**Nursery**

We are delighted that you and your child are joining St Mark’s RC Primary school this coming September.  On behalf of the Staff, Governors, children and parents, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you and your family to our school family and community.

We hope that the information on this page will answer many of the questions that you have about your child starting school with us in September. Unfortunately due to Government Guidance we are unable to invite you and your child in for a Transition day.

Your child will begin Nursery on the 7th September with their class teacher, Miss Samantha Kerr, their class teaching assistant Miss Cheryl Ball and their class learning support assistant Miss Rihannan Crawford. We would encourage your child to begin their full time hours from the 7th September.

**30 hour children**- 9.00am-3.00pm Monday-Friday, lunch time included

**15 hour children front part of the week-** 9.00-3.00 Monday and Tuesday, lunch time included. 9.00-11.15am Wednesday, lunch time not included.

**15 hour children back part of the week-** 1.00pm-3.00pm Wednesday, lunch time not included. 9.00-3.00pm Thursday and Friday, lunch time included.

If your child finds it difficult to complete their full hours we will speak to you privately to organise a longer transition period more suited to them.

**Term dates**(please see PDF viewer and download below)

**Early Years Foundation Stage**

Being part of an Early Years class at big school is an exciting time in your child's life.  These are months where little ones develop their independence, confidence and curiosity.  They make new friends and learn important social skills and, of course, they begin the fascinating journey of becoming a reader, writer and mathematician.

At St Mark's we believe that learning through play is an important part of your child's early development.  Our Nursery and Reception classrooms, together with our outside spaces, all have carefully planned and thought out areas for the children to explore freely, challenging them and encouraging them to be active learners.  We love to follow the children's interests as we know that this will hook them in and capture their imaginations - anything from the sight of some sparkly stones in an attractive box to a pile of cloaks and wrist bands in order to take on superhuman powers!

In order to provide high quality learning experiences for your child, we aim to balance free play with carefully chosen adult led activities.  These sessions provide all the opportunities they need to develop their skills and ensure that they achieve all the learning objectives of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).  If you would like more detail about the curriculum for the EYFS, please go to the Curriculum tab on this website*.*

**Transition**

Once you have accepted your place at St Mark's, you will receive a letter from our Headteacher, Mrs Miller, explaining the procedures, meetings and welcome opportunities that will be available in the following few weeks.  In normal circumstances, our Nursery teacher, Miss Kerr, would then be in touch to arrange a visit to school to meet with you and your child. Due to Government Guidance this will be done as a phone call this year.

We would then invite you to a Parent's Welcome Meeting at the end of June and your child to an Open Morning at St Mark's in early July.  Below you will find the ‘Parent’s Welcome Meeting’ that we would have discussed with you. If you need any more information about your child starting school please email our School Office who would be happy to assist.

The links below have some useful resources to support with transition.

* [Starting Primary School](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1)  The BBC have put together some articles, videos and resources to support you and your child with starting primary and nursery school.
* [Planning for transition when schools are currently closed](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrynnrd)  - A useful article with some tips to support your child's transition from nursery or preschool to Reception

**Reception Applications - Please note that a place in our school nursery does not automatically guarantee that a place will be offered at the school, and you must apply for the Reception Class by January 2022. Further Information will be provided nearer the time.**