

# School Prospectus



St James Infant  
and Pre-School  
**The place of bright  
beginnings**



# WELCOME TO ST JAMES INFANT AND PRE-SCHOOL

Foreword: Head teacher, Gail Gynn

Thank you for your interest in our school. I am very proud to introduce you to our wonderful school, which has been serving the town of Daventry since 1913. I hope that the information in this booklet will answer many of your questions and help you to know more about the life and work of our school.

**Igniting an interest in the world** - Our teaching is stimulating and creative. It encourages children to continue their learning outside of school so that they can become life-long learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!

**Pastoral care** - We believe that children's happiness is hugely important in enabling them to learn successfully. We encourage parents to work with us to ensure that their children always feel safe and secure.

**Dedicated staff** - I am very proud of our enthusiastic and dedicated staff, who ensure that all of our children are well supported to achieve their true potential, and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.



# OUR SCHOOL DAY

## School times are as follows:



8.45 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. Welcome and morning activity

9.00 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. Morning session

10.45 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. Play time for KS1

12.15 p.m. - 1.15 p.m. Lunch time

1.15 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. Afternoon session

## Uniform:



School uniform is based on the notion that it promotes a sense of pride in the school and a sense of community and belonging. Our school colour is navy blue. Sweatshirts or cardigans bearing the school badge, plus a range of other uniform items are available. They can all be purchased from Tailormade on Prospect Way.

## Out of School Care:



Breakfast club begins at 7.30 a.m. Children are brought to school in time for registration. There is a choice of a hot or cold breakfast.

### **Bramble's Base**

Before & after school care at St James Infant and Pre-School

Mon - Fri 7.30 - 8.45 a.m. & 3.15 - 6.00 p.m.

Bramble's Base is the after school club. Sessions run from 3.15 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Children are given a choice of snacks and drinks. They experience stimulating play activities, have access to a quiet area where they can relax, and access to a secure outdoor area too.

All of the staff are members of our own school team. The club is managed by Laura Fuller.

# BEHAVIOUR AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT: FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

**High standards:** Good behaviour is an important part of a child's social development. It is the responsibility of all adults in school. We use a positive approach, which makes it possible for children to achieve success and a feeling of self-worth. We plan for and reward good behaviour. It is essential that home and school work together in partnership.

Where there are cases of unacceptable behaviour, we will always try to establish the facts and help children to see why their actions are not acceptable. A quiet warning is given. In Key Stage 1, if behaviour continues, a loss of 'Treat Time' may be the result.

**School Agreements:** Each class creates their own class agreement at the beginning of each year. Children are part of the decision making process and value the decisions made.



## YOUR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENTS

**Rewards:** Children are rewarded for good behaviour with stickers, 'Dojo points' and certificates in assembly. In Key Stage 1, work stops on a Friday afternoon at 2.30 p.m. so that 'Treat Time' can begin! Celebration Assembly is a time for all children to feel proud of their achievements as they receive their certificates and take their place on the 'Proud Bench'.

**Ongoing assessments:** Throughout the year, teachers assess and record your child's achievements. We focus on a range of statements; our non-negotiables, which will enable you to build up a picture of your child's progress. Children in Pre-School and Reception are assessed against the Foundation Stage Profile and children in Key Stage 1 are assessed against the National Curriculum.

**School reports:** All parents receive an annual written report summarizing your child's academic achievements and personal and social development.

# SCHOOL VALUES – OUR ETHOS

**Teamwork**



**Timmy**

**Fairness**



**Florence**

**Honesty**



**Orla**

**Caring**



**Christopher**

**Independence**



**Isaac**

These are our bears that help us with our values. All staff, children and visitors are expected to model the School and British values.

Values education underpins all that goes on in our school and prepares the children for the wider world by developing good relationships, providing skills for life and promoting positive attitudes and behaviours.



Bramble, our school mascot is imaginative and encourages children to be creative. This is the sixth value. Bramble also introduces the children to all of our shared values and standards in assemblies. This means that they are understood and applied by children, staff and visitors.

# INCLUSION: A CURRICULUM FOR ALL

Each child is unique, the support and provision they require is individual to them. Alongside parents, we identify what support is needed and provide what is most appropriate.

Children can be supported in a variety of ways: differentiated tasks, the use of special resources, support from a Teaching Assistant, specific intervention groups, external specialist support, personalised achievable targets.

We also recognise that self-esteem is the key a child's emotional well-being and academic progress. We support children's emotional, social and behavioural needs through PSHE - Jigsaw activities, daily Kaleidoscope sessions; in class and in our purpose built sensory room. Our 'Hand of Trust' is used across the school.



## GETTING INVOLVED

As parents you want the best for your child and have already begun the learning journey with them. At St James, we believe that establishing an open, honest and positive relationship with you will ensure that your child will gain the most from his or her education.

Parents are invited into school to share many special events; Harvest, art exhibitions, Easter bonnet making, sports, and many more! However, parents are always welcome

We have a very experienced Pastoral Support Team who are available all day to help you. Please do not hesitate to contact them if there is anything you would like to discuss.

## VOLUNTARY HELPERS

We welcome parents' support in school. If you would like to help us on a regular basis, then the office will need to carry out a DBS police check. The office staff will be able to provide you with all of the details.

## FRIENDS OF ST JAMES

The Friends of St James Infant and Pre-School are a group of parents who aim to raise funds for school. They do this by running various fundraisers throughout the year. Fundraising pays for school trips, special events such as cinema night, specific projects too. The most recent being our 'junk yard' in the playground. They also provide games, books and treats for the children. All children benefit from the money raised and always enjoy the events; Christmas, Easter and Summer Fayres. If you are interested in either helping on the day of any event, or in becoming a 'Friend', contact the school office..

## LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE

Our Local Academy Committee (formerly known as the Governing Body), are an active part of our school. It includes parents, staff and members of the local community. The Committee has a range of duties and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school, always with a view to promoting high standards of academic and personal achievement.

Vacancies for parent members are advertised as they arise.

If you would like to become a member of the Committee and become part of the decision making, please contact the school office who will be happy to pass on your details to our Chair; Sally Perkins.

# CURRICULUM - CREATIVE AND REWARDING

**Learning is fun!**



The curriculum is divided in to two stages:

1. Early Years Foundation Stage from ages 3-5
2. Key Stage 1 National Curriculum from ages 5-7

Our priority is to ensure that the whole experience of school and learning is fun for our children. We want all children to look forward to and enjoy school. We have a themed approach to the curriculum based on a 'big question', which means that it is enquiry led. Outdoor learning is also important to us, so every year group has access to an outdoor learning space.

## Pre-School and Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is split into two: EYFS1 is Poppy Class (Pre-School) and EYFS2 begins as the children move into Reception. The curriculum is based on seven areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Physical Development, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design. Most of the curriculum is developed through practical activity and the internal and external environments are used to provide first-hand experiences.



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## Key Stage 1 – Years 1 and 2

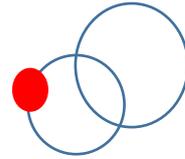
Subjects in the curriculum are: Mathematics, English, Science, Art and Design, Design Technology, History, Geography, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, Personal, Social and Health Education, Computing. Practical, enquiry-based learning is central to the entire curriculum.

# ENRICHED CURRICULUM

## Trips and Visits

Educational visits are used to enhance the curriculum. Previous trips have included: The Space Centre, Lodge Farm, Salcey Forest, Dinosaur Land, Muddy Schools, Daventry museum, local churches, local country park, local shops and restaurants. A residential visit to Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre is arranged for year 2.

**Wow days** are an integral part of every theme too.



## Clubs

**From reading, to dancing, to gymnastics... just join in!** We arrange a variety of clubs to suit all interests of the children. Specialist providers host the clubs. Examples are: gymnastics, dance, football, archery, multi-sports, Family Funs, magic math's, board games.

## Sport

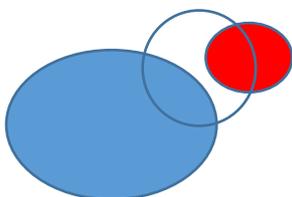


The physical development of young children is extremely important. Pupils take part in games, gymnastics and dance.

There is a variety of equipment on the playground that encourages children to develop their skills of coordination, balance, control and strength. We also have a fully equipped children's gym which is designed for the age group. The equipment includes a treadmill, exercise bikes, rowing machines, twisters and steppers.

## Treat time

Treat time rewards the children for good behavior, the activities regularly change and are child-centred. Activities include; cooking, colouring, construction, role play and making. Every child is able to take part.



# ADMISSIONS

We welcome prospective parents and pupils to visit us at any time. Please arrange an appointment to visit the school by contacting the school office.

## Preparing to start school for the first time

Entering school for the first time is a big step in any child's life. Our aim is to make this step as smooth as possible, both for you and your child. So, we; hold play and stay sessions, a parents' meeting, go and visit nurseries and also visit you and your child at home, all during the Summer term. This is all a great opportunity to share information and respond to any concerns. Children start on a part time basis for the first week of term in September. Feedback from parents have told us that all of these plans ensure that children are happy during those first days.

## Admission into Pre-School - Poppy Class

Children are able to join Poppy Class, as soon as they are three years old. Registration forms can be obtained directly from our Pre-School teacher. Children can attend just morning sessions or just afternoon sessions or stay all day. You can state your preference on the booking form. Payment is made through Parent Pay. All 3 - 4 olds can get 15 hours a week free provision for 38 weeks per year. Your child becomes eligible for this the term after they have turned three years old.

You may be able to get up to 30 hours free childcare, if your child is three years old. You must apply online for a childcare account to get a code, which you will then need to share with us. You eligibility depends upon:

- If you are working
- How much you earn
- Your child's circumstances
- Your nationality



You can apply when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old.

Children are able to join Poppy Class in September, January and after Easter. We do operate a waiting list and use it to allocate places.



### **Admission into Reception - Daisy and Sunflower Class**

All children can attend full-time education in the September following their fourth birthday. However, children do not have to go to school full-time until the term after their fifth birthday, as this is the compulsory school age. To apply for your place at our school, you will need to follow Northamptonshire County Council's procedures for admissions. The closing date for September applications is mid-January

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk>



### **Admission into other year groups**

children joining the school after the beginning of the Reception year, parents and pupils are encouraged to visit the school, meet the Head teacher and other members of staff. Moving to a different school at any time other than the usual admission to Reception class, transfer to junior school, is known as an 'in-year transfer'.

Northamptonshire County Council co-ordinates all in-year admissions. Full details are available on their website and you can apply online at

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk>



## WHO WE ARE

Our wonderful school is in the heart of Daventry. A happy and caring greeting is waiting for you inside the Georgian building.

You and your child will join our school family. Generations of families have started their school life here and returned as parents and grandparents. We pride ourselves on our family atmosphere and the warm and welcoming ethos of our school.

## CONTACT US

Written information cannot compare to a visit to the school itself. We would love to welcome you, so invite you to come and visit. To make an appointment, or to simply ask us a question, please contact us using the details below:

**Email:** [sjis-sbm@sjis.inmat.org.uk](mailto:sjis-sbm@sjis.inmat.org.uk)

**Address:** St James Infant and Pre-School

90 St James Street

Daventry

Northamptonshire

NN11 4AG

**Phone:** 01327 702783

[www.stjamesinfant.com](http://www.stjamesinfant.com)

