

St Mary's Nursery School

September Newsletter

Welcome

"It is a happy talent to know how to play." – Ralph Waldo Emerson



We would like to welcome all the children and parents to St Mary's Nursery School!

Snack & Educational Fund

This money is used for healthy snacks, exciting educational experiences and lots of challenging, stimulating resources. The cost of our Snack & Educational Fund will be £5.00 per week. We hope to start providing our Healthy Snack next week.

Please see the last page with further details of our new cashless system.

Thank you 😊

School Contact

Please notify us if your child will not be attending school. The preferred method of contact is via email - please note we will only reply if necessary as the school office is not manned daily. Thank you.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

What to do:

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

When can my child return?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

School Policy: Please forward the email confirmation of your child's negative test result.

Uniforms

School sweatshirt, navy jog pants, polo shirts and sturdy soled velcro trainers (any colour). **Please ensure all articles of clothes are clearly marked with your child's name.** *Good quality second hand sweatshirts and t-shirts for sale. Please send an email to school if you are interested.*

Settling In Period

We shall work together to ensure your child settles comfortably and happily. However each child is an individual and some take longer to settle than others.



Speech and Language

Mrs Hoy, Mrs Friel, Ms Hughes, Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Begley have completed an Elkan Speech and Language Programme for those working with under five-year-olds. We currently implement many of these ideas into our practice to nurture and develop our young children's speech and language skills.

Bags to be Kept in School

Please ensure you have provided your child with indoor shoes (velcro trainers), a complete change of clothes and an extra plastic bag within a plastic bag with your child's name clearly marked on the outer bag. **THESE BAGS WILL REMAIN IN SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES.** Thank you!

Curriculum Matters

During the settling-in period in September the six areas of the curriculum will be set up to allow your child ease of achievement and enjoyment. This is to build their self-confidence and allow them time to build a relationship with the staff.



At the heart of the revised curriculum in Northern Ireland lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for life-long learning and for operating effectively in society. By developing thinking skills and personal capabilities in nursery, attention is given to the processes of learning and not just the products; young children naturally engage in active rather than passive learning; these skills help children to go beyond the mere recall of information to develop a deeper understanding of topics; they create positive dispositions and habits for learning; and they also provide a new range of criteria against which children can evaluate their progress in learning.

Nut Allergies

Our school is a nut-free zone. We would kindly ask you to ensure your child does not bring any food to school. On children's birthdays the school will provide a treat!

Plasters

In light of updated First Aid training our staff completed, no plasters will now be applied in school.

Talking Tip

Help your child develop good language and communication skills with this tip:

*Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs,
especially those with actions.*

You can help your child at home by ...

- 1) Nurturing positive conversations about school with your child.
- 2) Encouraging your child's independence -
 - toileting
 - dressing
 - meal times.

Car Park

Please note the parish kindly let us use the car park. There is a one-way system in operation, which should be observed at all times. **Never** park at the side of the Priest's house or in front of the school railings - always use the car park (only badge holders are permitted to park in disabled parking spaces). Parents, please drive very very slowly once you enter the church grounds and exercise extreme caution entering the car park. If you are in a taxi, please ensure the taxi uses the car park.

Walking from car park to school - **Please walk along the side of the pastoral centre, following the double red lines for your child's safety. Thank you.**

Our Proposed School Holidays

(10 of these days, staff will be working):

Months	Proposed Holidays (inclusive)	
	From	To
August 2020	1 st	26 th
September 2020	~	~
October 2020	26 th	30 th
November 2020	~	~
December 2020	21 st	31 st
January 2021	1 st	1 st
February 2021	15 th	19 th
March 2021	17 th	18 th
April 2021	2 nd	9 th
May 2021	3 rd 17 th 31 st	3 rd 21 st 31 st
June 2021	~	~
July 2021	1 st	31 st

Settling-In Grid

GROUPS	<i>Monday 7th September - Monday 14th September</i>	<i>Tuesday 15th September - Monday 21st September</i>	<i>Tuesday 22nd September - Monday 28th September</i>	<i>Tuesday 29th September - Monday 5th October</i>	<i>Tuesday 6th October</i>
1	9.00 - 10.00 *	9.00 - 10.30	9.00 -11.00	9.00 -11.30	9.00 -12.00
2	10.30 - 11.30 *	9.00 - 10.30 *	9.00 -11.00 *	9.00 -11.30 *	9.00 -12.00 *
3	12.30 - 1.30 *	11.00 - 12.30 *	11.30 - 1.00 *	12.30 - 3.00 *	11.00 - 2.00 *
4	2.00 - 3.00 *	1.30 - 3.00 *	11.30 - 1.00 *	12.30 - 3.00 *	11.00 - 2.00 *

Please note: the times for each group change on TUESDAYS to allow the children Mondays to settle back to Nursery School

The grid above illustrates our plan for settling your children over the next five weeks. After the initial five week period above, we intend to gradually merge the groups and work towards accommodating all children on a **full time** basis by the end of October.

As stated in the Education Restart Preschool Guidelines document, "Given the changing scientific and public health environment, this guidance may change in line with the latest advice and as such should be treated as '**agile**' guidance."

*** CLEAN AND DISINFECT TOILETS, WASHHAND BASINS, SOAP PUMPS, TABLES, CHAIRS AND ALL SURFACES COMPLETE CHANGE OF CURRICULUM RESOURCES BETWEEN EACH SOCIAL BUBBLE ***



St Mary's Nursery School

Snack & Educational Fund

Dear Parents

As from next week we are planning to providing a Healthy Snack for the children.

Due to COVID-19 we are hoping to operate a new cashless system. We are asking that parents pay the £5 contribution for the Snack & Educational Fund each Monday via bank transfer - PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME AS THE REFERENCE so we can allocate the payment correctly on Tuesdays.

We will use the text messaging service to send a reminder each week.

Thank you once again for your co-operation and understanding in this ever changing year.

- Payment to: **ST MARYS NURSERY SCHOOL**
- Sort Code: **09 01 53**
- Account Number: **01835489**
- Please put your child's name as the Reference

Thank you 😊