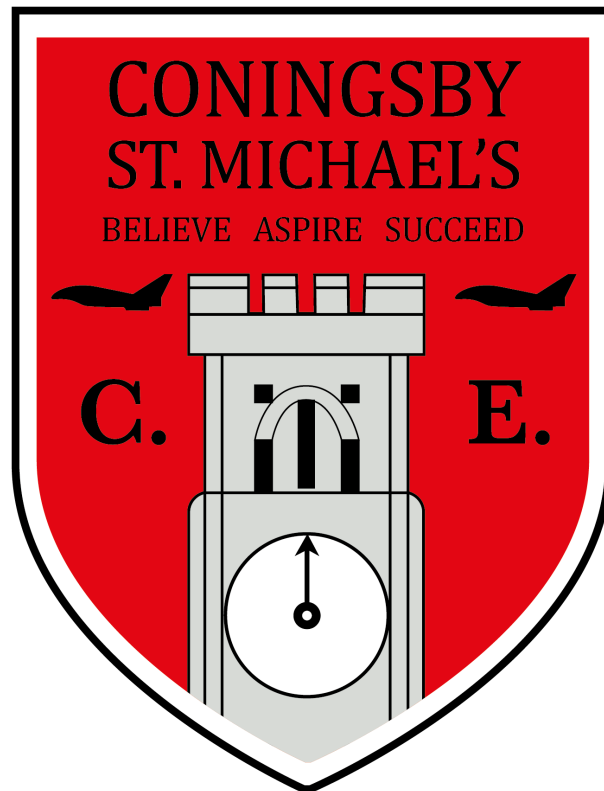


Coningsby St Michael's C of E Primary School



**Information about starting
school in
September 2020**

Welcome

Starting school is one of the most important and exciting times for you and your child. It is a big step with lots of new routines and experiences.

To make the transition from home to school easier for you and your child, we would like to work together with you to ensure that it is a positive experience for everyone involved.

As a parent, you are aware of all your child's experiences before starting school. We will encourage you to share their likes, dislikes, worries and special interests with us, as this will help us begin to understand their skills and capabilities. This valuable information helps us to plan exciting learning experiences for them and work on their next steps in the Foundation Stage.

Our reception classes work as one unit, with the children flowing across both rooms and our outdoor learning spaces. The children will have a named class teacher and a designated classroom which will be their base during the school day. This teacher will be the first point of contact for any questions or concerns you may have, and will communicate with you about progress at events such as Parents' Evening.

However, the Early Years teaching staff team will work with all children. This team is led by Mrs Hutchinson and includes Mrs Speirs-Davies, Mrs Glenn, Miss Williams and Mrs Dawson.

School Routines

Arriving at school - The gate to the Reception playground opens at 8:40am. The class teacher will come onto the playground at 8:45am and collect the children to bring them into school. If you arrive late, and the school gate has been locked, please bring your child into school through the main reception.

School Book Bag - Your child will need their school book bag every day. We encourage the children to put all books and letters in the folder so that you know where to find them and this hopefully ensures that nothing gets lost!

School Uniform - Inside your information pack you will find an additional 'Information for parents booklet' giving details of school uniform expectations. There will also be an order form for clothing with the school logo. There is also good quality second hand clothing available through the PTA, which holds regular uniform sales.

Please name ALL your child's clothing with labels as biro washes out!



Lunchtime - The Government offer a Universal Infant Free School Meal option. Our school kitchen serves a main dish (meat and vegetarian options) and a choice of dessert. Orders will be taken via the Parentmail App. We strongly advise that all children take the option of eating the delicious lunches cooked in our school kitchen.

If your child is unable to eat the Universal Infant Free School Meal your child will need a packed lunch and a drink. Only put in the lunchbox what your child is likely to eat. As a healthy school, we encourage healthy eating. No sweets or chocolate bars please.

Please see the information for parents' booklet for details of how to order meals for your child.

Snack - We are part of the National School Fruit Scheme and every child is offered a piece of fruit each day. It is not necessary to send an additional snack unless you have a concern that the children will not eat the fruit that is being offered. Any snack that you send must be fruit or vegetables. Your child can also bring an extra drink of water (separate to the lunchtime one) that your child can have access to in the classroom during the day. Please make sure their water bottle is named to avoid any confusion.

Milk - (Under 5's Free Milk Scheme) - As a school we subscribe to the 'free milk' for Under 5's. The system for ensuring entitlement to this scheme has changed, you as a parent are required to complete the enclosed form and return the form to Cool Milk directly. If you do not register your child, they will not receive their entitlement to 'Free Milk'.

When your child turns 5, under this scheme 'Cool Milk' will contact you and ask if you wish to continue to receive milk at school – if you decide to continue there will be a charge for this service and 'Cool Milk' will invoice you direct for payment.

Home Time - The teachers will bring the children onto the playground at 3.10pm. Please make sure that the teacher can see you so we can ensure every child is safely delivered to the correct adult. If for some reason you will be late, or someone different is collecting your child, please let us know by ringing the school office. The children's safety is our primary concern and we will never let them go with an adult that we do not know unless we have been given permission by you.

TAPESTRY

ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL



Learning Journeys - Tapestry

As part of the Foundation Stage curriculum, we make on going assessments of what your child can do. We will report on these assessments to you at parent consultation meetings during the year and also in an end of year report.

We use an on-line assessment system named Tapestry and we will require your email address to set up your child's profile. You will find a letter asking for this information in your information packs. In September, once we have your details, we will set up your individual accounts and you will then be able to see any photos and assessments of your child's learning whilst in school. The account is personal to you and protected with a password . You will only see the information about your own child. However, it is possible to have more than one email account lined to each child so both parents can be involved in the profile.

As we only see your child for a short part of the week and don't always see them doing everything they are capable of, we encourage all parents to add photos with a brief description of any learning they may do whilst at home.

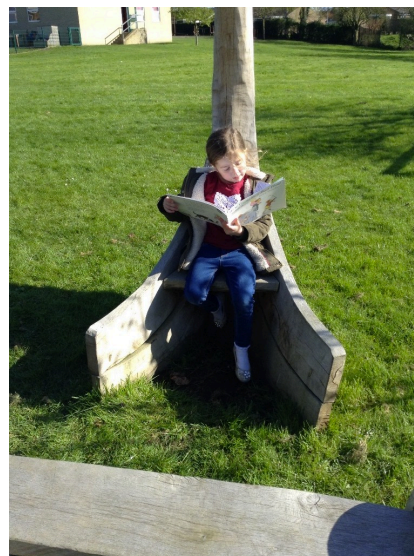
A Reading Adventure

At Coningsby St. Michael's we love books! We have reading areas in our indoor and outdoor classrooms and will also encourage our children to visit the school library. From an early age, children can enjoy books with an adult, long before they are ready to read alone. They will start the year bringing home story books for you to read together and will move onto a reading scheme book when we have assessed that they are ready for it. By talking and reading with your child, you will be doing a great deal to help the essential pre-reading skills to develop.

Help your child by:

- Looking at books as often as possible. Ideally every day!

- Getting them to hold books the right way up, turn the pages in sequence and exploring pictures.
- Asking them to re-tell the story using the pictures.
- Sharing their very favourite story again and again.
- Singing nursery rhymes together. Have a go at missing off the end of rhymes for your child to complete eg: 'Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great?'
- When that gets too easy for them, make it harder! Eg: "Humpty Dumpty sat in a tree, Humpty Dumpty had a cup of?"
- Playing rhyming games such as " I spy with my little eye, something that rhymes with fox" (box)
- Encouraging your child to sing along to nursery rhymes, pop songs, whatever they enjoy.
- Visiting the library and share books there, then choose some to bring home to share.
- Being a good role model, children love to do what their grown-ups do, so get reading.... Books, magazines, newspapers, your child will see the real value in reading if you do it too!
- Most of all enjoy spending time reading and sharing books with your child. Children who are given time to share stories and books, think they are reading and gain lots of confidence from the process. They will quickly become confident readers.



Chatterboxes

At Coningsby St Michael's we believe that talk matters! Children are naturally curious and learn by asking, watching, doing and explaining. This helps their language skills develop and you are the most important person to aid that development. When your child starts school, they will be involved in talking to lots of different people and will need to be able to join in with conversations. Language skills are essential for the development of relationships as well as learning.

Help you child by:

- Asking them questions as well as answering theirs.
- Listening to them when they chat to you about things that are important to them.
- Reading stories together and talking about it.
- Watching a favourite TV programme and talking about it.
- Encouraging your child to listen to recorded stories.
- Talking about things you have done and things you are going to do together as a family.
- Encouraging them to listen to others and to take turns in conversation.

Writing, Writing Everywhere!

Writing is everywhere and your child will see you writing in a variety of ways. We will use a structured phonics programme to teach them the skills they need for reading and writing and then provide creative opportunities for them to apply the skills they have learnt. You can encourage them at home, as children are mimics and will like to copy what you do.

You can get them involved by:

- Writing a shopping list, messages and notes.
- Let them fill in old forms, leaflets and coupons.
- Encouraging them to use a variety of pens, pencils, felt tips, thick and thin, biros and crayons and different coloured shapes paper.



- Without forcing them to do anything that they find uncomfortable, it is important to encourage your child to hold the pencil correctly.
- Encouraging them to make marks, these may look like lines, squiggles or circles but to your child it is their writing and a very important part of the writing process. Don't worry about making your child copy letters, just let them experiment on their own and this will give them a positive attitude towards writing.
- Allowing your child to use scissors and paintbrushes will help your child develop good hand control, so give them plenty of opportunities for cutting up magazines and catalogues.
- Giving them time to talk about their mark making.



Give me 1, Give me 2, Give me 1,2,3!!

Numbers are everywhere and your child will probably be able to recognise lots of them already. We will spend time everyday completing counting activities and developing the other skills needed for a successful start to their mathematical learning.

You can help your child by:

- Searching for numbers whilst you are out and about, ask your child to tell you what numbers they see.
- Making patterns using the cutlery at tea time, 2 forks, 3 knives, 2 forks, 3 knives etc
- Doing lots of jigsaw puzzles with your child and counting the objects in the puzzle.

- Giving your child lots of opportunities for noticing similarities and differences, for example matching pairs of socks or putting the right lid on the right saucepans.
- Baking with your child, there is so much maths involved in baking, weighing, measuring and counting our ingredients.
- Singing number rhymes like “5 Little Speckled Frogs” and playing number games like Snakes and Ladders.
- In school, we will carry on with these very practical number activities until the children are ready for more formal recording of numbers.



Let's Go Outside!

We know that children love to be outside and we have amazing facilities in place to offer the children lots of outdoor learning opportunities. Over the course of the day, your child will develop their learning in our outdoor classrooms: The courtyard, the EYFS outdoor space and The Mystical Garden. We go out in all weathers so your child will need to have a sun hat and welly boots. These can be left in school for the duration of the year to ensure your child has the right clothing to suit the typical British weather! Please make sure they are named.

Our outdoor classroom is continually developing and at present includes:

- A stage for singing, dancing and role-play.
- A water exploring and play area.
- A willow structure.
- A digging area and mud kitchen.
- A climbing structure.
- A large sandpit.

- Large scale building equipment.
- Den building opportunities.
- Outdoor writing prompts.
- A reading den.
- Gardening beds for vegetables.
- A construction challenge area
- An area for children to develop imaginative play using boxes, pipes and other resources.



Getting Involved

We have a very active Parent/ Teacher Association at Coningsby St Michael's who are always in need of volunteers to help with fund raising events. You would always be welcome, so please come along to one of the meetings to get involved! Information will be sent out via Parentmail.

And Finally...

Starting school is an exciting time for children, parents and teachers. At Coningsby St Michael's CE primary School, we welcome new children in a planned way with visits to preschools, school visits, booklets and meetings for parents. In this way, we feel we are setting up a partnership with you as parents.

Should you have any concerns regarding your child, please keep in contact with their class teacher.

We look forward to meeting your child very soon.

The Early Years Team