



# Welcome to



**Clarendon School**  
**Primary Centre**

## An introduction to Stars Class

**THE Auriga**   
**Academy TRUST**



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## **Welcome to Stars Class**

Starting a new school is an exciting and sometimes daunting time. We hope that this will be the beginning of a long and happy association with Clarendon School. Included in this booklet is general information about Stars Class and how it runs. We hope that you will find it useful. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the school staff or visit our website [www.clarendon.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.clarendon.richmond.sch.uk). You may also like to watch our school film 'Our Little Dreams' and see our school song on there too.

### **Stars Class Teachers**



**Angela Mason**



**Sinead Allen**

Stars class will also be supported by Misra and Sarah and a number of additional Teaching Assistants to support children during the school day.



**Misra**

Teaching Assistant



**Sarah B**

Nursery Nurse

## Stars Classroom



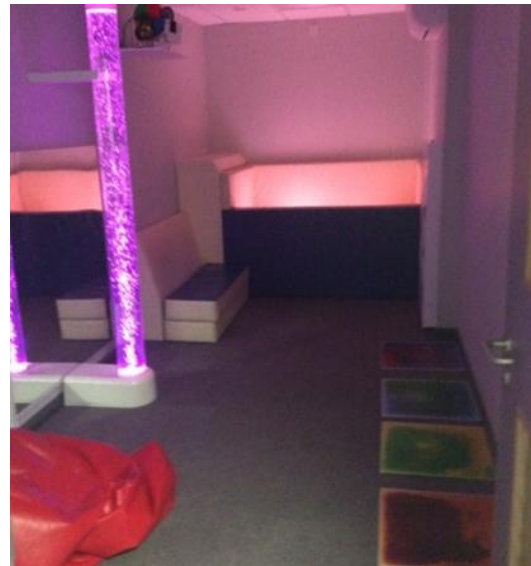
## Our outside area



**The Dining Hall**



**The Sensory Room**



### **Documentation**

Please ensure that all forms you have been given by the school are completed and returned before your child starts in September. It is vital that we have all the information we need to ensure that your child is safe and happy. We need up to date contact details (including emergency contacts), medical information and photograph permissions. These will have been sent home in an information pack. We also need to know who will be collecting your child from school (family or transport). If there are any changes then please notify us immediately.

### **The First Day**

We welcome one parent/carer to come with their child to Stars class in the morning, entering through the Stars' playground gate. Adults are then able to stay with their child for as long as needed until either breakfast time or when the class goes to assembly at 9.30am.



## Class Kit

In Stars class, children learn in the classroom and in the outside learning environment. Consequently, pupils need equipment for learning inside and outside in all weathers. Your child will need:

- wellington boots (labelled with your child's name),
- a waterproof coat and trousers (or an all-in-one waterproof)
- warm clothes in winter,
- sun hat and suntan lotion in summer.

Pupils will also need items required for changing and personal care if required.

Your child will need a book bag or small bag (e.g a supermarket bag for life) which will go between home and school each day. In it will



be your child's home school diary (if they travel by transport), any letters for your information and



work they have produced. We do not currently offer a school book bag, however you can purchase these online or from a local school uniform shop. A drawstring bag is preferred for waterproofs and changes of clothes and can be in a colour of your choosing. We ask that children **do not** bring large bags into school, e.g. backpacks, as we do not have space to store these in class.

## Curriculum & Teaching

The Stars' curriculum covers all seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework; communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. Students are encouraged to develop skills through play-based learning. These areas are taught through a combination of adult directed activities and student directed learning inspired by student's interests and a cycle of topics. Stars' staff consider each student's developmental stage and use a combination of teaching techniques to plan tasks designed to help students make the next steps in their learning; teaching uses a combination of teaching techniques and tools including Makaton, visual timetables, SCERTs, Attention Autism, intensive interaction, cued articulation and communication boards (amongst others) to support each student to achieve their potential.

As part of our life skills curriculum, we regularly visit local parks, shops, cafes and places of interest. This enables our children to experience learning outside the classroom.

### **Routines**

The children begin each morning with an active start in the outside area. Then we have breakfast and assembly. The students will have sessions for phonics, maths, attention autism (bucket activities), sensory activities and story time in their class.

At all other times they are free to self-select activities from a selection of mark making, construction, small world, sand and water play, choosing from the various activities on offer outside and in. Pupils will also have the opportunity to visit the sensory room each week.

### **Dropping Off and Collecting Your Child**

If your child comes to school on transport, Stars' staff will collect them from their minibus or taxi when it arrives and bring them to the classroom. If you bring your child to school the Stars playground gate will be opened at 8:30 and then again at 15.00. If you arrive after this time, you will have to go through the main entrance and your child will need to be signed in via the school office. Please make sure you arrive on time. It can be very upsetting for a child if they are the last one left at the end of the session. The children must be collected by an adult. If someone else will be collecting your child, please let the Stars class staff know or call the office.

### **Illness and Absences**

Children who become ill during the school day are looked after by the Stars' staff and if necessary, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child. It is very important that we have an up-to-date contact telephone number on which we can contact you during the school day. To avoid the spread of viruses, please do not bring your child to school if they are feeling unwell. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they cannot come into school until 48 hours after the last bout. Please telephone the school office if your child is going to be absent. Please note, absences will only be authorised for reasons such as illness or genuine family emergencies. We strongly recommend you do not take your child on holiday during term time as this can be very disruptive to their learning and friendships. Term-time holidays will not be authorised.

## **Food and Drink**

We have drinking water fountains in Stars and provide regular opportunities for your child to drink during the day. Please provide a clearly named water bottle. We would also like you to provide snacks such as fruit, vegetables or bread sticks at the start of each week. The children will share these during snack time. We recommend all children eat our healthy school lunches. However, if you would prefer your child to bring a packed lunch, we would like you to support our Packed Lunch Policy. We do not allow sweets, glass bottles, fizzy drinks or cans in packed lunches.

We are a NUT and ORANGE free school. We have children and staff who have allergies to nuts who could be seriously ill if they come into contact with these. Please do not send any nut products into school.

## **Uniform**

The school has a uniform policy, which all children are required to follow. Most uniform items can be purchased locally from stores and supermarkets. The only item with the school logo on is our school jumper. We do have a limited stock at school that can be purchased from the school office or alternatively ordered online through our stockist Stitch Design. Details can be found on our website under the Parent's section. A uniform list is enclosed in your welcome pack and can also be found on the school website. Please ensure that every item is clearly named. Please ensure your child brings a waterproof coat into school every day.

## **Jack the dog**



Jack is a friendly cocker spaniel and also our school dog. He is based in Galaxy class but visits other classes to see all of the children and staff at Clarendon Primary. He also enjoys some playtimes spending time with the pupils and staff. Jack is training as a school therapy dog and helps to support the pupils improve self-esteem, regulate and calm and develop empathy and emotional literacy. He has also helped children to overcome their fear of dogs and learn how to behave around dogs in the environment.

## **Queries or Concerns**

At Clarendon, we have an open-door policy. You can talk to Stars' staff if there are any concerns. If there are urgent issues, then please see any member of Stars' staff. If you feel you need more time, you are welcome to arrange an appointment through the office. Once a term you will have a chance to meet with the staff to discuss the progress of your child. Dates of these meetings will be given to you in advance and can be found on the school website.

## **Information**

The curriculum overview can be found on the school website. The school has a texting and emailing service and will contact you with reminders and information.



### **Specialist Therapy Team**

At Clarendon Primary Centre we have Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, an Educational Psychologist and Counsellors who will work alongside the teaching teams as required to support individual students and classes. We also offer 'Family Group' to Clarendon Primary centre families, providing an opportunity for a family member and child to work with other parents in school, helping and supporting each other. Our Family Partnership Worker is available to speak with parents and to provide support. Please contact the school office.

### **Special Occasions**

We like to celebrate the children's birthdays, as it is an important time for them and it makes them feel very special. We know that some parents like to bring something in for the class to share to celebrate their child's birthday. We also celebrate festivals and special days; this helps the children gain an understanding of the different cultures and religions in our community. Parents are welcome to contribute ideas for activities and any information on festivals they celebrate.

### **Thank you**

We hope this booklet has been of help to you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the Stars teachers.

Finally, we are looking forward to your child starting in Stars Class and working in partnership with you to ensure the very best care and education for them.