

The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School



*Following Jesus,
The Good Shepherd,
in all we say and do*

Pre-School Information Pack for Parents & Carers



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Our 30 Hour Pre-School Provision

We offer 30 hour Funded places, this offer is dependent upon:

- Your Child's Date of Birth- **They must be 3 either on or before the 31st August 2025.**
- Your child's funding- You must be eligible for 30hr funding, you must have applied on the Government website and be in receipt of a **DERN Number** (Applications are open now). This must be shared with School at your earliest convenience and is valid for 3 months.
- [Apply now - https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/get-help-paying-childcare/funded-early-education-and-childcare-3-and-4-year-olds/30-hours](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/get-help-paying-childcare/funded-early-education-and-childcare-3-and-4-year-olds/30-hours)
- You must regularly reapply for funding – every 3 months (we will inform you when your funding is nearing its end) you must share your new DERN number with the school. **A failure to do so, will result in a withdrawal of your child's place.**
- Drop Off and Collection must be prompt. Doors open at **9.00am** and close at **3.00pm** - 6 hrs per day (Term Time Only).
- Children must be provided with a healthy lunch and drink, in a named lunchbox and water bottle. **(Please remember we are a nut free School).**
- There is an expectation that your child will be toilet trained before starting at our Pre- School*. We do not have nappy changing areas.

** Where there is no medical or other need preventing this.*

Documents required for Pupil Placement Applications

We need to see original copies of your child's:

- Birth certificate,
- Baptismal certificate,
- Passport
- and Visa (if applicable).

For funding, we will need to have your completed Parents/Carers Declaration Form (this is in your pack) returned ensuring we have parents/carers Date of Birth and National Insurance numbers.



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Our Pre-School Day

The Pre-School day begins at **9.00am and ends at 3.00pm**

Time	Activity
9.00am	Welcome: Registration and welcome activities and morning prayer. Lessons start promptly at 09.00.
9.00am-12.00pm	Key group work/carpet time/free flow/story time/snack.
12.00pm - 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Key group work/carpet time/free flow/story time/snack.
3.00pm	Home Time: Children are collected from Pre-School

Whilst we appreciate that there are occasions when you arrive late, please do try and ensure that your child arrives at pre-school on time.

Late arrivals are monitored and letters will be issued to parents should pupils continuing late arrival become an issue.

Illness

If your child cannot attend school due to illness, please leave a message on our school absence line or via MCAS on the morning of the first day and each subsequent day of absence by 9.00am. Should we not hear from you, we will call you to ascertain that the child is at home for safeguarding reasons.

Attendance

We are monitored for both attendance and punctuality by the Dept. for Education and Ofsted. Official Registers can be inspected by them at any time. The Local Authority also takes pupil and attendance data on a weekly basis.

The school has been set a target of 97% attendance for all pupils by the Local Authority. We monitor attendance on a weekly basis and will monitor those children that fall below our attendance target as per our Attendance policy.

Holidays

Family holidays taken within term time also have a big impact on a child's learning. A leave of absence form must be submitted to the Headteacher and if necessary, accompanied by a covering letter, medical letter and if it is for a Wedding, Baptism or other religious event, should be accompanied by an original invitation. As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.



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Communication

We keep parents and carers informed through various channels, including regular letters with important updates and details about special events.



Visit our school website – www.TheGoodShepherdCatholicPrimarySchool.org.uk for school information, news, dates for the diary, curriculum information, photo galleries, letters and much, much more!



Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and things that really matter is something we care about.

At the Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, we use My Child at School (MCAS), a service used by many schools and nurseries to communicate to parents.

Mobile registration:

Please click on the link from the text message and follow the verification process. You will be asked to enter some details, answer a security question to verify who you are and to set a password for your account.

Email registration:

Please click on the link from the email and follow the verification process. As above, you will be asked to enter some details, answer a security question to verify who you are and to set a password for your account.

Please be assured that MCAS is registered with the Information Commissioner and guarantees that all information you provide will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

If you have not received any contact from MCAS by the end of the first week of school, please contact the school to update your contact information, as this may be out of date.

facebook



twitter

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for regular school updates!

FACEBOOK: @TheGoodShepherdNorthampton

TWITTER: @TGSNorthampton

INSTAGRAM: @goodshepherdnorthampton



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Tapestry

Tapestry is an online learning journal used by our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) team to document and share children's learning and development with parents and carers. Staff regularly upload observations, photos, and videos that highlight key moments in each child's learning journey. Parents can view these updates, leave comments, and even add their own observations from home, helping to build a strong partnership between school and home. Tapestry supports a holistic approach to assessment and ensures families are actively involved in their child's early education.

 **The Great Pet Sale**
24 May 2023 03:50 PM by Sarah Ashby

This week we have been enjoying reading *The Great Pet Sale* by Mick Inkpen. In the book a boy visits a pet shop and the rat is desperate for him to choose him to buy and he is only 1p! In the book, the...

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Notes

This week we have been enjoying reading *The Great Pet Sale* by Mick Inkpen. In the book a boy visits a pet shop and the rat is desperate for him to choose him to buy and he is only 1p!

In the book, there is a locked green door. The children had a guess what animal could be behind the door and then made their own page for the book that they illustrated and labelled. We then carried on reading the book and found out it was a Komodo Dragon for 25p!

Each animal cost a different amount of pennils, so we used 10 frames to place the correct amount of pennils on. The children were able to do this without counting using their subitising skills and the concept images they had in their head for each amount. Some children further challenged themselves by showing what 25p would look like and were able to explain that 25 is two finished tens and five of the next ten! They also began to explore how many pennils they would need to buy more than one animal.

In phonics, the children had great fun looking at mystical creatures, where we mixed 2 animals together and gave them a new name by mixing their two names together. For example an animal with a cats head and pigs body would be a pig C for cat is for pig! The children were excellent at using their phonic decoding skills to complete this challenging activity.

We also had a pet shop in our role play area, which the children enjoyed making signs for and paying for their chosen pet. We talked about the things an animal needs, such as food, water, bedding and also how different animals have different needs. For example my guinea lives in a warm house because guinea's are from hotter countries.

During your child's first few weeks at school, parents/carers will receive an e-mail inviting them to join Tapestry.



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School Uniform Policy

All children must wear our agreed school uniform. We value your support in maintaining a high standard of dress. Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and encourages students to take pride in their school. It also ensures students are not put under any pressure because of the type of clothes they wear and all are treated equally.

We do ask, if possible that you purchase the sweatshirts and cardigans from Stevenson's as they have the school badge embroidered on them. All other items of school uniform can be purchased in local stores and supermarkets.

Uniform can be purchase in store at Stevensons, 40-42 Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 4AA or online at <https://www.stevensons.co.uk/school-finder/the-good-shepherd-catholic-primary-school-northampton>

Uniform:

Royal blue V-neck sweatshirt embroidered with school badge
Royal blue cardigan embroidered with school badge
White polo t-shirt
Black joggers or leggings
Black socks/tights
Black closed toe shoes or trainers

Optional Summer Uniform:

Pale blue/white/ striped or checked cotton summer dress
Black or grey Shorts
Closed toe sandals

Make-up, nail varnish (this includes fake nails, gel nails and acrylic nails) are not allowed in school. Please ensure haircuts and hair accessories are sensible.
No earrings or jewellery.

The children do play outside throughout the day, please ensure they have a waterproof coat and wellies.

Please ensure that all uniform is labelled clearly.



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Term Dates 2025/2026



Term Dates 2025/26

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September 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
36	1	2	3	4	5	6
37	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	29	30				

October 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
40			1	2	3	4
41	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
44						1
45	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	24	25	26	27	28	29

December 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
49	1	2	3	4	5	6
50	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30	31			

January 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1				1	2	3
2	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	12	13	14	15	16	17
4	19	20	21	22	23	24
5	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5						1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	16	17	18	19	20	21
9	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
9						1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	16	17	18	19	20	21
13	23	24	25	26	27	28
14	30	31				

April 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
14			1	2	3	4
15	6	7	8	9	10	11
16	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	20	21	22	23	24	25
18	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
18					1	2
19	4	5	6	7	8	9
20	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

June 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
23	1	2	3	4	5	6
24	8	9	10	11	12	13
25	15	16	17	18	19	20
26	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	29	30				

July 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27			1	2	3	4
28	6	7	8	9	10	11
29	13	14	15	16	17	18
30	20	21	22	23	24	25
31	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31						1
32	3	4	5	6	7	8
33	10	11	12	13	14	15
34	17	18	19	20	21	22
35	24	25	26	27	28	29
36						31

Bank Holiday

Training Day

School Holidays