

# 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/outings 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 11<sup>th</sup> September.

NB: children pay £5 per week if they are in school 2 or more days that week, no payment is asked for if your child is off or during school holidays.

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

Thank you 😊

### Curriculum Evening

The curriculum evening will be on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm** in the Pastoral Centre. This important evening will go through the planned curriculum for your child's year in Nursery School and offer you the opportunity to involve you and your child in our home programme. It is an extremely important meeting which highlights how you can help your child's development over this year.

### 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.

### 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.** NB 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 Markey, Mrs Friel, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Begley have completed an Elkan Speech & Language and Early Talk Boost 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 2023-2024 are as follows

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

Months	Proposed Holidays (inclusive)	
	From	To
August 2023	1 <sup>st</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> (21 <sup>st</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> Baker Days 1-5)
September 2023	~	~
October 2023	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
November 2023	1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> (6 <sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day 1)
December 2023	25 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
January 2024	1 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
February 2024	12 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>
March 2024	18 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> (18 <sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day 2)
	29 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> (29 <sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day 3)
April 2024	1 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
May 2024	6 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> (6 <sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day 4)
	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup> (27 <sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day 5)
June 2024	~	~
July 2024	1 <sup>st</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>

11.30am finish: Friday 22.12.23, Thursday 28.3.24, Friday 28.6.24



### Friendship Bench

Please take time to have a look, and a chat, at our newly installed Friendship Bench at the entrance to our School. This has been gifted to the School in memory of the late Noelle Bredin who was Principal at St Mary's Nursery School from 1977-2001.



## Settling In Grids

GROUPS	Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug - Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept - Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept - Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tue 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept - Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept - Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
1	*9.00 - 11.00	9.00 - 12.00	9.00 - 12.00	9.00 - 12.00	9.00 - 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

**\* PARENTS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO STAY WITH THEIR CHILD  
ON THEIR FIRST DAY**

GROUPS	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Sep
4	2.00- 2.30	2.00- 2.30	2.00- 2.30	2.00- 2.30	2.00- 2.30
5	2.45- 3.15	2.45- 3.15	2.45- 3.15	2.45- 3.15	2.45- 3.15

**PARENTS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO STAY WITH THEIR CHILD FOR THE FIRST  
WEEK (Tues 5<sup>th</sup> - Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Sep inclusive)**

**Next steps, after Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, will be decided as we  
see how your child settles over the first week.**



# St Mary's Nursery School

## Snack & Educational Fund

Dear Parents

As from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, we are planning to provide a Healthy Snack for the children.

We operate a cashless system. We ask 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 😊