

Welcome to St Mary's CE (Aided) Primary Nursery



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One family: school, church, home and community.

At St Mary's we believe in a culture where:

- Everyone is special, unique and valued: diversity and difference are celebrated. We are all God's treasure.
- Education is holistic; spiritual and moral growth is nurtured.
Life in all its fullness – John 10:10.
- Inspirational and reflective worship enables all in the school community to encounter the risen Christ.
- Wisdom, knowledge and skills are a focus in everything.
- Everyone does their best at all times with a culture of the highest expectations, respect and consideration for all.
- Everyone can succeed and achieve. Aspiration and inspiration are central to all that we do.
I know the plans I have for you. Plans to make you prosper – Jeremiah 29:11.
- Creativity and joy in learning is valued.
- The spiritual and emotional well-being of all members of our school community is a priority. Resilience and perseverance are developed in all.
- A community of global citizens of God is created through social action – on local, national and global levels.

All of these are underpinned by our spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and experiences; respect of our British values and through our core Christian values of hope, peace, compassion, forgiveness, trust and endurance.

'We will grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love'. *Ephesians 4:15-16*

St Mary's Church of England **Primary School Nursery**

Welcome

May we welcome you and your children to St Mary's Primary School Nursery. It is, for the children, the beginning of their school education and our aim is to make it a happy and positive experience.

About our Nursery

For this school year (2023/ 2024) we are continuing with the option of full time provision for those that wish it. We can be flexible with your requirements over and above part time provision and for further information about this, simply ask one of the Nursery staff. This is offered once all the 15 and 30 hours funded places are allocated and are subject to staffing ratios.

Our Nursery is staffed by very experienced and well qualified teachers and teaching assistants:

Mrs W Reger
Miss Bedford
Miss K Clyne
Mrs J West

Nursery Teacher
Nursery Teacher
Nursery Teaching Assistant
Lunchtime Welfare Assistant



Mrs Reger



Miss Bedford



Miss Clyne



Mrs West

Headteacher

Mrs D Holding

Deputy Headteacher

Mr J Percival

During the year we are usually joined by students from local colleges who are studying for nursery / child-care qualifications.

Opening hours:

Morning 9.00am to 12.00 noon

Lunch 11.30am to 1.00pm
During lunchtime the Nursery is staffed by a Teaching Assistant and a Welfare Assistant

Afternoon 12.30pm to 3.30pm

Children aged 3 years are entitled to **15 hours** free Nursery education per week. This can be taken as **either a morning or an afternoon session**. If places are available, we can offer extra sessions at £20.00 per session. You may also qualify for the new **30 hours** funding and will need to complete relevant forms to apply. **If claiming 30 hour funding, a charge of £5 a day is required to cover the lunchtime sessions.**

Nursery sessions in the morning will be from 9.00am – 12.00 noon and in the afternoon 12.30 pm – 3.30pm.

The principle aim of the Nursery is to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, where children can learn and develop positively as individuals and benefit from the resources and equipment the Nursery has to offer. To provide children with confidence and ability to communicate effectively with each other and adults and so ease their passage into the education system.

Principles

Our main emphasis of learning will be through play, but children will be taught to enjoy arts and crafts, early maths, mark making, letter formation, science, language and physical development.

All children are offered equal opportunities in an atmosphere that reflects a balanced and coherent, progressive model of planned learning.

The Nursery works towards the Early Learning Goals from the Early Years Revised Framework.

Our Aims.

At St. Mary's Primary School Nursery we aim to:

- Provide a safe and stimulating environment in which children feel happy and secure.
- Encourage the emotional, personal, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of the children.
- Encourage positive attitudes to self and others and develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Create opportunity for play.
- Encourage children to explore the World.
- Provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination.
- Extend the children's ability to communicate ideas and feelings in a variety of ways.



The Nursery Curriculum. –

Nursery education is about focusing on the development of the individual child during their time in Nursery your child will experience a great variety of activities based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

These are grouped under seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- Communication, Language.
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World.
- Physical Development.
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Literacy

Brief examples of activities offered to the children include: stories, circle time, physical activities (indoor and out), sand and water play, construction, jigsaws, moulding, modelling, mark-making, drawing, painting, gluing and

sticking, baking, role-play, small world, listening activities, musical activities and trips and visits to areas of interest and the surrounding local environment.

Of course, when you ask your child the question, "What have you done today in Nursery?" The reply will often be "playing", and this is exactly what they will have been doing! However, there is much more to play than meets the eye. Play is natural to the children and is the way in which they learn. Through play the children learn new skills, develop new interests, encounter new experiences and build upon previous knowledge. In Nursery we aim to provide a secure, caring, happy and structured environment where the children learn through meaningful play.

Each of the activities offered to the children provide countless learning experiences e.g. by seeing their name for self-registration or on paintings and looking in the book corner helps to familiarise children with the printed word and encourage an interest in books.

The children are preparing themselves for writing by expressing their ideas through drawing and painting, while developing their fine motor skills and their ability to hold pencils and pens.

There is preparation for mathematics by sorting, matching, selecting and ordering as they play with materials such as sand, water and construction

Jigsaws, games, painting, drawing, computer programmes etc. encourage recognition of colour, shape and pattern.

Pupils acquire knowledge of the world through participating in activities such as circle time, interactive whiteboard activities and exploring and investigating using the many resources in Nursery.



Skills such as listening, talking, questioning, recalling information and describing are encouraged to develop through individual, group and whole class activities.

In the Nursery the children learn to make new friends and to learn and respect one another. They learn to take turns, share and become more independent. They also learn to follow rules and carry out instructions. The fact that there are so many activities in the Nursery may mean that your child does not always take home evidence of their play. However, what they do take home is always their own work. Please remember that what may look like scribble to adults could be a work of art to your child, so always reward any effort with some praise! Further information on activities, together with photographs of the children engaged in activities are displayed around school and via Class Dojo.

Each child's progress is tracked and this enables us to plan your child's next steps in learning, in partnership with you as parents / carers. We also send a curriculum overview to parents and carers at the beginning of every half term to keep you informed of themes, topics and ways to help your child at home. Work is also shared on Class Dojo. Class Dojo is the school's main form of communication with you as parents / carers.

Principles for Foundation Stage at St Mary's

Informality is the keynote of the Nursery class, most of each session will be spent learning through planned structured play. Good and effective practice in our Nursery and, above all, effective learning and development requires high quality care and educational provision. We strive to achieve this by:

- Working in partnership with parents/carers to support each individual child and ensure no child is disadvantaged or excluded.
- Understanding how children develop and learn during the early years.
- Planning a learning environment, indoors and outdoors, that encourages a positive attitude to learning through rich and stimulating experiences and by ensuring each child feels included.
- Planning and organising the learning environment to provide experiences that build on what children already know and to involve them in their own learning.
- Planning a carefully structured curriculum that provides rich and stimulating experiences.
- Observing children and responding appropriately to help them progress.
- Providing a relevant curriculum that is carefully structured, with well-planned activities and appropriate adult intervention.

At St Mary's the children work and play in large and small groups or individually with formal supervision for some activities and background support for others. The children are given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities and different play situations, and to use a variety of play resources. Our Nursery curriculum is flexible and can be readily adapted to meet the needs and interests of the children.

Teaching in the Nursery at St Mary's

St Mary's Nursery has an excellent reputation for high quality teaching and learning. This good practice has resulted from many aspects including:

- Planning and creating a learning environment for all children;
- Organising time and material resources;
- Interacting;
- Questioning and responding to questions;
- Working with and observing children;
- Assessing and recording children's progress.



Helping your child

Throughout your child's time in Nursery and also when they start school it is hoped that you will continue to take on the role of your child's primary educator. As soon as your child comes into the world, you are preparing them for the life they have ahead of them. Many of the skills required are not learned automatically and children need encouragement and practice to acquire them. As a parent / carer you can work alongside Nursery staff to help your child prepare for the formal learning of school.

Talking and Listening.

Children need lots of encouragement and practice to LISTEN as well as talk. Talk to your child and listen to them when they are talking to you. Name objects when you show them to your child. Talk to them about colours, shapes and numbers in the world around them. Talk about what you can hear when you are out and about with your child or in the home. Play memory games and sing nursery and number rhymes.

Moving and Doing.

Clapping helps the learning and memory. Let your child copy simple clapping rhythms. Play lots of movement games such as Simon Say; encourage games which use positional language such as on top of, underneath, next to, besides, before and after, as these are words which children can often confuse.

Hand Control.

Encourage the muscles that will eventually allow your child to hold a pencil by allowing them to participate in activities such as; playing with water, sand or play dough; writing or drawing with a variety of pencils, pens and crayons; gluing and sticking and other craft ideas; threading beads; jigsaws; using peg patterns; and other games which use counters and dice. Supervised cutting activities with scissors can develop your child's fine motor skills.

We use playdough disco and funky fingers activities throughout the week which all help to strengthen and build upper body strength (gross motor skills) and finger/hand strength and control (fine motor skills).



Helping with Reading.

Encourage positive reading experiences by setting aside special times for the purpose. Create cosy reading situations where you will not be interrupted or distracted. Talk about the sounds of words-such as: “What does dog start with?”, “Can you hear which sound it ends with?” Use the phonic sounds of the letters as opposed to the letter names when sounding out words. However, it is still important for them to learn the names of letters. So, for example, it may be easier to learn the name of the letter that you show them and what sound it makes. (If you require information on this please ask a member of the nursery staff). Let your child choose books that they want to read and model how to hold the book correctly, taking care of how we store and look after books. Talk about the front cover, what might happen in the story? Reading aloud to your child provides a good model for them. All children participate in a weekly shared reading activity.



Social Skills.

Play games with your child, which encourage taking turns and sharing. Encourage them to play and interact with other children.

Encourage your child to listen to and carry out simple instructions. Encourage them to become more independent by doing simple tasks by themselves such as putting on their own coat and shoes, asking them to tidy away their toys after play.

At St. Mary's we ask that children be toilet trained as we have limited changing facilities and staffing ratios. Although we are willing to clean and change children should they have an 'accident', we would prefer that children are as independent as possible with regard to toilet and hygiene.

If your child is starting Nursery in September and is not yet toilet trained, we ask that you use the summer to reinforce good toilet habits and hygiene. Your health visitor may be able to provide you with advice and support for this. Now is the time to start your toilet training. At St. Mary's we work in partnership with parents / carers and aim to develop your child's independence by the use of Nursery routines, such as going to the toilet and reminding to wash hands also washing hands before snack and lunch. After having their lunch, all children participate in brushing their teeth which reinforces good habits implemented at home.



Please feel free to speak to one of the Nursery teachers if you feel that you need more help with suitable activities at home.

How you can help us.

Bringing and collecting your child.

Access to the Nursery is through the main front gate on Rectory Lane. Please ensure your child is fully supervised on the way to and from Nursery and do not allow them to climb on the railings to eliminate any accidents.

Children must be brought and collected by a person over the age of 16 years.

At the beginning of the session, please bring your child into Nursery playground.

If you need to collect your child early, or if you arrive late, please go to the office situated in the main school.

Please tell us if someone different will be collecting your child or if you are going to be late for any reason or need to collect them early.

We would be grateful if you would ensure that your child is collected on time at the end of each session as children can get upset if they are always left until last to be collected by parents or carers.

Emergencies

Parents/carers are asked to complete a contact information sheet providing school with phone numbers on which to contact someone should your child need to go home. This information is important to the welfare of your child and we rely on you to keep it up to date.



Absence and illness.

Please inform us of any changes of address or contact numbers so that we can get in touch with you if your child becomes unwell or in an emergency.

If your child is absent please contact the school (telephone no. 0161 773 3794) or via class Dojo.

If your child has German Measles please contact us immediately so that we can inform parents in case of anyone being in the early stages of pregnancy.



If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please keep them at home for 48 hours.

A holiday list will be given to you when your child enters Nursery. Please inform us if your child is going to be on holiday during term time.

Nursery fees are still payable for any absences but not dinner money

Clothing and other personal items.

Please arrange for your child to be sensibly and comfortably dressed in clothes that they can cope with when going to the toilet, playing in the water or participating in physical play. It is important that they are able to develop independence.

School Uniform

The school has a uniform as we feel it gives the children a sense of belonging. We like our children to be clean and tidy at all times. **School uniform is not compulsory for Nursery pupils.**

Grey pinafore, grey skirt or tailored grey trousers (not leggings)

Blue gingham dress for summer term (optional)

Navy sweatshirt with or without the school badge

Navy cardigan with or without the school badge

Light blue polo shirt or light blue blouse – **not** white

White, grey or blue socks or grey, blue or black tights

Please ensure that your child's clothing, especially uniforms, coats and hats are named and that they do bring a coat to Nursery as we have outdoor play. If possible avoid coats that have loose cords which can be dangerous if caught in equipment. Please ensure your child also has a pair of wellies that can be left in school.

Please provide sensible shoes with good grips and easy fasteners. We discourage jewellery as it can get caught or lost. Every child will have their own peg with name and picture.

If your child has an 'accident' in Nursery we will change them and provide clean clothes. Please wash and return nursery clothes as soon as possible or provide a spare change of clothes for your child to keep at Nursery.

Children should not bring any toys to Nursery as they can easily get lost or broken. We sometimes have an interest or theme table and any items should be passed to a member of the Nursery staff, please do not send anything valuable or delicate.

Behaviour management.

In the Nursery we help children to develop skills to manage their own behaviour. We encourage the children to learn and play together, share, take turns and care for objects and each other.

Once the children are settled, we introduce 'Star of the Week' where the children get a certificate and a chance to pick something from the Treasure Box.



Foundation Stage contribution.

To cover the cost of daily snacks, baking and craft resources and other activities in our Foundation Stage, we ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week. You can pay termly if you wish. Free milk and fruit is provided for Nursery children.

Safety around our school.

A lot of children attend our school and for their safety as well as yours we ask all parents to read the following very carefully:

- * Please do not park near the zebra crossing or on the zigzag lines, ensure you park your car in a safe place.
- * Always use the school crossing patrol when coming to or from Nursery.

Mrs West is our school crossing patrol officer.



She will be a regular feature of your day when crossing to and from school.

It is school policy that children do not wear jewellery in the Nursery and this includes earrings. Very small studs or sleepers may be used to keep existing holes open however, during any physical activity plasters may need to be placed over the earring for safety.

This policy is for your child's own safety and that of others.



General Points

Part time Nursery children need not bring lunch to school. For children staying all day a school dinner can be provided or you may supply a packed lunch if you wish. The Nursery children staying all day will be cared for at lunchtime by their own welfare assistants.

During the morning and afternoon, the children are given a choice of milk or water and fruit. The school is also part of the national fruit scheme so, should the children wish, a piece of fruit is available too.

There are two parents' evenings – in line with the rest of the school - in the Autumn and Spring terms. This is an opportunity to talk about how the children have settled into a routine and to look at examples of your child's achievements. These are offered either face to face or online.

A more detailed report covering the seven areas of learning of the Early Years curriculum is issued towards the end of the year. Of course, if you wish to speak to any member of staff at any stage during the year, they are always available, either via dojo messaging or at the end of the school day.

We also hold a 'Stay and Play' session in the Nursery. The session lasts for 1 hour and enables you to work with your child in the classroom and get a little insight into the sort of things and activities we do in Nursery. These sessions are not compulsory and are just a little extra thing that we thought the parents / carers would enjoy.



Nursery Admissions for September 2024 are processed in the March of that year. We will contact you to confirm your requirements and final admission letters will be issued by the end of March.

Admission to main school

You may not know that the criteria for entry into Nursery is different from that for the main school. **Acceptance of a Nursery place does not guarantee admission to Reception at St Mary's.** If you wish to put your child's name forward for the Reception class at St Mary's you will be required to complete a Local Education Authority common application form in January or February. For further information regarding our Admissions Policy, please visit our website stmarysprestwich.bury.sch.org

If you are hoping to join St Mary's School using the Church faith criteria, please note that the Church attendance register must be signed by parents. Under current admission arrangements, admission to St Mary's Reception class for 2024 will require a minimum of 18 attendances from 1st January – 31st December 2023 (one a week) or 35% of the total number of weeks that Church is open for Acts of Praise and Worship. Please consult the School Admissions Policy for clarification.

Breakfast Club

As of September 2020, St Mary's now offer a breakfast club facility, operating from 7.30am – 9am during term time, excluding PAD days and Bank Holidays. This is a paid provision. Details can be found on our school website in the Breakfast Club policy and details will be provided in your admissions pack.



Our Sunshine Garden

NURSERY FEES AND DINNER MONEY

Nursery fees are £20.00 per extra session- £100.00 per week, payable on Monday. All payments are made via ParentPay – information on how to pay and log in etc will be sent out to you once your child has started. **If claiming 30 hour funding, a charge of £5 a day is required to cover the lunchtime sessions**

If you are claiming the 30 hour funding, it is your responsibility to ensure all relevant paperwork is completed and returned to the office. This must be with the School Office by Wednesday 19th July.

We also accept many Nursery Vouchers.

Dinner Money is £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week) and is payable on Monday. Payment for dinner money can be made online via Parent Pay. The menu for the week is available on School Grid and you can select the menu choices with your child in advance.

You can choose to pay, weekly, monthly, termly whichever suits.

Please read the enclosed letter, which explains the school policy for Nursery flexibility.

If you wish to increase/decrease the nursery sessions your child attends, please contact the school office allowing 2 weeks before changes can take place. Additional sessions are subject to availability.

If you wish to take holidays in term time, a letter with the dates on to the Nursery teacher, Mrs Reger is appreciated. **You will need to pay Nursery fees for the time off school, but not dinner money (for those that have school dinners).**

Parental / Carer Involvement

A variety of fundraising events are held during the year and parental / carer involvement is welcomed.

There are other ways in which you may want to help at school. We are an open and welcoming school and parental / carer support is always appreciated. Please speak to one of the staff members if you would like to help.

We hope your children have a happy, enjoyable and fulfilling time whilst with us in the Nursery. Our partnership with you, as parents and carers, is an important one. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to speak to us.