



2022-2023

# Welcome to St. Mary's Nursery



# Contents

Welcome and staffing	page 2
Starting nursery	pages 3 - 5
Curriculum	page 6 - 7
Daily Organisation	page 8
Assessment	page 9
Keeping you informed	page 10 - 11
Attendance	page 12
Uniform	page 13
Snacks/costs	page 14
Practical points	page 15

## Welcome to St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Starting nursery is an exciting and important time in your child's life. We would like this to be the start of a very happy and successful experience for your child and we are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure this happens.

We hope you find the information in this pack useful.

Please remember that we are always here to help you and your child. We are always available to talk to at the beginning and end of the day but please remember we may occasionally have to ask you to make an appointment if the classroom is busy and you need to talk for a length of time.

You can do this by calling into school or by phone 01772 457476 and ask to speak with Mrs. Leach or Mrs. Bangi

### Working with your child this year

Nursery Teachers  
Nursery Teaching Assistants

Mrs Leach and Mr Manchester  
Mrs. Lane and Mrs Clements

## Starting Nursery

Your child will start to come to nursery during a period that we call induction. This takes a few weeks to complete and helps your child to settle into the routine of nursery with confidence. This gives them the opportunity to:

- ❖ Feel secure in their environment
- ❖ Explore all of the activities we have to offer
- ❖ Develop and secure their confidence and self-esteem
- ❖ Get to know the adults and children they will be learning with
- ❖ Adjust to the changes in routine and expectations of nursery

We know that your child will come to us with a wide range of pre-school care arrangements and that this period can sometimes be difficult to organise, however we are sure you will see the benefits of this transition when your child starts full time sessions. It also allows children who have not had any experiences with formal settings the chance to settle quicker and with more confidence.

## Induction Period

### Parents & carers welcome evening

This and will take place the term before your child is due to start. This meeting gives you an opportunity to:

- ❖ Meet staff and other parents
- ❖ Find out what your child will be doing
- ❖ See how the nursery is organised and what we have on offer

## Induction Period (continued)

### Open Day

This is where we open our doors and you and your child stay and play for a nursery session. This day is a good opportunity to share the new routine with your child, including, the layout of the building, where toilets are, coat pegs etc... We find this day has been very successful in the past and know that you will enjoy the day as much as your children. Details of when this day occurs are given during the welcome meeting.

### Home Visits

Although every opportunity is taken to ensure that you and your child feels settled during the open day they can sometimes open days can be a bit overwhelming for some children. This is why we like to meet your child in their home environment, this allows your child to share with us the things they feel are important to them in their home life. It also gives us the opportunity to:

- ❖ Share any important information in a private setting
- ❖ Complete any paper work needed to ensure smooth transition
- ❖ Get to know each other

Details of home visits are also shared with you during the welcome meeting.

**THESE VISITS ARE OPTIONAL ARE IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO MEET IN SCHOOL THIS CAN BE ARRANGED**

## The Nursery Day

<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>9:00am until 12:00pm</b>
<b>Afternoon Session</b>	<b>12:00pm until 3:00pm</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00pm until 1:00pm</b>

### **Arrival**

The door to the cloakroom will be opened 15 minutes before the morning session starts and you can use this time for your child to put their belongings on their coat peg. Also if your child is staying for a school lunch then you can choose and write their lunch on the lunch board. At 9am the door to the main room will be opened. Please bring your child in with you and encourage them to find their name to put on their picture for self registration. During arrival time the staff will greet you and your child and discuss any difference in pick up times. Encourage your child to choose an activity once they have self registered. If you are dropping of your child for an afternoon session only, once the door to the main room is opened at 12pm you can encourage your child to find their name and add it to their picture for self registration.

**Currently, due to COVID restrictions parents are no longer coming into Nursery and they are dropping and collecting their children at the door.**

### **End of session**

If you are collecting your child at 1pm or 3pm the procedure will be the same. A member of staff will open the door and they will call your child to come to you in the cloakroom. Sometimes there are lots of parents in the cloakroom at the end of the session so please do be patient as we ensure that each child goes to their adult safely. If you need to speak to a member of staff or if they need to speak to you, please could we ask your patience to wait until all of the children have been collected. Thank you.

Again, due to COVID parents are being asked to wait outside for their child to come out.

## Curriculum

*We aim to provide your child with an outstanding early years education through a well-planned curriculum by offering high quality learning experiences in an environment that enables them to reach their full potential.*

This is achieved by following the Early Years Foundation Guidance, the underlying principles of which are as follows:

**A Unique Child:** every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

**Positive Relationships:** children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

**Enabling Environments:** children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

**Learning and Development:** children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities. Practitioners teach children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the prime and specific areas of learning and development.

### **What will learning look like?**

When planning and implementing your child's learning the staff focus on different ways that children learn. This is done by using the characteristics of effective learning. This means we look at **HOW** your child likes to learn.

- Playing and Exploring (Engagement) *children investigate and "have a go"*
- Active Learning (Motivation) *children concentrate and keep trying even if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achieving*

- *Creating and Thinking Critically (Thinking) children have and develop their own ideas, make links, and develop strategies for doing things.*

### What will learning look like? (continued)

In the EYFS there are 17 Early Learning Goals which children should gain by the end of the reception year. Each area is planned for through developmental stages. Staff will use these to plan and implement activities around your child's needs.

These developmental stages are all about **WHAT** your child will be learning, and are supported by each other and by the characteristics of learning.

<u>Prime Areas</u>	<u>Specific Areas</u>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Literacy
Communication and Language	Mathematics
Physical Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

Many of the activities we will provide will allow your child to learn on a number of levels, across the different areas.

For example; **BAKING**

(PSED) Taking turns and working as a group, (CL) listening to and following instructions, (M) counting and measuring, (UW) looking at changes and family customs, (PD) hand eye co-ordination

### The Importance of Play

Through play, in a secure but challenging environment with effective adult support, children can:

- ❖ explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world;
- ❖ practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills;
- ❖ learn how to understand the need for rules;
- ❖ take risks and make mistakes;



- ❖ think creatively and imaginatively;
- ❖ communicate with others as they investigate or solve problems.

### Daily Organisation

Snacks are available throughout the session for your child

9am - welcome and activities

9:30 - adult led focused learning - Phonics, Literacy, Come and See (RE Programme)

10am - Continuous Provision (including focused learning, child led and adult guided activities)

11:30 - Maths and Song and Rhyme time

12:00 - lunch time

1:00pm - Art/Music/Baking/PE/PSHCE (one per day)

1:30pm - Continuous Provision (including Phonics and Maths for afternoon children)

2:30pm Story Time/Song and Rhyme

3:00pm - end of session

This timetable is subject to change over the year  
dependent on the class needs as they spend time with us

We use the "Come & See" programme that is also followed in school. This will take place throughout the session as 1:1, small or larger groups. We develop the principles of the programme through focused and continuous provision activities.

### **Assessment**

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. When your child starts at St. Mary's we will undertake an initial baseline assessment. This is to help us gain an informed starting point with your child, which in turn helps us plan for their needs throughout the year.

We then continually assess your child throughout their time in Nursery by observing them formally - through adult guided activities and informally - through play and social situations. This helps us give an overall view of your child, how they are developing and what their next steps on their learning journey are. These assessments are made using the Development Matters headings (see pages 3 & 4)

### **Keeping you informed**

- ❖ There are daily informal opportunities to speak with the Nursery staff, please feel free to catch any member of staff at the door, however, they may ask you to wait until it is quieter to ensure that children are dropped off and collected safely.
- ❖ There is a notice board in the Nursery cloakroom with general information and details of forthcoming events.
- ❖ A Weekly Learning grid is sent out/put on the class page of the website regularly with information about activities, reminders and requests for help.
- ❖ You will receive a termly newsletter from the Foundation Stage Co-ordinator.

- ❖ We hold parents'/carers' evenings in the Autumn and Spring Terms. This is an opportunity for you to talk with the Nursery teachers about your child's progress and areas for development.
- ❖ You will receive a written report towards the end of the Summer Term which celebrates your child's achievements.
- ❖ We use Class Dojo to keep in contact with parents - once you have filled in a contract, you will be given some additional forms to complete for permissions etc and one of these is to sign up to Class Dojo.

### **Sharing success:**

We know that sharing and celebrating successes fosters a positive self-image and motivates your child to attempt new challenges. Below are the different ways we do that at our nursery:

- ❖ **Learning journey** - Throughout your child's time at nursery a learning journey is compiled. It contains photographs of your child at play, models they have made, examples of work and observations staff have made of your child,
- ❖ **Displays** - our display boards are another way for you and your child to share achievements at nursery. They will show photos, written work and photographs of all the different things your child has been doing at nursery.
- ❖ **Class Dojo** - Key information will be sent via class dojo and you will have the opportunity to message the teachers with any concerns or if you want to tell us what your child has been learning at home.
- ❖ **Talking to each other** - at the end of each session your child's key worker may share important achievements with you, so you can talk about them at home.
- ❖ **Parents evening/meetings** - we have two very informal meetings per year when we will talk to you about your child's achievements. These take place in the Autumn and Spring Terms
- ❖ **Written Report** - You will receive a written report giving details of your child's progress towards the end of the Summer term.

**Please feel free to talk to staff at ANY time, if you have small matters to discuss then before and after sessions are ideal. If you**

wish to discuss things in more detail, please make us aware and we can arrange a more suitable time.

### Attendance and Punctuality

To ensure your child makes the best possible progress, it is essential that s/he attends regularly and punctually

Please phone to let us know if your child will be absent from nursery.

The nursery number is: **01772 457476**

If your child is absent and we have not received a message by 9:30 am a member of staff will contact you, to discuss reason for absence as part of our safeguarding policy.

### Uniform

At nursery we encourage the children to be as independent as possible. Therefore, the ideal clothing for your child to wear are sweatshirts, t-shirts, jogging bottoms and shoes with Velcro. Belts, zips, tights etc... are the most common reason we see accidents! We would appreciate that you send a NAMED bag into school containing:

- ❖ Spare underwear
- ❖ Spare socks
- ❖ 1 set of spare clothes (t-shirt, jogging pants, jumper)

**Please NAME each item of clothing  
so that it can be returned to its owner if lost**

School sweatshirts are available from Impressions Uniform Shop, Leyland Lane, Leyland. Please ask for a JADE GREEN NURSERY SWEATSHIRT as they are a different colour to the main school sweatshirts. These sweatshirts help us identify ourselves and help when your child experiences nursery to the fullest! (see below!)

Please be aware your child will be experiencing lots of new things at nursery, including; paint, water and even MUD! Although every precaution will be taken (aprons etc.) your child may still come home dirty! This is because they are an active learner and like to fully immerse themselves. (This is a positive!)

We discourage children wearing jewellery, except for a watch. If your child wears earrings they must be studs not sleepers.

**Teachers cannot assist children in putting in or taking out earrings.**

### Food and Snacks

We are part of the Healthy Schools scheme and this is reflected in what your child is offered during the day.

#### Snack time

During the morning session your child can choose to have a drink of milk or water and a piece of fruit. The fruit is provided free of charge as part of a Government scheme and milk is free until your child has his/her fifth birthday. An opt out form for Cool Milk was sent with your invitation to the welcome meeting.

**Please inform us if there are any foods that you DO NOT want your child to eat, we take every precaution to ensure that no nuts are in any of our snacks or used during baking activities.**

In addition, water is available at all times should your child need it. Alternatively, you can send in a bottle of water for your child to drink during the school day. It must be a clear plastic bottle of still water with a sports cap, clearly labelled with your child's name.

## Costs

The nursery and all of its activities are free to your child if they are entitled to 15 or 30 hours funding.

Your child gets the funding the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, however if you would like to pay for your child to start as soon as they turn three the costs are as follows;

£4 per hour

£12 per session

£24 full day

Nursery school dinner - £1.50

This is also open to parents who receive 15 free hours and would like their child to attend some extra sessions. **Please not that this is optional and subject to availability.**

## Practical Points

- Please let us know if there are any changes to your details during the year e.g. change of address, phone number or family circumstances.
- Please keep us fully informed of any medical conditions that your child may have.

Please let us know if someone different is collecting your child from Nursery. In case of last minute changes, please contact Nursery - 01772 457476 or the school office on 01772 422431.

- Children will be given a nursery library book once a week. Your child will be allocated a day when they can swap their book. Please note that your child will only be able to get a new book once the previous book has been returned.

## Toys

We realise that during the first few weeks, a toy brought from home can help your child settle into school. After this initial period, please discourage your child from bringing toys from home. Often toys can be broken or lost and this can be upsetting for your child. We have special show and tell sessions weekly that you will know about in advance.

**Due to COVID we are asking parents to not bring in anything from home at this time.**

## Useful Websites

[www.st-marys-leyland.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys-leyland.lancs.sch.uk)

[www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

**We hope that your child has a wonderful time at  
St. Mary's Catholic Nursery School**

**We can't wait to start learning and growing together**