



## Afternoon Nursery - Autumn Term 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year at St. Joseph's. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families joining our school this year. We really enjoyed meeting all of the children at their home visit and we are looking forward to working together this year to give the children the best start to their school life.

### Routine in class

In the morning we open the doors at 8.40. There is a flexible start time and we do not close the doors until 8.55. The children will come in and can get started on an activity straight away. Please see your child into the classroom and settle them at an activity before leaving them. Pushchairs need to be left outside please.

The nursery session ends at 11.40. Please be prompt at collecting your child as we only have a short time to get ready for the afternoon children. If you are delayed please phone the office as soon as possible to inform us so that your child does not get worried. We try to open the door 5 minutes early so that it is not too busy with everyone collecting at once. If someone different is collecting your child you must call the school office as soon as possible. If we have not received notice we will not be able to let your child leave until we have confirmed with you. This is for the safety of your child but can also be worrying for them, so please help us make sure it does not happen.

On a Tuesday morning either I or Miss Cannon will be out of the class for PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time). Mrs Hogg will support in class on this morning.

### Topic

In Nursery we plan according to the needs and interests of the children. We follow one main topic a term but also include several mini topics as they arise. Details of our topic and weekly activities will be displayed on the outside notice board. This term our topic will be 'Ourselves'. We will also work on a couple of mini topics such as 'Christmas'. For the first few weeks of the term we will mainly focus on settling the children in and helping them to learn the routine. Attached is some of the curriculum coverage for this half term.

In the foundation stage we record your child's progress in their own personalised learning journal. If you would like to record a special moment to include from home there are stickers in the cloakroom for you to write on. We will then share the moment with your child and add it to the learning journal. We will also send home a page for you to add at half terms. At various times during the year we will invite you in to share your child's learning journal.

### How you can help at home

Nursery children are keen to be independent and you can support this by allowing your child to do more things for themselves. An example would be teaching your child to put on their own shoes and coat, and even to do their coats up themselves. Initially it may take longer however children will quickly learn. Also enjoy reading with your child, not just at bedtime, and help your child develop a love of reading by sharing books and reading signs etc. in everyday life.

### Uniform

Unfortunately during this term the weather changes for the worse. Please be aware that we go outside in **ALL** weathers and you need to bring your child into school dressed appropriately. Up until half term children may choose to wear summer uniform. Boys can wear shorts and girls can wear summer dresses.

After half term children need to wear the winter Nursery uniform which is slightly different from the rest of the school. Uniform is navy blue tracksuit bottoms, jumper/cardigan and a blue polo shirt. Children do not need to wear school shoes however they do need comfortable shoes that they can get on and off themselves. No laces please.

Please could you ensure **ALL** items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's full name, including their shoes.

Children are asked not to wear any jewellery in nursery. If your child has pierced ears they are allowed to wear plain studs only. These will need to be covered with micropore tape when we start P.E.

### **Safety**

Children are **not** allowed to ride bikes or scooters anywhere in the school grounds. Please make sure children dismount at the school gates before they enter and that any scooters or bikes are walked to a safe area to leave them.

### **Snack**

Snack money this term is £5 until half term, or £13 for the term. The preferred method of payment is 'School Gateway'. If you are paying in cash/cheque please make sure money is sent in with your child's name, class (including am/pm) and amount written on the envelope. The office cannot accept any money that is not in an envelope.

### **Birthdays**

When your child has a birthday we like to celebrate with them in school. As part of our 'healthy school policy' and due to allergies in class, we would ask you not to send in any sweets or cakes. If you would like to bring anything in some suggestions are a book for the class library or a small token for the children such as a sticker, pencil or a balloon.

### **General**

Please check parent mail and our notice board as we send important information, dates etc out this way.

If your child has any illnesses requiring medication, such as asthma, please speak to a member of staff who will provide you with the relevant paperwork. Please note we are not allowed to administer medication such as calpol or antibiotics during the session. Unfortunately during the cooler months there are usually bugs that go around class. If a child is unwell we will call you to collect your child early from school. If your child has a temperature and requires medication such as Calpol please keep them at home and allow them to recover before you send them back to school.

If you are handed a 'please may I speak to you' card please do not worry! At the end of the session we may need to speak to you, for example to let you know about an accident or to share some fantastic work. It is not always possible to catch every parent so we ask if your child hands you one of these cards please wait to speak to either myself or Miss Cannon.

Also, please look at the table inside the classroom before you go home. If there are any letters or pictures to go home we will put them on there for you to collect. New things are sent home daily so please check every day.

If you would like to get involved in the school we have a very successful school association that you can join. We will post details of meetings on the notice boards, new members are always welcome.

We also appreciate help in class, either on a regular or occasional basis. If you would like to help out on a regular basis please speak to either myself or Miss Cannon. During the year there will also be opportunities for 'one off' help and for you to come into nursery to share your child's learning journey.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns please come and speak to us and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Saunders and Miss Cannon