

St Mary's RC
Primary School
Early Years
Foundation Stage



Welcome to St Mary's

- In this booklet we will explain the way the Foundation Stage works and answer frequently asked questions
- We want your child to come into school ready to enjoy active learning through play in a positive safe learning environment.



Below are some questions we are often asked by parents in the first few weeks:-

What if my child does not want to come to school?

Often children are anxious when arriving at school. They usually settle down after a short while in the classroom. If your child remained upset we would tell you and work out a way forward for your child.

Can I come in and settle my child?

In nursery we actively encourage you to settle your child in nursery.

In reception class we are happy for you to come in for the first few weeks. After this we begin lining up in the yard in preparation for KS1.

What happens if my child has an accident?

There is always first aid cover in school, we need emergency contact details in school should we need to contact you for more serious problem.

Who do I speak to if my child has a problem?

Usually you will be able to speak to a member of the Early Years Team, if they are unavailable you may speak to Mrs Morgan, the EYFS Lead. Quick messages and queries can be dealt with at the beginning of a session, however after school we have longer to chat about more in depth queries



The foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years classes are set up in a similar way to give the children lots of familiar experiences. It is designed to build on children's skills and achievements. The outdoor area for learning is given equal importance in the daily learning experiences. The children are able to choose indoor or outdoor activities.

Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Curriculum for Nursery and Reception age children enables practitioners to give children the best possible start to learning and school life. It focuses on encouraging children to learn and develop by **playing and exploring**, through **active learning** and **creative thinking**.

The areas of Learning and Development are made up of

Prime Areas

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication & Language Development.

Specific Areas

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Prime Areas of Development

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

(Making Relationships, Self -confidence and Self-awareness)

This is a key element of learning in the EYFS and relates to enabling children to gain independence by selecting their own resources and activities, turn taking and sharing in different situations.

Children play co-operatively, taking account of each other's ideas, needs and feelings.

Physical Development

(Moving & Handling and Health & Self-care)

Using the outdoor environment to develop gross motor skills, Running, Jumping, skipping, climbing, kicking and throwing.

Using small and large equipment, cutting, drawing, threading etc. take place indoors and outdoors. These develop motor skills leading to formal writing.

Children understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle that relates to regular physical exercise, a good diet as well as self-help skills e.g. dressing/ undressing, using the toilet alone and lunchtime routines for reception children.

Communication and Language Development

(Listening & Attention, Understanding and Speaking)

Children listen attentively in a range of situations such as individually, large & small groups and amongst peers and adults.

Also children are encouraged to develop conversational skills such as commenting and asking and answering questions.

Specific Areas of Development

Literacy- Reading and Writing

This relates to sharing stories, poems rhymes and factual books, reading in small and large groups. Children are taught daily phonics to develop both reading and writing skills. Children begin to read simple sentences and through developing similar writing skills by mark making using phonics skills and expressing their ideas.

Opportunities for mark-making is built into play based writing activities i.e. shopping lists, telephone pads, clipboards, chalk, and paint.

Mathematics- Numbers, Shape, Space and Measure

Sorting and describing objects, making patterns, joining in with number rhymes, weighing and measuring, using money, practical activities in sand, water and role play e.g. shop areas. Exploring shapes in a variety of situations. Children count reliably with numbers from 1-20 and in practical situations solve addition and subtraction problems.

Understanding the World- People and Communities, The World and Technology

Interactive activities/games on the computer, developing mouse control. Learning about different cultures and beliefs, celebrating a range of festivals during the year.

Learning about living things through first hand observation, exploring and appreciating the environment.

Expressive Arts & Design-Exploring and using Media & Materials and Being Imaginative.

Children experience singing, chanting, experimenting with a variety of percussion instruments. Daily opportunities to paint, collage & make models. Finding out how to mix paint and join things together. Children use imaginative play in role-play areas, dens, café or shop. A wide variety of dance & drama and musical activities are accessed.

Helping your child prepare for School

In preparing your child for school, don't 'worry' that you might do the wrong thing.

You know your own child best and what is right for them. In order to develop your child's interest in learning the following ideas may be helpful when playing with your child:-

- ✓ Share stories regularly with them, emphasising the pleasure that can be had from stories and books.
- ✓ Sing nursery Rhymes and songs with them e.g. Five Currant Buns in a Bakers Shop, Humpty Dumpty & Heads shoulders Knees and Toes.
- ✓ Talk about what will happen when they first come to school and be positive.
- ✓ Show an interest in things they like to talk about and extend their conversation skills.
- ✓ Help your child learn to dress and undress themselves and to use a knife and fork.
- ✓ Help them learn to fasten their own coat, and go to the toilet by themselves.
- ✓ Build towers and make models with toys, lego and other construction toys. Talk about what they are doing and how they are doing it.
- ✓ Help them to cut pictures out of magazines and cards to make pictures and collages.

Children's Learning

- ✚ We believe learning starts well before children start school.
- ✚ **You are your child's first teacher**
- ✚ We would like to work in partnership with you.
- ✚ Our role is to build on what the children already know and can do. Building on what they have learnt at home and in previous nursery setting etc.



- ✚ We appreciate the varied life experiences children bring and are all too aware of the reassurance and time your child will need to get to know us and feel comfortable with their surroundings in order to learn effectively.
- ✚ Please continue to help your child learn to build towers make models with toys etc.
- ✚ Help them to notice environmental print around them such as numbers on a bus, front doors or street name and shop names e.g. M- Macdonalds etc.
- ✚ Celebrate and encourage 'writing' through mark making opportunities.

The School Day

Nursery

Nursery children start school between

- Morning Nursery **8.30am - 9.00am** (after 9.00am your child will be marked late)
- Afternoon Nursery **12.30 pm**

The nursery sessions finish at:-

- Morning Nursery **11.20am-11.30am**
- Afternoon Nursery **3.15pm - 3.30pm**

They enter and leave via the Nursery Playground. You are encouraged to bring your child in and spend a little time having a look at the activities on offer each day.

Reception

Reception children start school at **8.45am**. They enter via the classroom doors at the front of the school. Please wait with your child until a member of staff brings you in to school.

Please wait at the gate to the Reception play area at **3.15pm** when staff will supervise children being collected.

Please be on time to collect your child. It is essential you telephone school if you are late for any reason so we can reassure your child.



Lunchtime

Nursery is part time morning OR afternoon therefore the children do not have a school dinner.

Reception Lunchtime

- ❖ All children in the infants have a free school dinner.
- ❖ Children go out to play before lunch and then they come in to their meal. There is always a variety of hot meals, salads and sandwiches including vegetarian choices. As part of the Healthy Schools initiative, we always strive to promote healthy meal choices at all times.

Religious Education

As a Catholic School the children learn about the Catholic Faith this is based around Jesus, his life and his teachings.

The children are encouraged to live their lives as Jesus lived his e.g. being kind, caring and sharing with each other.

All children learn that they are talented and unique individuals who have a great contribution to make to the world in their own right.

Children say prayers daily in class and they go to assemblies in the school hall. They also go to mass in church at key points during the year. Nursery children do not go to mass or assemblies until Christmas time. This is to give them time to settle and become more confident around school.



Useful Information

All equipment your child needs for school will be provided. We cannot accept responsibility for loss of valuables- please leave them at home, including favourite toys, games, watches or jewellery.

Please inform the class teacher if your child has any medical problem, so that we can work with you to keep your child well.

We regret that we are unable to administer medication, e.g. antibiotics, to a child.

(However if your child has Asthma, Diabetes etc. we would help with essential medicines.)

Children need to be in school unless they are ill. If your child is absent please ring school on the morning (before 10am) of absence. Please ensure your child does not take holidays during term time.

PE Kits

Please supply a PE kit for your child. This consists of navy Shorts, white T shirt and black pumps. Please label all items to ensure there are no mix ups!

Also please can I bring to your attention our PE Health & Safety policy regarding wearing jewellery. Please ensure your child is **NOT** wearing any jewellery such as 'hooped' earrings, necklaces, bangles/bracelets etc.

Contact Details

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Head Teacher: Mrs M Garvey

EYFS Lead: Mrs E Morgan

If you have any worries or concerns please come in and speak to us.



