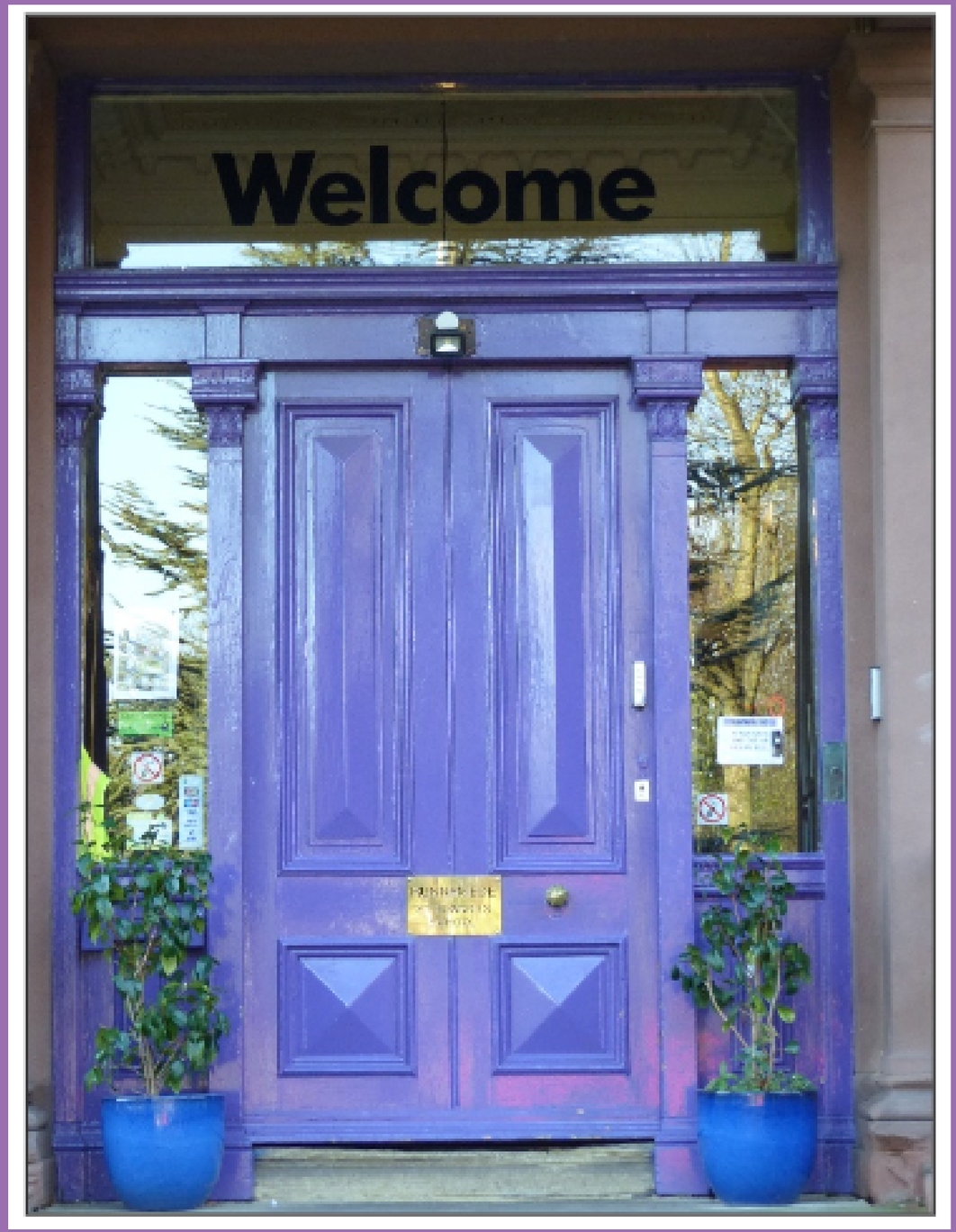
WELCOME TO RECEPTION!

RUNNYMEDE ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Welcome to Our Catholic School

At Runnymede St Edward's, our Catholic faith is at the heart of everything we do. We welcome every child and family into our school community, recognising that each person is unique, valued and loved by God.

- We show kindness and respect to everyone.
- We pray, celebrate and grow in faith together.
- We work in partnership with families.
- We encourage every child to become the very best version of themselves.

Our school mission statement

Have courage, the good seed will grow in the children's hearts **is at the heart of all that we do.**

Meet the Reception Staff



Mrs Farmer

Teacher +

1 LSA



Miss Pybis

Teacher +

1 LSA

What is the EYFS?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage is a curriculum for children from 0-5 years.
- There are 7 areas of learning: Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Maths, Understanding the world and Expressive Arts and Design.
- The curriculum is taught through a balance of adult and child led play - indoors and outdoors!

During the first term, all children will complete a 'baseline' assessment which enables us to understand the needs of our pupils. This information is used to help us plan more effectively and ascertain children's strengths and areas for development.

This information will be shared with you at the first Parent Teacher Evening. At the end of the school year you will receive an EYFS profile for your child, detailing whether they have met the goals for each area of learning. You will be told whether your child's development is emerging or expected in relation to the goals. More details about the Early Years Foundation Stage is available from https://foundationyears.org.uk

A typical day in Reception (subject to change)

AM

- Settling in time followed by prayers, registration and lunch options.
- Celebration of the Word
- Session : Phonics
- Provision time
- Session : Maths
- Provision time

PM

- Registration, provision time
- Session: RE/UTW/EADD/RSE/PD
- Provision time
- Story and home time routine

Phonics

- At Runnymede, we teach children to read and write using the scheme Read, Write Inc. It is a systematic approach to phonics that enables your child to learn to read with accuracy and fluency.

- We are keen for parents to support their child's reading journey and will provide more information about how you can do this at our 'Read, Write Inc. Phonics Workshop' in the autumn term – more details to follow.



- Invest in Set 1 Speed Sounds and practise the first 5 sounds: m,a,s,d and t. We pronounce the sounds clearly, using pure sounds ('m' not' muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds together to make words more easily.

Uniform

Children will need the following items of uniform – most items will be purchased from www.monkhouse.com and https://lisasschoolwear.co.uk/
White polo shirts can be purchased from most high street shops.



Purple sweatshirt



Navy joggers



White polo shirt



School purple coat





PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING

PE and Water Bottles

- All children are asked to bring in a NAMED water bottle (full) which can be taken home each day to be refilled. No Air Up's or Stanley bottles please.
- Reception will be starting PE lessons straight away. PE kit consists of: a purple t-shirt (with Runnymede logo), navy shorts and black pumps. A purple pump bag can be purchased from school for £2.00. Alternatively, you can buy your own plain purple drawstring bag.
- Please ensure every part of the PE kit is **named** in permanent marker or with a name label as the whole class will be getting changed in close proximity at the same time! The staff will write names in any unnamed kit or uniform that we find.
- PE kits can be kept in school on your child's peg and will be sent home every half term to be washed.
- Practising undressing and dressing at home will aid independence.

PE Uniform



PE T-shirt



Navy shorts



Black pumps



Purple drawstring bag

PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING

Outdoor Play

- We aim to be learning outdoors as often as possible and in all weathers. It's therefore really important that children bring in their school coat everyday.
- Wellies are not necessary as we have plenty of our own in school. We also provide waterproof trousers.
- A sign of a wonderful day in school, full of lots of learning opportunties, is a messy uniform. Try to embrace the mess!

Snack

- Reception children have a snack with milk every day. Milk is free for your child up until they are 5. Please inform school if your child does not have milk or any **allergies.**
- Snacks are provided through a government scheme to help promote healthy eating. The snack is always a piece of fruit or vegetable.

Giving Your Child the Best Start

What helps children thrive before and during Reception?

In 2026, the Department for Education and the Department of Health and Social Care commissioned a national review into screen use for children under five to help inform future guidance for parents.

Key messages from the review

- It's not just about screen time – it's about what screens replace.
- Young children learn best through conversation, play and real-life experiences.
- Shared activities with an adult are far more beneficial than passive viewing.
- Screen use should not replace sleep, physical activity, family time or creative play.

This guidance reminds us and encourages families to focus on balance, ensuring screen use complements—not replaces—play, conversation and real-world experiences.

Giving Your Child the Best Start

Everyday moments build school readiness

Chat



Chat and comment while walking, cooking or travelling.

Read together for pleasure



Just 10 minutes every day builds vocabulary

Play together



Building, dressing up, drawing, games, puzzles.

Giving Your Child the Best Start

Everyday moments build school readiness

Get outside



Walks, parks, bikes, ball games, scavenger hunts.

Help at home



Baking, sorting washing, setting the table.

Sing, dance and rhyme together



Nursery rhymes and music develop listening and memory.

General Information

- The school day begins at 8:40am and ends at 3.00pm.
- Please make sure all contact details and personal information is correct and up to date on Arbor.
- Reception children have the opportunity to borrow a school library book each week. - details to follow.
- Term begins Wednesday 2nd September. All children will attend full-time from their first day.
- Our School Business Manager will send further information about Breakfast Club and Aftercare places. Please note that Reception children will not be able to access these services until the week beginning 7th September.

Top Tips!

- Name EVERYTHING in permanent marker with your child's name. Biro washes off very quickly. Coats, PE bag, PE kits, pumps, all uniform items. Alternatively you can buy iron-on/stick on name labels online.
- Practise putting on and fastening coats.
- Help your child become confident and independent when using the toilet. Children should be fully toilet trained before starting Reception, although we understand that accidents can happen. Over the summer, encourage your child to manage their own personal needs, including using the toilet independently, flushing the toilet, wiping themselves, managing their clothing, and washing and drying their hands. Developing these important life skills will help them feel confident, settled and ready for school.

Respectful communication and the school's expectations

Parent WhatsApp groups can be a fantastic way to share information, arrange playdates and support one another as your children begin their school journey.

However, we kindly ask that these groups are used responsibly. They should not be used to post unverified information or make negative or malicious comments about the school, its staff or other families.

If you have a concern or question, please come and speak to us directly. We are always happy to listen and work with you to resolve any issues. The Headteacher takes any inappropriate or defamatory comments about the school or members of staff very seriously and will take appropriate action where necessary.

As a Catholic school, we are called to treat one another with kindness, respect and compassion. By working together and speaking positively to and about one another, we help create the warm, welcoming community that we want every child to experience.

THANK YOU

Questions?