

# CURRICULUM INFORMATION



## Nursery Advent Term 2023

### Welcome

The Nursery team warmly welcomes all new and returning parents and children at the start of the new school year.

### Curriculum

Our main aim during this first half term is to settle all the children into Nursery and to ensure that they feel happy, safe and secure. We also carry out a number of activities and observations which form our baseline assessments of the children in Nursery. This enables us to work out the next steps in learning for each of the children, which we use to inform our planning.

Our overall theme this half term is '*Marvellous Me*' but we will also be finding out about the children's interests and using these to develop learning opportunities.

Our theme during the second half term will be '*Nursery Rhymes*'.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be working hard to develop positive relationships, establish routines and to make sure that the children understand the high behaviour expectations of them. We will also be promoting positive relationships between children and adults.

**Key Vocabulary:** snack, carpet, tidy up, walking feet, sharing, taking turns.

#### Communication and Language

We will be focusing on developing strong skills in listening and attention. We will also be assessing each child's level of speaking and understanding, both of which are very important for developing well in all areas of the curriculum.

**Key Vocabulary:** hello, goodbye, please, thank you.

#### Physical Development

We will assess each child's gross motor and fine motor skills in order to plan appropriate activities for them. The children will have access to the outdoors to develop strong gross motor skills and will have fine motor activities in our Continuous Provision which will all help to develop the muscle strength and dexterity to work towards a good pencil grip and balance and coordination.

**Key Vocabulary:** run, walk, jump, pencil grip, push, pull.

### Literacy

We will be sharing lots of stories as a class, in small groups and individually to foster an enjoyment of **reading**. Listening to and talking about stories are really important early reading skills and we really encourage you to make use of our Nursery Library baskets to enjoy regular stories at home too.

During the second half term we will also have a focus on nursery rhymes.

Singing nursery rhymes and songs with children helps develop their language and communication skills. They are also an important part of developing early literacy skills.

Mark making is the start of **writing**. We always have a mark making area in nursery and this term will be encouraging children to talk about their pictures and marks.

**Key Vocabulary:** books, stories, book corner, mark making.

### Mathematical Development

We will be assessing where the children are in their understanding of number and encouraging them to use number and counting in their play. There will also be lots of different opportunities for counting in nursery and we will be singing number rhymes and songs.

**Key Vocabulary:** numbers, count, one, two, three.

### Understanding the World

We will be encouraging the use of our small world area, introducing the children to activities on the interactive board and the nursery cameras, encouraging the children to be observant about the world around them. We will be noticing signs of autumn and the early signs of winter as our seasons change.

**Key Vocabulary:** mum, dad, family autumn.

### Expressive Arts and Design (EAD):

The children will have independent access to different materials in our creative area and will be taught how to use them. They will also be encouraged to use the role play area and to join in with the many songs we sing in nursery.

**Key vocabulary:** make, paint, paper, glue, scissors.

### Religious Education:

In Early Years this year we are starting a new and very exciting RE curriculum. The children will hear scripture as a foundation for their learning, talk about what Catholics believe, experience a range of adult directed and child lead activities and celebrate their learning, expressing their awe and wonder and learn to pray.

For the first half term our topic is 'Creation and Covenant'. The children will learn that God made the world, God loves us, we are invited to be part of God's family through Baptism and that we should look after God's world.

After half term our topic will be 'Prophecy and Promise'. The children learn that Mary was chosen by God to be Mary's mother, Jesus was born in a stable, the shepherds visited Jesus and that Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.

Please feel free to share your family celebrations and traditions with us – we love to learn from each other.

## Outdoor Learning

As part of the Early Years Curriculum, Foundation children are expected to do some of their learning outside. Your child will be given the chance to be outside during part of every day, whatever the weather! Thank you to all those parents who have provided a pair of named wellies for their child to wear outdoors.

## Letter Bags

Your child will be given an individual letter bag. This will go home every Wednesday. It will contain letters from Nursery and any pictures they have done throughout the week.

Please empty and return it to Nursery on a Thursday or the next day your child is at Nursery.

## Activities to help your child at home

- Practise some self-help skills; encouraging your child to use the toilet independently, recognise their coat and shoes, put on and take off their shoes and coats etc,
- Talk to your child about the activities they have been doing at Nursery.
- Read lots of books with your child. Discuss the pictures with them and talk about what is happening.
- Practise counting objects with your child by touching them as you say the number names. Count socks, spoons, carrots, stairs, cars – anything! Make it fun!
- Talk to your child when you are outdoors – look at the changing trees and other signs of the different seasons.
- Sing songs together. We are building a collection of words to songs we sing in Nursery; if you would like a copy of any songs, please ask. Some of our song words are in the yellow folder in the cloakroom.
- Read the weekly Parent Note for ideas linked to the week's activities.

## Collecting Children

Please ensure that you collect your child promptly, so that the staff can prepare the Nursery for the next session. If you do experience a delay, please telephone the school office on **01908 606966** to let us know.

Finally, the whole team values the philosophy of working closely in partnership with parents. If you have any worries, concerns or celebrations of your child's achievements, please do not hesitate to share these with us.

Mrs Cathcart, Mrs Wheatley and the Nursery Team.