

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you'



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Reception Baseline Assessment – September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As your child begins their Reception year, we would like to let you know about the **Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)**, which is a statutory assessment completed by children when they start school.

All children in Reception will complete the assessment **within their first six weeks of starting school**.

What is the Reception Baseline Assessment?

The Reception Baseline Assessment is a short, practical and age-appropriate assessment of children's:

- early literacy
- communication and language
- early mathematics

It provides a starting point which will later be used to measure the progress children make through primary school, from Reception to the end of Year 6. The assessment is **not a test that children can pass or fail**, and it is not used to label or judge individual children.

What will my child experience?

The assessment is completed **one-to-one with a familiar member of the Reception team**. Children take part in a range of short, interactive activities, which may involve talking, looking at pictures, using practical resources and interacting with a touchscreen device.

The two parts of the assessment are completed separately, with a break between them, and we will ensure that each child feels comfortable and relaxed.

There is **no need to prepare or practise anything at home**. The most important thing is that children continue to enjoy their first few weeks at school, settle into their new routines and develop positive relationships with the adults and children around them.

Alongside the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment, our Reception team will continue to get to know your child through everyday interactions, play, observations and learning experiences. This helps us to understand their individual strengths, interests and next steps and to plan appropriately for their learning.

Further information for parents and carers is available from the Standards and Testing Agency:

[Reception Baseline Assessment – information for parents](#)

If you have any questions about the Reception Baseline Assessment, please speak to a member of the Reception team.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Burns
Headteacher