

For more information, please visit our website. We welcome school visits and tours.

Funding & Fees

Our current fees are £17 per session for 2 year olds and £16 per session for 3 year olds. Fees are calculated by the number of sessions per term and not by attendance. There are no reductions for holidays or absences.

15 hours funding is available to all children the term after their third birthday. Some families may be entitled to an additional 15 hours if they meet the criteria. You will be given a code once your application has been successful and this will need to be shared with us.

There is also funding for 2 year olds available. We are currently awaiting further information regarding the recent announcement to increase funding to 2 year olds.

If you are unsure of the options available to you or need to apply for the 30 hours funding then please visit the below government website.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

PLEASE NOTE if your child is full time (Monday-Friday) there will be a small cost of £12.50 to cover the additional 2.5hrs OR you can collect your child at 12.45pm on a Friday.

Nursery & Reception Timings

Here at St Christophers Nursery we accept children from aged 2 until they are ready to start school.

We have a wonderful environment for our preschoolers starting school the following September and our younger 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds. You are welcome to visit so please contact us to arrange a tour.

Opening times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8.45 - 15.15 term time only

We also offer wrap-around care for all our nursery children from 7.45am - 6pm if required.

you would like to visit the nursery to have a look around, please phone to arrange a suitable time.

For all enquiries please contact us via:-

Email: sca-admin@bestacademies.org.uk

Call: 01582 500960

Please visit our website to see if you are eligible for free childcare.

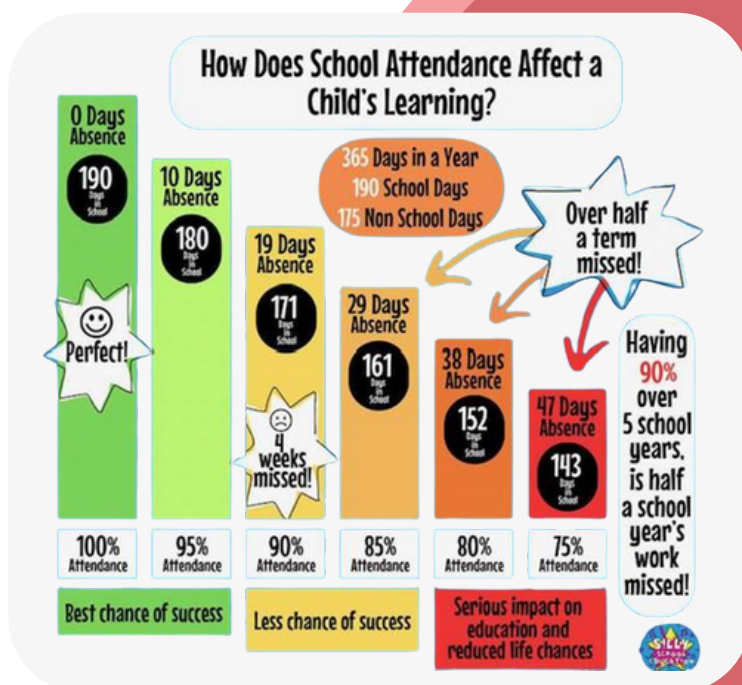
Attendance

Attend today and achieve tomorrow! Attendance in school is vital for your child future, and we work closely with families to promote good attendance. Holidays during term time are not authorised and have been proven to have a negative effect on children learning and their ability to achieve.

Punctuality is also extremely important as lateness not only disrupts the class but also results in lost learning time. Arriving 15 minutes late each school day results in 33 hours lost learning in the school year.

If your child is unwell and you are unsure if they can attend school check out the NHS advice page

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Drop Off & Collection

If someone other than a parent is picking up a child from nursery or reception, schools usually ask for a password for safety. The parent gives this password to the school, which the adult must then provide to the teacher. Without the password or prior notice, the child cannot be released. Some schools may also ask for ID from the adult.

Here is a detailed breakdown:

- **Parent/Guardian Notification:**
Parents or guardians must inform the school (either through a phone call or by speaking to staff) if someone different from the usual collector will be picking up their child.
- **Password System:**
A password, previously communicated to the school, is a key security measure. The person collecting the child must know and provide this password to the teacher.
- **Identification:**
Some schools may also ask for identification from the person collecting the child, especially if they are not a recognised or frequently seen individual.
- **Unsure of Identity:**
If the teacher is unsure of the identity of the person collecting the child, even with a password, they will attempt to contact the parents for confirmation before releasing the child.
- **Safety First:**
The primary concern is the child's safety, and schools will prioritise this by ensuring that the child is only released to authorised individuals.

Security & Visitation

This policy highlights the importance of visitors at St Christophers Academy for enhancing the school's environment. It emphasises security while encouraging respectful behaviour from all pupils and adults.

Visitor Guidelines:

- Enter and leave by the sign posted entrances and exits.
- Sign in at the main reception (photo ID and appropriate lanyard will be issued)
- Read the key safeguarding information at the front desk.
- Wear the issued lanyard at all times.
- Sign out and return their lanyard to reception before they leave.
- Dress in a way that is appropriate for a school setting.
- Keep information relating to pupils and staff confidential.
- Pass any cause of concern to the main reception immediately – the appropriate member of staff will then be contacted to deal with the concern.
- Understand the fire evacuation guidance issued by reception staff

Visitor Information:

- Lanyard colours indicate visitor clearance
- green for clearance
- yellow for visitors with DBS
- red for those without DBS who are accompanied by SCA staff.
- Regular visitors undergo the same safeguarding checks as staff, must sign in and out at main reception, and wear their lanyard visibly.
- Upon arrival, visitors receive fire evacuation guidance and mobile phone use policies.
- Confidentiality regarding pupil information is crucial, and any concerns must be reported to reception for the safeguarding team.
- All visitors must wear their lanyards, and staff should challenge anyone without proper identification.

Wraparound Care

St Christophers are delighted to provide a Breakfast and After School Club during term time.

We offer split sessions and sibling discounts.

Our club is lead by a team of staff directly employed by the school. All staff are fully qualified to work with children and some also hold other roles within the school.

Our **Breakfast Club** is open from 7:45am to 8:40am, breakfast is prepared and provided until 8:20am. At the end of the breakfast club session children are escorted to their class by a member of club staff.

Our **Afterschool Club** open at 3:30, children are escorted to club by their class teacher and are provided with a healthy snack. They then have the opportunity to play games, inside and outside as well as have quiet time to watch tv, read, board games or complete their homework.

Afterchool Sessions are:

Breakfast **7:30-8:40pm**

Session 1 **3.15pm - 4.30 pm**

Middle Session **4.30pm - 5-15pm**

Full session **4.30pm - 6.00pm**

School Meals

To order school meals, create a School Grid account by giving your email to the school office. You'll receive login details to pre-order meals, view allergens, and make payments online or by phone (**minimum £10**).

For meal or payment questions, contact Dolce Customer Care (**01942 707709** or **customercare@dolce.co.uk**). For tech issues with School Grid, contact **support@live-kitchen.co.uk**. Meal fees for nursery are **£2.62 per day** (in addition to day care).

Example of a school menu:

| | WEEK 1 Week's Starting: 9th April, 30th April, 21st May, 11th June, 2nd July, 23rd July | WEEK 2 WEEK'S STARTING: 16th April, 7th May, 28th May, 18th June, 9th July | WEEK 3 WEEK'S STARTING: 23rd April, 14th May, 4th June, 25th June, 16th July |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| MONDAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pizza Margherita ✓ • Bacon and Sweetcorn Pasta • Vegetable Hot Pot ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Pasta • Sweetcorn • Garden Peas • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Lancashire Cookie • Strawberry Delight • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pizza Margherita ✓ • Turkey Curry & Rice • Macaroni Cheese ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Pasta • Carrots • Broccoli • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Peach Crumble and Custard • Chocolate Crunch • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pizza Margherita ✓ • Creamy Pasta Carbonara • Vegetarian Spaghetti Bolognese ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Garlic Bread • Sweetcorn • Broccoli • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Chocolate Angel Whip • Jam Scone • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit |
| TUESDAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roast Chicken Breast • Minced Beef Pudding & Gravy • Cauliflower Cheese ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Roast Potatoes • Broccoli • Carrots • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Pear & Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce • Crispy Biscuits • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottage Pie & Gravy • Vegetarian Shepherd's Pie ✓ • Chicken Mayonnaise Baguette • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Seasonal Vegetables • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Fruit Cocktail with Ice Cream • Shortbread • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional All Day Breakfast • Vegetarian All Day Breakfast ✓ • Mexican Beany Parcel ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Rice • Baked Beans • Carrots • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Eves Pudding and Custard • Crumbly Cookie with Jam Filling • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit |
| WEDNESDAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baked Sausage & Gravy • Cheese & Tomato Pin Wheels ✓ • Vegetable Crumble & Gravy ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Creamed Potatoes • Baked Beans • Carrot & Swede • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Scotch Bread • Rice Pudding • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roast Chicken Breast & Gravy • Vegebangers & Gravy ✓ • Spanish Omelette ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Roast Potatoes • Green Cabbage • Carrots • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Chocolate Cookie • Chelsea Buns • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minced Beef Pie • Cheese & Tomato Pin Wheels ✓ • Vegetable Burger ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • New Potatoes • Broccoli • Cauliflower • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Vanilla Cookie • Arctic Roll • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit |
| THURSDAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Curry & Rice • Vegetable Curry with Rice ✓ • Cheese & Bean Parcel Wrap ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Seasonal Salad • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Gingerbread Man • Ice Cream • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sausage Roll • Cheese & Tomato Pin Wheels ✓ • Vegetable Chilli with Rice ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Oven Baked Baby Potatoes • Peas & Sweetcorn • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Paris Sandwich • Jelly • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roast Chicken Breast • Beef Lasagne • Baked Bean Lasagne ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Roast Potatoes • Green Cabbage • Carrots • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Oat Cookies • Chocolate Crisple • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit |
| FRIDAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Fingers • Breaded Fish Fillet • Cheese & Egg Flan ✓ • Wrap (choice of fillings) • Chips • Rice • Peas & Sweetcorn • Mushy Peas • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Tomato Ketchup • Jelly & Peaches • Iced Fingers • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Fingers • Salmon Fish Fingers • Pasta Neopolitan ✓ • Baguette (choice of fillings) • Chips • Baked Beans • Sweetcorn • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Tomato Ketchup • Fruity Flapjack • Vanilla Muffin • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Fingers • Breaded Fish Fillet • Cheese Wrap ✓ • Jacket Potato (choice of fillings) • Chips • Spaghetti Hoops • Garden Peas • Salad Bar • Fresh Bread • Tomato Ketchup • Jelly & Mandarines • Chocolate Muffin • Yoghurt • Fresh Fruit |

Packed Lunch

Alternatively children are welcome to bring a healthy lunchbox with them.

Guidelines for the contents of a healthy packed lunch

Packed lunches may include:

- At least one portion of fruit and or vegetable (this could include a dried fruit)
- Meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein (e.g. lentils, chick peas, hummus)
- A sandwich that includes a savoury filling (e.g. egg, tuna, cheese, cooked meat)
- A starchy food such as bread, pasta, rice, noodles
- Dairy food such as cheese, yogurt, fromage frais
- A smoothie or yogurt drink
- A bottle of water or appropriate fruit juice drink
- A biscuit (it may be chocolate coated but try to make this a treat rather than the norm)
- Crisps or other such snack such as seeds, savoury crackers, breadsticks etc

Packed lunches should avoid:

- Confectionery such as chocolate bars and sweets.
- Fizzy drinks.
- **ALL** nut products.

Snack Time

All children in Early Years receive free fruit. They will also receive free milk up until they turn 5. Once they are 5 they can continue to have milk but you need to purchase this through www.coolmilk.com.

Please do not send your child in with any alternative snacks.

We ask all children to bring in a named water bottle each day. Please ensure that this **ONLY** contains water. We do not allow fruit juices or squash in their bottles.

Children in reception will have an allocated snack time whereas children in Nursery will participate in “Rolling Snack”. This is where the children can help themselves for fruit, vegetables, milk and water by using tongs and serving themselves with drinks to develop fine motor skills and social skills.



Reception Essentials

Please have a look below at what we think are the essentials.

Please make sure everything is labelled.

Bag



Top

Trousers

Socks

Underwear

Water Bottle

Wellies

Wet Wipes



Children are welcome to bring comfort toys and blankets for settling in but please refrain from bringing toys and snacks.

Nursery Essentials

Please have a look below at what we think are the essentials.

Please make sure everything is labelled.

Bag



Top x2

Trousers x2

Socks x2

Underwear x2

Wellies



Wet Wipes



Nappies or Pull Ups (if child is in nappies)

Nappy Sacks



Children are welcome to bring comfort toys and blankets for settling in but please refrain from bringing toys, food, dummies and baby bottles.

School Uniform

PLEASE NOTE:

Reception children have P.E every Friday and have to come to school in their P.E kits. Nursery children have P.E every Wednesday and do not have to wear P.E kits.

ALL PUPILS ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM

Many items of school uniform can be obtained at most children's clothing stores. However, a selection of items are available from our web shop supplier at www.bldirect.co.uk or from Best Look Uniform Shop.

Please note Items marked with an * on the list below are essential items and are only available from our web shop.

Please ensure all items of clothing MUST be named. If an item is lost, please inform the teacher as soon as possible

WINTER

Red school logo jumper or cardigan* White polo top Year 1 – 6, Red polo top for Nursery, preschool and Reception Grey school trousers, dress or school skirt/tunic Grey tights Plain black flat shoes (no training shoes).

SUMMER

As above Or Red & white gingham summer dress or smart grey shorts All children's shorts, skirts and dresses should be the correct colour and their length should be no shorter than halfway down your child's upper leg.

INDOOR

Students need a white t-shirt, red striped PE shorts, a school logo red fleece hoodie or jumper/cardigan, and indoor plimsolls or trainers.

OUTDOOR

Students require the same indoor kit plus plain grey or black jogging bottoms and outdoor trainers. All items should be named, and any lost item must be reported to the teacher. Reception children must wear their P. E. kit on P. E. days, while Nursery children can wear their regular uniform. Long hair must be tied back for safety, and extreme hairstyles or large hair accessories are not allowed.

OTHER INFORMATION

Students must keep long hair tied back for safety and to reduce head lice spread. Extreme hairstyles and large hair accessories are not permitted. Jewelry is not allowed except for one pair of plain studs. Makeup, including nail varnish and temporary tattoos, is also prohibited. School shoes must be black and plain. Students may wear hijabs in school colors, but they should be easily removable. If uniform is lost, students must report it immediately, as the school is not responsible for lost items.

Outdoor Play

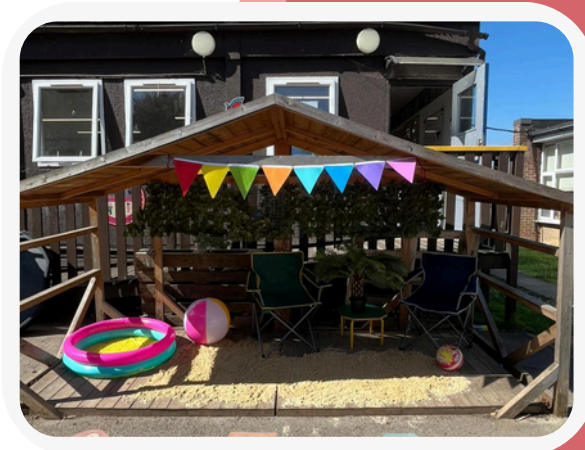
The outdoor environment plays a very important part in the Early Years and enriches and broadens the curriculum. We are very lucky at St Christophers Academy to have such a large outdoor area for the children to use all year round. The children in Early years have access to the outdoor area for the majority of the school day.

As your children will be outside in all weathers it is essential that your child has appropriate clothing for all types of weather;

- Cold weather – hats, gloves, wellies and warm coats.
- Warm weather – sun cream, sun hat and a light coat.

Children are able to leave some wellington boots at school for everyday use. When they want to take part in gardening or digging for worms! Please make sure they are named.

Please note that messy activities take place outdoors and although we provide aprons children do still get messy, therefore light coloured or expensive coats are not appropriate.



Medication

If your child takes regular medicine, such as asthma inhalers, these need to be taken to the main office at the start of each term and a form is completed.

If your child is prescribed a short term course of medicine they need to take 4 times a day then please take it to the main office and collect it from there each day.

Please do not send any medicines into school with your child or in their bags. This includes lip balms. We do have children and staff with allergies and this is to keep everyone safe.

We do allow suntan lotion to be brought in on hot days although we do recommend the once a day lotions as at this age our children do struggle to apply it. If you do bring in lotion please make sure it is named and it will stay in your child's bag until they are asked to reapply it.

Key Information

Key Person

Each child in nursery is assigned a key person to tailor activities to their needs. This person supports settling in and gathers important information while the whole team collaborates for a complete view of the child.

Parents Role

Parents/carers are the most important people in a child's life. Parents/carers know their children and can provide a very valuable insight into the young children that we have in our care. At St Christophers we recognise this and ensure that we work closely with parents/carers at all times.

Tapestry

We use an online tool called 'Tapestry' to take photos and videos of children's learning throughout the year. You can download an app to track their progress and send us updates from home. Each week, you'll receive an observation about what the children have learned and other key moments. Individual observations are available via the app or website, based on when your child achieves something notable.

Session Times

Monday to Friday (Term Time only)

Morning Session 8.45 – 11.45

Afternoon Session 12.15 – 3.15

All day provision available – 8.45 – 3.15

Reception Timings – 8.45 – 3.15

A Typical Day in our Setting

We organise our sessions so that the children can choose from, and work at, a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small group activities which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others.

Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided indoors. The setting offers a free-flow play environment where the children can access both the indoor and outdoor environment in equal measure throughout the session. The setting caters for children's individual needs for rest and quiet activities during the day.

Snacks and meals are a social time, we provide a rolling morning and afternoon snack each day. There is a choice of milk or water to drink and a choice of fruit to eat. At certain times other food will be available according to our themes and celebrations. Please do tell us about your child's dietary needs so that we can make sure that these needs are met.

Learning in our Setting

At St Christophers Academy we aspire to be a setting:

- Where children are keen to come to school and have an eagerness to learn.
- Where children can develop their friendships and learn social skills and independence that will support them to learn and grow.
- Which provides a nurturing and safe environment and where we understand that the emotional and physical wellbeing of our children is paramount if they are to learn effectively.
- Where we are good at identifying aptitudes and abilities in our children and do our best to develop them.
- Where we put an emphasis on creativity, fun and enjoyment to inspire and motivate our children to learn.
- Where we challenge and extend our children's thinking and the very highest expectations of what they can achieve.
- Where we prepare children well for the next steps in their education.
- Which is forward thinking, innovative and open to new ideas.
- Which is well thought of and play an active part in the local and wider community.

Reception Timetable

8.55 Morning Routine & Register

9.00 Phonics

9.45 Talk for Writing

10.15 Snack Time & Story Time

10.30 Break time

10.45 Maths

11.30 Lunch & Playground Time

12.30 Afternoon Routine & Register

12.45 Understanding the World (Geography, History, Science, IT)

13.15 Interventions

13.45 Free Flow Play

14:45 Tidy Up Time

15:00 Singing Time

15:15 Home Time

Nursery Timetable

8.55 Morning Routine & Registration

9.00 Phonics

9.15 Literacy Groups

9.30 Interventions

10.00 Maths Groups

10.15 Free Play, Snack Time, Nappies & Toilet

11.15 Tidy Up Time

11.30 Lunch & Playground Time

12:30 Afternoon Register

12:40 Phonics

12:50 Literacy Groups

13:05 Interventions

13:35 Maths Groups

13:50 Free Flow Play & Snack Time

15:00 Singing Time

15:15 Home Time

EYFS Curriculum

Early Years Foundation Stage

At St Christophers Academy, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, which sets the standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to age five.

Our Vision

We believe the early years lay the foundations for lifelong learning. Our EYFS curriculum offers a safe, inclusive, and stimulating environment where every child is valued, nurtured, and encouraged to reach their full potential through play, exploration, and meaningful experiences.

The EYFS Curriculum organised into seven areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Our curriculum is shaped using a combination of Development Matters and Birth to 5 Matters, ensuring a broad, balanced, and developmentally appropriate experience for all learners.



The Principle of EYFS

The four principles of the EYFS underpin all the guidance in Birth to 5 Matters, which is designed to show how these principles work together for children in the EYFS.

All children develop in unique ways and not in a straight line. Their development requires positive relationships and supportive environments that foster engagement and acknowledge their strengths. Each child has their own curiosity and agency to learn, which shapes their interactions with others and the world. Understanding these differences is key to supporting their growth.



Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

EYFS Statutory Framework

Practitioners

- observe and understand each child's development and learning, assess progress, plan for and act on next steps
- support babies and children to develop a positive sense of their own identity and culture
- identify any need for additional support
- keep children safe
- value and respect all children and families equally

Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.

EYFS Statutory Framework

Positive relationships are

- warm and loving, and foster a sense of belonging
- sensitive and responsive to the child's individual needs, feelings and interests
- supportive of the child's own efforts and independence
- consistent in setting clear boundaries
- stimulating
- built on key person relationships in early years settings

Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments** with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time.

EYFS Statutory Framework

Enabling Environments

- value all people
 - value development and learning
- They offer
- stimulating resources and spaces, inside and outside, relevant to all the children's cultures and communities
 - rich learning opportunities through play and playful teaching
 - support for children to take risks and explore

(Recognise the importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn at different rates.

EYFS Statutory Framework

Learning and Development

- Practitioners teach children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the Prime and Specific areas of development and learning.
- They foster the characteristics of effective early learning
- Playing and exploring
 - Active learning
 - Thinking creatively and critically

More EYFS Information

Our Approach to Teaching

We plan a carefully sequenced, text-based curriculum using high-quality stories and books to drive learning across all areas. This develops children's vocabulary, comprehension, and love for reading.

- Talk for Writing builds strong foundations in language and literacy.
- Master the Curriculum supports deep understanding in Maths.
- EAL children are supported with language-rich stories, vocabulary focus, and immersive learning environments.

Our provision includes Forest School-inspired learning, child-initiated activities, and high-quality continuous provision.

Inclusion and Support

- Pupil Premium children benefit from resources, trips, visitors, and targeted interventions.
- SEND children have personalised support plans, access to sensory rooms, sensory circuits, and SEND corners.
- EAL children benefit from a rich language environment and visual storytelling.

Working in Partnership with Parents

- Fun Fridays – Join in classroom learning.
- Wow Wednesdays – Be a secret reader or showcase your skills.
- Tapestry – Online journal for progress sharing and home contributions.
- Talk Time & Floor Books – Children reflect on their learning; families can share ideas.
- Library Books – Taken home regularly.



More EYFS Information

We also offer:

- Parent consultation meetings twice a year.
- Written reports twice a year.
- An open-door policy for parent communication.

Assessment and Progress

- Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) identifies starting points.
- Ongoing assessments are recorded in Tapestry.
- End of year ELGs determine if a child has achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD).

Parents are kept informed through regular updates, consultations, and reports.



Learning Starts at Home

You play a big part in your child's learning. Here are some simple ways to help at home:

- Read together every day: Reading is the key to learning! We send home reading books and library books each week, please enjoy them together.
- Practise phonics and early reading: We will send home the sounds and words your child is learning. Little and often makes a big difference.
- Encourage writing and drawing: Let your child use crayons, pencils, and paper to make marks, draw, or write.
- Use numbers in everyday life: Count steps, look for numbers on signs, and play simple number games, find shapes in the environment.
- Talk and listen: Chat about your day, ask questions, and encourage your child to share their thoughts.
- Support independence: Let your child practise getting dressed, tidying up, and doing things by themselves.
- Play together: Build, paint, cook, dance, and explore outdoor. Learning through play is powerful and fun!

We will keep sharing ideas and updates through the year. If you need more tips, just speak to us. We are always happy to help!



Our Planning & Continuous Provision

Our Early Years Foundation Stages planning is built on the belief that children learn best through purposeful play, exploration, and meaningful experiences.

We plan a rich and engaging curriculum based on the EYFS Statutory Framework, tailored to meet the needs, interests, and developmental stages of every child. We adapt our planning based on the children's needs, interests, guided by what we observe in the children each day. This includes adult-led sessions (such as phonics, maths, and story times) alongside child-initiated learning through play.

Our continuous provision is the carefully planned environment that remains in place throughout the day and across the week. It is designed to give children the opportunity to revisit and deepen their learning independently. Each area of our classroom, both indoors and outdoors, is carefully set up with resources that support all areas of learning and development.

School Dog Policy

Torran is our school dog owned by Miss Hayes, he mostly stays in the reception office where children are taken to him for 'Torran time'. Torran is a very happy, easy going and incredibly lazy dog! He is very sociable, gentle and enjoys getting to spend time with adults and children as much as they enjoy spending it with him. He occasionally joins Miss Hayes on learning walks. Any interaction with Torran will be planned in advance, including activities like reading, performing, or well-being time, with parent/carer involvement.

Torran is a Fox Red Labrador Retriever; the breed are known for their intelligence, friendliness, and good nature with children. Everyone has been informed that a dog will be present, and an annual risk assessment will take place. Adjustments are made for anyone with dog allergies or fear of dogs.

Only the school dog is allowed on the premises. Children are never left alone with Torran and are supervised at all times. Children are taught to behave calmly and appropriately around Torran.



I can't wait to meet
you soon!
Woof woof!

Complaints

St Christophers Academy take all complaints seriously and we will ensure that it is handled in the most appropriate and efficient manner possible.

The school process involves three stages: informal concern, formal complaint, and third party complaint. Informal concerns are addressed promptly by the relevant staff or Principal, either in person or by letter, telephone, or email. If unclear, complainants should contact the school office at 01582 500960 or SCA-Admin@bestacademies.org.uk. The school acknowledges informal concerns within two school days and provides a response within 15 days.

If not satisfied, the matter is escalated to a formal complaint. If not heard within 10 school days, the matter is assumed to have been resolved informally. If the complainant is unhappy with the outcome, they can raise a formal complaint via letter, email, telephone, in person, or by a third party acting on their behalf. The Principal or Complaints Co-ordinator records the complaint date and acknowledges receipt within two school days.

For more information on our complaints policy, please visit our [website](#).

Ofsted Report 2025

We are proud to have been rated **Good in all areas** in our latest Ofsted inspection, which took place in February 2025.

"Pupils celebrate the differences between them in a richly diverse school community"

"The school's core values of ambition, community, respect and responsibility are threaded through all aspects of life at St Christophers Academy. Pupils are friendly, polite and welcoming"

"There is a culture of aspiration for pupils' academic and wider development. Pupils rise to adults' high expectations and learn well, particularly in the core subjects of reading, writing and mathematics"

“A Home from Home”

“A Village School within a Town”

We hope you and your child enjoy
St Christophers Academy!

Keep in touch with us



School website

www.stchristophersacademy.org



Twitter

@Stchristacademy



Facebook

St Christophers Academy
Friends of SCA



Bromcom MIS Login

All communication will be sent via
Bromcom. Parents can access Bromcom via
a link that will be sent by email at the start
of the academic year.

