

ST NICOLAS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Welcome to St Nicolas School Nursery

The Team



Mrs Kate Edwards Mrs Claire Norris

Early Years Lead Level 3 Teaching assistant

Full staffing to be shared at home visits

A very warm welcome to Nursery. We look forward to meeting you and your child in person very soon. In the meantime, here is some useful information that may be of help.

Session Times

Am-8.45-11.45

Pm 11.45-2.45pm (There is an option to stay until 3.15 for a small charge)

Equipment

Uniform-There will be no official uniform for nursery children. Please send your child to nursery in sensible clothing which is practical for playing in and ones which you don't mind getting dirty.

Bag – This can be any bag or rucksack. The children will use this to transport their belongings back and forwards from home to nursery. It needs to be suitable for hanging on a peg.

PE kit – Once we've settled the children into the term, the Nursery team will give you notice for when we will begin P.E. You will be notified of their P.E day and they will need to arrive in suitable clothes for PE on that day.

Water bottle-Please send your child with a labelled water bottle daily. We will also provide milk during snack time. Water bottles will be sent home at the end on your child's week

Lunch box-If your child is staying for lunch please provide them with a packed lunch. We would encourage a healthy lunch box and we are a **NUT FREE** school



Forest Fun kit -A net bag will be provided by nursery at a small voluntary fee. This will help us to store the Forest Fun equipment. Your children will need a set of waterproofs (either an all in one or separate trousers and jacket) along with a pair of wellington boots. The children will also use their Forest Fun clothes in our outside space and mud kitchen so it's required all year. Gloves, thick socks and a hat are essential during the colder months and a sun hat for the summer months.

The trick is to name everything!!!

Arriving at school

The school gates will open at 8.35am for children to make their way into their classrooms for an 8.45am start. The main pedestrian gates at the front of school lock promptly at 8.45am. After this time, families need to access school via the school office.

PLEASE NOTE – parents are not permitted to enter the staff carpark.

Please drop your child at the nursery door, where an adult will be there to greet and support you.

We will encourage your child to put their belongings away and to self-register using their photograph.

Settling your child Staff will be available to help your child to settle into their session. The children may choose which area they would like to start their day. A member of staff will be available on the gate for any messages which need to be shared before the start of the session.

Leaving If your child is struggling to settle, a member of staff will be there to help. We will discuss strategies with you that you think will help your child to settle at home visits. We are always happy to give you a quick call or message on Tapestry to reassure you that they have settled.

It is often easier to say goodbye and then leave to avoid a long goodbye. We are here to help and support in a way that works for you and your child.

Learning in Nursery

Our focus will be on 3 main areas of learning in the Early Years, **the prime areas**. Skills in these areas are needed before children can move on to the specific areas e.g. reading/writing/maths

The Curriculum will include everything we want the children to experience and learn whilst they are in Nursery.

Children learn a great deal of our curriculum through the play and activities that they choose independently. They also learn through our careful selection of 'core books, rhymes and songs' in Nursery. **Children will learn new words, new skills and new knowledge.**

We also have curriculum goals for every child to work towards – these include number and maths, creative skills, writing and mark making, understanding the world, responding to music and songs and telling stories.

These goals may be more challenging for your child if they are beyond their typical developmental pathway. If your child has 'additional support needs' this means they may need extra or different help than what is normally given to other children their age. A child might need additional support for many different reasons. Some might need extra help for a short time, and others might need support for the whole time they are in education. A child does not need a diagnosis to be entitled to extra help with their learning. If a child is struggling at nursery for any reason, then in partnership with you, we explore the reason for this, provide support where it is needed and determine next steps.

Communication and Language

- **Language:** the staff in Nursery are very skilled at interacting with young children and will introduce new words to support their development. They chat, play and read with the children every day. Language is the 'Golden Thread' which runs throughout our Nursery.

Children who are good communicators at 5 years old are most likely to be successful learners throughout their time at school.

Personal, social and emotional Development

Relationships: it is very important for children to feel safe and secure. That is why every child has a key person who takes the lead on their care and education. Children become more independent when they have a strong and loving relationship to fall back on. We use lots of different techniques to support our children to understand their own emotions and the feelings of others. We pride ourselves on creating a calm and nurturing environment in which all our children feel welcome.

Physical Development

Fine and gross motor skills: During the nursery year we would like children to be able to take appropriately challenging risks and to use a variety of tools and resources independently and safely. Risk assessment will be carried out regularly. Physical activity is vital to children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives.

Learning through play

Independent play: Children need uninterrupted time to choose their own play and make friends. Adults will support play, in a sensitive way, to help children to learn whilst they are playing. Staff will think about the important knowledge children need and how they can learn whilst they are playing.

Adult guided play: children also need times when adults plan and guide their play. A play activity might be guided so it has a clear focus on learning, for example counting, writing and phonological awareness.

Direct teaching: sometimes the adults work directly with children to teach them new skills. This could include learning to use scissors, support with language development, responding to their sensory needs, or writing some of the letters in their name.

We offer a balance of all these different approaches.

Snack Time

We implement a rolling snack time where the children are encouraged to go independently to the snack table during their choosing time to access milk/water and fruit/veg. This will be supported and over-seen by an adult.

There is an emphasis on independence and healthy eating and the snacks are provided by the government directly to schools.

Outdoor learning

We use the outside to cover all areas of learning and is our third classroom.

Our outdoor learning consists of a sandpit, water play, mud kitchen, climbing area, loose parts area for building, role-play and many other activities to support our topics and the children's interests.

We are also fortunate to have a huge field area, a lovely forest area for outdoor learning, an adventure play area and a large playground.



Pick up

Please wait at the main front gate where a member of staff will be there to meet you. Please ensure you are prompt in order to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Illness

If children experience sickness and diarrhoea, they must remain at home for 48 hrs from the last episode. Please let the school office know if your child will not be at school. In order to keep on top of headlice and threadworm, we will inform you if we have cases of this and provide guidance on how to treat this at home.

Communication

Communication is really important to us. We have various means of communication:

Tapestry is an online learning journal where we share information about your child's learning and activities within nursery. You are able to upload your own pictures and videos from home to share with staff.

Website for school dates and other relevant info.

E mails from the school office with general school information, school trips & events, health & safety updates etc

Noticeboard outside the building to pass on more immediate news or requests.

Phone calls where needed, to pass on first aid or other advice.

Letters will come via email so make sure you provide the office with relevant email addresses.

Key Person

We believe that children settle best if they have a familiar adult who knows them and their parents well.

Every child will have a named 'key person' who will be introduced to you during the home visits/settling sessions. The key person will ensure good communications between home and school and will regularly observe your child to ensure their needs are met.



We are really looking forward to meeting you all