

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 on Monday 13th September.

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

If your child has symptoms, please book a PCR test. If the test is positive, please email the results to school and isolate your child. If the test is negative, email the results to info@stmarysnurseryschool.com and your child can return to school. If you choose not to test your child, your child can only return to school after an isolation period of 10 days.

If a member of your household tests positive please isolate your child for 10 days.

School Policy: Please forward the email confirmation of your child's 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.** N.B. *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, outside the church 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 when 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 for 2021-2022 are as follows:

Months	<i>Proposed Holidays (inclusive)</i>	
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
August 2021	1 st	25 th (20 th - 25 th Baker Days 1,2,3 & 4)
September 2021	~	~
October 2021	25 th	29 th
November 2021	1 st	1 st (1 st Baker Day 5)
December 2021	23 th	31 st
January 2022	3 rd	5 th (4 th -5 th Staff Development Days 1 & 2)
February 2022	14 th	18 th
March 2022	17 th	18 th (18 th Staff Development Day 3)
April 2022	15 th	22 nd (15 th Staff Development Day 4)
May 2022	2 nd	2 nd (2 nd Staff Development Day 5)
	16 th	20 th
June 2022	2 nd	3 rd May Bank Holiday + Additional Bank Holiday
July 2022	1 st	31 st

11.30am finish:

Wednesday 22.12.21, Thursday 14.4.22 and Thursday 30.6.22

Settling-In Grid

GROUPS	<i>Monday 30th August - Monday 6th September</i>	<i>Tuesday 7th September - Monday 13th September</i>	<i>Tuesday 14th September - Monday 28th September</i>	<i>Tuesday 21st September - Monday 27th September</i>	<i>Tuesday 28th September - Friday 1st October</i>	<i>Monday 4th October</i>
1	9.00-11.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	9.0 -12.00	9.00-1.30
2	11.15-1.15	9.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-1.30
3		12.45-1.45	12.45-2.45	11.00-2.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-1.30
4		2.00-3.00	12.45-2.45	11.00-2.00	9.00-12.00	9.00-1.30

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 throughout September. If the rate of community transition changed dramatically, there may be cause to revisit this.

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."



St Mary's Nursery School

Snack & Educational Fund

Dear Parents

As from Monday 13th September, we are planning to provide a Healthy Snack for the children.

Due to COVID-19 we are hoping to operate a 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.

- **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 😊