

WELCOME TO DILTON MARSH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



“For Nothing is Impossible with God.”

Luke 1 : 37

Our Vision

Together, we strive to provide a safe, nurturing and challenging environment within our Christian ethos of kindness and respect.

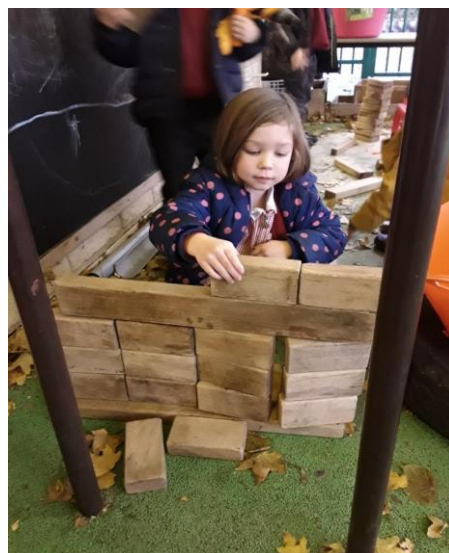
We share a passion for life-long learning and strive for the best for ourselves, others and the World.

Children are encouraged to become independent, curious and resilient learners with the ability to learn from their mistakes and accept challenges.

At Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School our aim is to provide a safe, happy, caring, creative and nurturing learning environment where everyone is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. We share a passion for learning and life together with respect for others and our environment. Within our Christian ethos of tolerance and respect we promote positive attitudes and understanding of different beliefs, races and cultures to create caring citizens. Children are encouraged to become independent and resilient learners, with the ability to learn from mistakes and accept challenges.

We look forward to your child joining us, and hope their time in our school will be both happy and fulfilling.

Starting school is probably one of the most important steps towards independence that s/he will make. We hope, with your help, to make this as enjoyable a time as possible.



We will be providing a school place for all children in September 2020 whose fifth birthday falls after 31st August 2020 and before the 1st September 2021. Making age-appropriate provision for the youngest children our priority, we have planned a reception year with a balance of experiences to include time for both learning through independent play and structured more formal play and activities. This balance will change over the year as the children mature and develop.



MEET THE TEAM



**Mrs Hibbs
Head Teacher**



**Mrs Down
Lime Class Teacher
SENCO**



**Mrs Chalke
Lime Class Teaching Assistant**



**Mrs Broad
Assistant Head Teacher &
Safeguarding Lead**

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STARTING SCHOOL

The arrangements for starting school in September will be as follows if all the children are able to rerun as a class due to Covid19. Once we have received detailed guidance from the government we will confirm this or share details of alternative transition arrangements.

Week One: (w/c Wednesday 2nd September):- small group hour sessions – get to know us. You should have received a letter which states your child's hour slot.

Week Two: (w/c Monday 7th September):- mornings only – all children will come into school half days (collect at 12 noon) and then Thursday and Friday of this week, children may stay for lunch (collect at 12:55pm)

Week Three: (w/c Monday 14th September):- If safe to do so, from Monday 16th September, all children will be expected in school full time.



However, if your child is born between 1st April – 31st August, 2016 and you wish them to remain part-time for longer you may defer their full-time start until January 2021. They will be part-time until December and then begin full-time in January. This is totally at your discretion. Please discuss this with Mrs Hibbs (Head Teacher).



SCHOOL VISITS

During Week 1, we will be arranging small group visits. You should have received a letter via email stating which hour slot your child is.

You will need to bring your child to, and collect them from the main gate.

We hope these visits will help your child begin to get to know:

1. his/her way round the classroom and school
2. other children, and their peers
3. adults working in school
4. school routines



INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL

We have posted a virtual tour video on our school website and Facebook page. This is to share with your children to familiarise them with new surroundings and new adults.

The induction programme during Week 1 in September will consist of small group visits for the children, which are planned to:



1. Help the children settle in gently to the new world of school.
2. Provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to get to know one another and begin a working partnership that is in the best interests of the child.
3. Give the parents the opportunity to get to know the school so they are best able to help their child prepare and settle comfortably into new routines.
4. Enable the children to meet each other and make new friends.

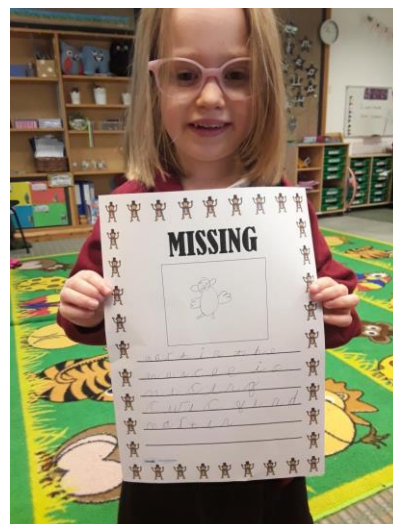
APPOINTMENTS

We recognise that you, the parents, are the experts on your child and would welcome the opportunity to share this knowledge and expertise to ensure the best possible start at school for your child. Mrs Down will be phoning all of the new parents week commencing Monday 6th July. Please ensure that you have returned all of the forms that were posted a few weeks ago. There will also be phone calls made to your child's pre-school/nursery.

CURRICULUM FOR THE FOUNDATION STAGE

Children will be following the Foundation Stage curriculum, which begins with childminders, pre-school and nursery settings and is completed during the child's first year in school. In Year One the child moves onto the National Curriculum. In these early years of education the Curriculum is divided into seven areas:

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



The guidance is clear and we know that children of this age learn best through play and through practical, engaging and enjoyable activities. An early years classroom and time-table will look very different to that further up the school. Young children do not see subject divisions in their learning. In these early years we want to build confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning. We try wherever possible to plan the learning around the interests of the children and to be flexible and responsive to their needs.

Class newsletters are also sent home termly to share information about topics we will be covering, and activities we have planned. These will also be available on our website under the '***Class Pages***' icon.

Each child will also have a school diary which enables us to communicate regularly.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

In September when your child starts school, we will be completing a 'Baseline Assessment'. The children will be assessed as part of their play and during involvement in adult-led activities. These assessments will be made through observations of talking to and playing with each child. They will not take part in any 'formal' tests. This year we have chosen to take part in a national pilot for a standardised baseline test.



These assessments will then be used as a starting point to allow us to treat each child as an individual and to meet their needs through the provision of suitable activities.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

There are many ways you can help your child be ready for the learning opportunities and new challenges they will encounter when they first start school. Arguably the most important is to talk with your children about all their experiences and help them to reflect on these, showing that you value their ideas and will provide time and space to listen to them. In these very early days of school we can only really begin to understand what children are thinking and feeling through talk. Talk is highly valued in an early years classroom, so encouraging children to feel confident about expressing their ideas and encouraging them to express themselves clearly is of great importance. In addition it is important to encourage him/her: -



1. To be independent -

- dress him/herself – select clothes that make this easier e.g. polo shirts, pull-on trousers and Velcro-fastened shoes.
- be responsible for their own things and tidy up after themselves
- use the toilet independently
- recognise their own name
- use cutlery properly to eat with
- wash hands

2. To talk about colours and shapes and measuring things. Involve your child in practical counting activities wherever possible and look out for numerals in the environment.

3. Whenever possible, foster your child's interest in print. Take every opportunity to read with your child, share story books and tell stories, read signs and cereal packets. Join the library and visit regularly, they have a wealth of fantastic picture books and other resources including story CD's, or rhyming songs.



4. Learn number rhymes, songs and nursery rhymes especially the ones with actions.

5. Encourage your child to use pencils, crayons, and scissors and show them how to hold them correctly. Lots of different kinds of activity help children develop strength and control in their hands and fingers and these skills need to be well developed before writing is possible.



6. Encourage your child to share and play with other children, playing alongside and modelling how to play co-operatively if they are finding this difficult.

7. Play turn-taking games, do puzzles and use construction toys.

8. Name recognition and practise name writing.

9. Counting objects and comparing amounts.



READING

To encourage a positive attitude to reading we send books home for you to share with your child right from the start.

Children can select a book to take home each night from a levelled box. They start by selecting from the pink set of books. We will write in their link book when they are ready to change to a different level, but at all stages welcome comments from you as to how they are doing.



- At the beginning these will be picture books to share and talk about – this helps to develop language and the ability to tell a story in sequence. The children will select their own books from a basket and will continue to do this throughout their reception year.
- Picture books with words to share – learning that we read print from left to right and to match the spoken to the written word.
- Reading should be fun. Your child will gradually start to join in and will enjoy reading a story over and over.
- You can select from a range of reading books, which vary in format and difficulty.
- Children at school read with the teacher in guided groups. We will always indicate when we have read with your child and will often comment on how they are getting on. This comment will be in their link book.
- Please write any comments you have in the link book and if you have any queries ask the teacher.

HOME – SCHOOL LINKS

There are many things for a child to get used to when they first start school and also for the parents but please note that this will be dependable on Covid19 and how the situation evolves.

You will have the chance to talk to the class-teacher individually before your child starts school, week commencing Monday 6th July on the phone. We hope that government guidance dependent, there will be a 'Meet the Teacher' evening and a talk on how we teach Reading and Phonics. There will also be a

parents evening later in the term giving you the opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into school.

If you are at all concerned or unsure about anything, the class teacher will be happy to have a chat after school. If you are concerned, your child will also worry and it is important for him/her to see that you and the teacher are working together. Being happy makes a positive start to school life.



There is an expectation that reading, sound books and learning of key words will be undertaken on a regular almost daily basis.

Once restrictions are lifted, we will welcome you to join us on a Wednesday afternoon for Celebration Worship. Approximately once a term each class has the opportunity to show some of the work they have undertaken in the classroom.

SAFETY

1. At the end of the school day the playground gate will be unlocked please walk through the gate and onto the playground. The children are collected from outside the Reception/Year 1 Outdoors Classroom (At the far end of the School Building). This may change due to Covid 19.
2. When collecting your child at other times, please make sure that an adult is informed and that you sign your child out in the office so that the teacher knows s/he has gone home safely.
3. Please inform the class teacher if someone different is to collect your child.
4. Please make sure that the office has a up to date contact number, in case your child is ill during the day and please don't forget to leave an alternative on the days you will not be available at the given number.



5. Staff are unable to administer medicines in school unless the doctor considers it essential to the child's well-being. In this case we ask that parents complete a form which is obtainable from the office and a care plan will be drawn up with the School Nurse.
6. If your child has asthma please ensure that we have an inhaler in school at all times. Although we keep a record of the expiry dates of inhalers it is your responsibility to ensure that the inhaler is in date.

ABSENCES

If your child is unwell please contact the school **before 9.00 am on each day of illness** either by phone (01373) 822902 or by email admin@diltonmarsh.wilts.sch.uk (failure to do this will result in your child being marked as an unauthorised absent).

Time off school for family holidays is not a right. Parents and carers are asked not to book holidays during term time. If you feel it is unavoidable you should complete a form available from the office at least three weeks prior to the planned holiday. All information relating to the request must be provided, as evidence provided at a later date will not be considered. Schools are not required to agree to absence for a holiday during term time. In exceptional circumstances the Headteacher may authorise a request for up to five days in a school year.



The Local Authority would not expect schools to agree holiday leave if:

- The pupil already has poor attendance and the Education Welfare Service is involved.
- The pupil would miss public examinations such as National Curriculum, Phonics and Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2

The Local Authority does not expect schools to agree holiday leave for the following reasons:-

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Availability of the desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced in school holiday periods

- Overlap with the beginning or end of term.

Each request will be considered individually, with the most important consideration being the impact such an absence would have on your child's education.

If the Headteacher refuses the request, and you make the decision to take your child out of school, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and will appear in both the school register and on your child's report. Persistent unauthorised absence may result in the involvement of the Education Welfare Officer.

UNIFORM

We have a school uniform of grey/black trousers/shorts or skirt/pinafore (the girls can wear a red and white checked dress in the summer), light grey or white polo shirts with the school name (a plain white polo shirt is also acceptable) and a maroon sweatshirts or cardigans with school name. Our P.E. Kit consists of a coloured T-shirt (House Colours) and plain black shorts.

PLEASE, PLEASE, ensure that all items of school clothing are **clearly named** so that mislaid items can be returned easily. This can be purchased from Scholars in Warminster or their online shop.



SNACKS (Break time)

The Government provides free milk for all children under 5 years old and free fruit is available for all KS1 children at break time. As a class the Reception children sit down and enjoy this social time.

COOKED SCHOOL LUNCHES

Our nutritious and varied school meals are made at New Close School in Warminster. The menu for the term is published on the school website and in WisePay. Special diets can be catered for – please speak to the school office.

School lunch. All children up to the end of year 2 are entitled to a free cooked school meal. At the beginning of term you will be issued with a 'WisePay' password, you are asked to login and order your child's chosen meal option (Option 1 meat/Option 2 vegetarian).



Packed lunches. Please send lunches in a named plastic box which are stored on the classroom trolley. We are a healthy school and as such lunches should be well balanced – no sweets or fizzy drinks. Please supply drinks in a plastic, leak-proof container or carton; for safety reasons please do not send in hot drinks in Thermos flasks.

We are a nut free school.

BREAKFAST CLUB



This is a very social session with children across the school sitting to the table for a choice of Cereals, Yoghurts, Fresh Fruit, Fruit Juice, Milk and Toast. After they have eaten breakfast there are various activities on offer. These include board games, table tennis, reading, colouring etc. It is open Monday to Friday 7.30 – 8.30 am (last breakfast is served at 8.15 am). £4 per session which must be paid in advance on WisePay. Please complete the booking form or speak to the office. Childcare vouchers are accepted, please ask for our Ofsted No.

MONEY IN SCHOOL

We are a cashless school. All payments must be made through WisePay.

