

This document is a direct copy of the paper induction booklet, but with the photos removed.

Contact Mrs. Clarke via the office if you are a prospective parent who wants an unedited copy.

Sorry for the slow loading speed of this PDF, blame Mrs. Clarke's font choice :)

Dax Dobbert



# St. Kentigern's Catholic Primary School



Induction Booklet

2004-2005



# Mission Statement

St. Kentigern's School is part of our parish community of faith which helps our children to develop their spiritual, mental and physical abilities to their highest possible potential, by prayerfully basing their lives on the teachings and values of Jesus Christ and his Church, while recognising and respecting the beliefs of others.

We are committed to the development of the whole child within a community where every individual is valued and respected.

Co-operation and friendship will encourage a happy and caring learning environment.

# Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to St. Kentigern's school.

We hope that some of your questions will be answered in this booklet. However, if you have any other concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Starting school is a huge step to make, especially when you are only four years old. We aim to make this step into school as happy and stress free as possible. During the induction period, please follow the dates and times stated for your child. As a school, we feel that the induction period is a time for the children and Early Years staff to form positive relationships by getting to know each other better. Your child will be attending either morning or afternoon sessions for a week block at a time. This has been organised so that your child receives the maximum opportunity to meet each of the members of the class in small groups.

When your child attends school full-time, the school day begins at 8.55 a.m. prompt. Staff will however, be available in the Reception classroom from 8.45a.m.

Morning break is from 10.40 a.m. until 11.00 a.m. Children may bring a healthy snack such as a cereal bar and carton of juice to have at playtime. However, a piece of fruit will be available for each child, following a Government initiative which began in May 2003, and a carton of milk if requested through the school secretary each term at a cost.

Lunchtime is from 12 noon until 1.15p.m.

Afternoon break is from 2.30 p.m. until 2.50p.m.

The school day finishes at 3.30 p.m. when your child will be sent out to meet you in the playground.

N.B. If your child is to be collected by someone who is unfamiliar to staff, please inform the office or class teacher beforehand.

## St. Kentigern's Parish

Our school is an integral part of our parish community. Parish and school links are strengthened at particular times such as Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter. Reception children will be involved through playing musical instruments, singing and dancing, showing the pictures they have made etc. This year the Reception children will be involved in the Infant Christmas production which will be held in Church.

Each Sunday the 10.30 a.m. Mass is designated the Family Mass and the children are encouraged to take part in their own Liturgy of the Word led by the parish catechists. We encourage you and your family to take part in the full life of the parish.

The parish social centre is open each night of the week and also on a Sunday when the children and families meet after Mass.

Throughout the year the Reception children join various celebrations that are held in Church when appropriate.

## Religious Education

Our R.E. programme follows the Diocesan 'Here I Am' scheme. The children learn about the Catholic Faith through taking part in discussion, drama, pictorial and written activities. Through the year we hold class liturgies when we invite parents, grandparents and friends to attend.

The children also take part in a daily act of worship through prayers in the class, assemblies and various masses in Church.

Once a week there is a whole school assembly and an infant assembly where good work and other achievements are rewarded. Special bronze, silver and

gold certificates are awarded for gaining house points for good work or good behaviour.

Every child is part of a house team and house points are used as a reward and incentive. Throughout the year, the children gather together in their house groups to play games and work with each other.

## The Foundation Stage

In September 2000, the Government introduced new curriculum guidance for Early Years. Reception classes are covered by this guidance which provides the opportunity for differentiated learning for children at various stages of their development.

This development is paved with 'Stepping Stones' which lead towards Early Learning Goals. Most children should achieve these goals by the end of the Foundation Stage. (The school Reception year.)

Young children will have had a wide range of different experiences and will have a wide range of skills and interests when they join school. At St. Kentigern's we believe that we provide a well planned and resourced curriculum to take their learning forward. We provide opportunities for all children to succeed in an atmosphere of care and of feeling valued.

Monitoring of each child's progress throughout the Reception Year is essential to ensure that they are making progress and that particular difficulties in any of the areas of learning are identified and addressed.

Learning for young children is a rewarding and enjoyable experience in which they explore, investigate, discover, create, practise, rehearse, repeat, revise and consolidate their developing knowledge, skill, understanding and attitudes. Many of these aspects of learning are brought together effectively through playing and talking.

## The Foundation Stage Profile

The Foundation Stage Profile is an important part of implementing the Foundation Stage. Throughout the Foundation Stage, as part of the learning and teaching process, teachers need to assess each child's development in relation to the stepping stones and early learning goals that form part of the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage. These

assessments are made on the basis of the teacher accumulating observations and knowledge of the whole child. It recognises the important contribution parents and children can make to assessment and summarises young children's achievements at the end of the Foundation Stage.

Throughout the school year, parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's development and will be able to share and discuss information gathered to complete their own child's Profile.

## The Importance of Play

The word play conjures up images of laughter, enjoyment and sharing. For children, play is an essential and integral part of their existence. Well planned play, both indoors and outdoors, is a key way the children at St. Kentigern's learn with enjoyment and challenge. In playing, they behave in different ways: Sometimes they will be noisy! Sometimes they will describe and discuss what they are doing and sometimes they will be quiet and reflective as they play.

The foundation stage is organised into six areas of learning:

- PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
- COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY,
- MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT,
- KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD,
- PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND
- CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT.

Personal, social and emotional development involves developing positive attitudes, self-esteem and confidence, making relationships, behaviour and self-control and sense of community. This area of learning is vital for your child in all aspects of their life and it gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning.

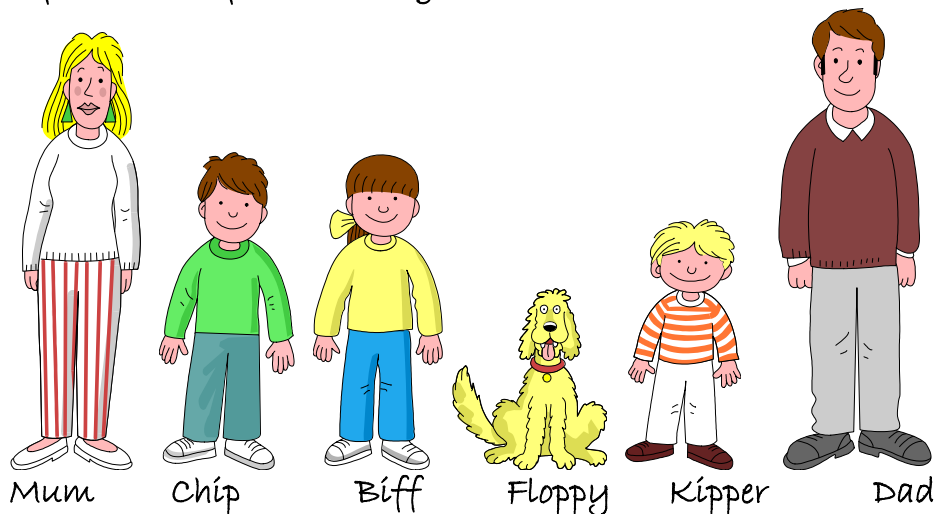
At St. Kentigern's, we aim to provide the support and experiences that enable your child to develop a positive sense of themselves and respect for others. Praise and encouragement are used to reward and encourage your child in their efforts. We actively use praise and encouragement to promote this good behaviour. A positive approach to discipline is paramount.

*Communication, Language and Literacy development* involves speaking and listening, language for thinking, linking sounds and letters, reading, writing and handwriting.

Group activities may involve shared reading or writing, language games etc. The role-play is changed every half term and this provides the stimulation for spontaneous language development.

The main reading scheme is the Oxford Reading Tree which is used throughout the school. Each week your child will take home a reading book and reading diary. The diary is used to exchange positive or constructive comments as to how your child has read. Please remember to send your child with their reading bag every day. There may be times when your child will re-read a familiar book. This is such an important activity as it develops language familiarity and confidence.

Characters from the Oxford Reading Tree books:



*Mathematical development* involves counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns and calculating. Children also explore shape, space and measures. We use rhymes, songs and stories to encourage learning. Emphasis is also put on developing their ideas and methods to solve practical problems. It is important that children's experiences of mathematics are enjoyable and meaningful and that their confidence is fostered through building on from what they know, understand and are able to do.

**Knowledge and Understanding of the World** involves helping your child make sense of the world they live in. This forms the foundation for later work in science, design and technology, history, geography and information and communication technology (ICT).

All Our activities are based on first hand experiences that encourage interest and curiosity. Children will learn to investigate, be curious, be enthusiastic and experiment. Areas of learning are exploration and investigation, designing and making skills, ICT, a sense of place, a sense of time, cultures and beliefs.

**Creative Development** involves exploring media and materials, music, imagination, responding to experiences and expressing and communicating their ideas. At St. Kentigern's we try to provide a stimulating environment in which creativity, originality and expressiveness are valued. We provide a wide range of activities that children can respond to by using their senses. We have good links with the Grundy Art Gallery and the school takes part in regular workshops.

**Physical Development** involves movement, sense of space, health and bodily awareness, using equipment and using tools and materials. We aim to improve skills of confidence, co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Physical development also helps the children gain in confidence and self esteem in what they can do.

We have a newly developed outdoor play area in which children have the opportunity to explore on various equipment such as a slide, tents, tunnels and see-saws, with access to a sand and water area. This play area is changing constantly with new and exciting resources and activities being introduced.

Our Health and Safety Policy does not allow children to take part in any physical education or dance unless they are in correct dress. This is green shorts, yellow t-shirt, and black pumps.  
N.B. Children are not permitted to wear any jewellery.

**Educational Visits** are an essential part of a child's development and learning. Your child will be undertaking a number of trips ranging from a walk to the local shops, a theatre visit and trips further afield. In order for your child to go on these trips, it will be necessary to give your permission by signing an agreement form. You will always be advised of any major trips in advance. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to come with us.

### **Kids Club**

Our after school Kid's Club at St. Kentigern's provides excellent, regular and affordable child care.

Kid's Club is open from 3.30 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. during term time and caters for all age groups including Reception age children. It is run by highly qualified staff and is registered with Social Services and operated from the school hall at a cost of £3.50 for a two hour session.

If you would like more information, or would like to register your child, please contact the Reception Class staff, or Miss K. Neish during school hours.

### **Breakfast Club**

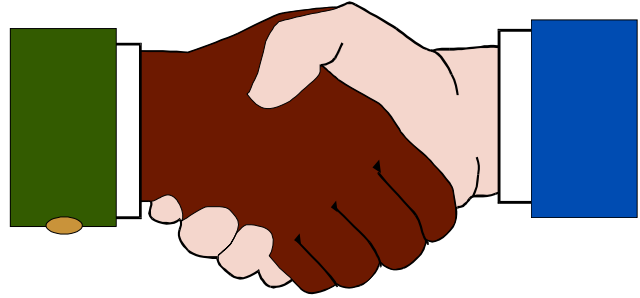
Our Breakfast Club is open from 7.45a.m. during term time and is available to all children attending St. Kentigern's. Children are provided with a drink of milk or juice and cereal or toast and are taken to their classes at a cost of £1.50 a session.

For more information please contact Mrs Fontalba through the school office during school hours.

N.B. Reception children will only be able to attend Breakfast club and/ or Kids Club once they are attending school full-time.

### Parent, Teacher and Friends Association.

The PTFA forms an important part of the life of the school. Every parent becomes an automatic member when their child joins St. Kentigern's School. New parents are encouraged to join the committee. The PTFA meet in the



Parish Centre, usually about once a month, to organise social events and raise additional funds for the school. They hold a number of events each year including disco's obstacle courses and the Summer Fun Day. The chairperson is Mr. Bill Scott-Rattray who can be contacted through the school.

We recognise that as parents, you are your child's first educator. At St. Kentigern's we actively encourage parental involvement. We have welcomed a number of parents into school this year to help with reading and many other activities. If you can give any time at all to come in and share your talents, you will be most welcome.

We aim to work in partnership with you for the good of your child. We are looking forward to meeting you and your child. If you have any queries then do not hesitate to contact us and we will speak to you personally. All matters that are discussed are confidential.

We are sure that your child's first experience at school will be happy.