

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!

School Dinners & Educational Fund

This money is used for healthy snacks, exciting educational outings and lots of challenging, stimulating resources. The cost of school dinners is £2.50 per day and Educational Fund is £5.00 per week. A money bag with your child's name and the amount due shall be left at your child's coat peg on Monday mornings. It shall be collected on Tuesday mornings.

Please ensure the correct amount of money is enclosed and paid promptly in the money bag as we have to bank the money on Tuesdays. Cash only please.



Curriculum Evening

The curriculum evening will be on **Wednesday 19th September at 7.30pm** 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.

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 see Mrs Weatherald or Mrs Sheppard.

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 - be assured you are welcome to stay as long as is necessary for your child.



Art

Your child's completed art creations should be collected daily from their pigeonholes in the hall. This system will operate from Friday 7th September.

Speech and Language

Mrs Hoy, Mrs Friel, Mrs Weatherald, 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.

Hall Bags

Please place a complete change of clothes and a plastic bag inside the bags provided. Your child's velcro trainers can be kept in this bag as well. **THESE HALL BAGS REMAIN IN SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES.** Thank you!

Coffee Mornings/Afternoons

Please feel free to use the Staff Room and arrange to meet up in the mornings or afternoons for a tea/coffee and a chat. You are most welcome!

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.

Severe Nut Allergy

As we have just been alerted to a child's severe nut allergy we would 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, then please walk **on the double red lines** along the blue railings 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 2018	1 st	24 th
September 2018	~	~
October 2018	29 th	31 st
November 2018	1 st	5 th
December 2018	24 th	31 st
January 2019	1 st	4 th
February 2019	18 th	22 nd
March 2019	18 th	18 th
April 2019	19 th	26 th
May 2019	6 th 24 th	6 th 31 st
June 2019	~	~
July 2019	1 st	31 st

Settling-In Grid

GROUPS	<i>Wed 29th Aug - Mon 3rd Sept</i>	<i>Tue 4th Sept - Mon 10th Sept</i>	<i>Tue 11th Sept - Mon 17th Sept</i>	<i>Tue 18th Sept - Mon 24th Sept</i>	<i>Tue 25th Sept - Fri 28th Sept</i>	<i>Monday 1st Oct</i>
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
4		*2.00 - 3.00	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						

* Monday 1st October - dinners start and all children stay to 1.30pm *

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