

## Welcome to St William's Primary School Nursery

We very much hope that you and your child will enjoy your time at Nursery.

Your child is at a crucial stage in his/her development. It is therefore important that the children are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. As a parent you play a vitally important role. We in the Nursery hope to play our part by offering your child a variety of experiences and activities designed to further their individual development.

We hope that your child discovers that learning can be an enjoyable and worthwhile process.

This Handbook is intended to give you information about the Nursery but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

### Our Aims

At St. William's Nursery we aim to:

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

The Nursery promotes equal opportunities for all.

## Nursery Staff

Head Teacher: Mrs E. Ellis

Nursery Teacher: Miss B. Speakman

Nursery Assistant: Miss J. Ellison

## When does Nursery start and finish?

The Nursery operates in two sessions each day.

The MORNING session is from 9.00am - 12pm

The AFTERNOON session is from 12.15pm - 3.15pm



For security reasons we ask that it is always an adult who brings your child to Nursery. Please do not send them with older brothers and sisters. The Nursery has a very strict policy on not allowing your child to go home with any other person than the named person whom you have informed the nursery staff of. Should you need to change the person collecting your child later in the day, please contact the Nursery immediately.



## How often does my child come to Nursery?

Your child is enrolled in Nursery for 5 sessions per week and regular attendance, while not compulsory, is desirable for the purposes of continuity and progression. If you know in advance that your child will not be attending Nursery (e.g. a medical appointment) please let the Nursery staff know in advance. Your child's place in Nursery will still be there when you return.

If you are ill or unable to bring your child to Nursery try to arrange for a neighbour, friend, relative or other parent to bring your child. This will ensure that your child does not get out of the habit of coming and may be a very much needed break for you!

## How can I help to prepare my child for Nursery?



Before your child can settle into the routine of Nursery life, he/she has to confront two obstacles. Firstly he/she must come to terms with leaving you and secondly he/she will be faced with a whole new environment full of other children and unknown adults. It also helps if you continue to talk about Nursery in a positive manner - keep reminding your child of all the fun activities that will be on offer and all of the new friends that they will make. We have changing facilities if your child is not fully toilet trained.



## What if my child has a problem settling into Nursery?

Despite your best efforts your child may still have problems settling into Nursery. It is important to remember that you are not alone! Many parents have gone through the same thing before and many will do so again. Some children, no matter how confident, are just not prepared to stay with complete strangers for a couple of hours. Having said that, the majority of children do settle very well which allows staff to offer extra support to those who need it. Each child and situation is different. For some children it is best that the parent stays with them until they are more settled. For others this simply doesn't work and we find that the child becomes settled more quickly when their parent leaves. If you are concerned, please speak to a member of staff and we can work out the best way forward for you and your child. Please don't give up or give in! Perseverance is essential and the end reward will be happy and confident children.



## How much does Nursery cost?



To help towards the cost of daily snack and many other activities that take place, there is a charge of £1.50 per week to be paid a week in advance.

A healthy snack is provided every day and usually consists of milk, or water to drink, a variety of fruit followed by a healthy option such as toast or yoghurt. Your child will be given the opportunity to access snack from 9.30am until 11.00am.

## What if my child is allergic to something or is a fussy eater?

The children are encouraged to try everything, but if your child has any strong dislikes or allergies please inform us at the Nursery Induction Day. If your child is a fussy eater at home you may find that in Nursery he/she will happily eat what others are eating. Your child will never be forced to eat.



## What should my child wear to Nursery?

Best clothes are not advisable as we can get very messy! Please try to dress your child in clothes that can be easily fastened and unfastened. The children need to push their sleeves up above their elbows for messy activities. Please ensure they wear tops with sleeves that will push or roll up. We are frequently outside during your child's Nursery session so please ensure that they come to Nursery suitably dressed each day.

For PE your child will need a pair of slip on pumps which must be clearly labelled with your child's name and in a soft bag. On PE days please dress your child in a track suit or trousers and t-shirt. There is no need to provide special PE wear. If your children are not dressed in suitable clothing they will not be able to take part in the PE lesson that day.

For health and safety reasons can you please ensure that all jewellery is removed.

## What if my child becomes ill?



You will be asked at the beginning of the year to provide us with some contact numbers which we can use in an emergency. If your child becomes ill or has an accident whilst at Nursery, we will contact you immediately using your Emergency Contact Number. Please ensure that you inform the Nursery if any of the contact numbers change in the course of the year.

## What will my child be doing in Nursery?

Nursery education is about focussing on the development of the individual child and during your child's time in Nursery he/she will experience a great variety of activities based on the seven areas of learning:

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



Activities offered to the children include:

- Sand play
- Water play
- Painting
- Modelling
- Role play
- Physical activities (indoor and out)
- Listening activities
- Visits to local areas of interests
- Construction play (e.g. Lego)
- Jigsaws
- Snack and baking
- Drawing
- Stories
- Creative Activities
- Board games
- Musical activities



Of course when you ask your child the question "What were you doing in Nursery today?" The reply will often be "Only 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 on previous knowledge. In Nursery we aim to provide a secure, caring, happy and structured environment where the children learn through meaningful play using materials and equipment carefully selected by the staff.

As we are a Catholic school, we try to encourage and foster Christian attitudes.

During your child's stay at Nursery he/she will take part in whole school activities such as Assemblies, singing, Christmas concerts and school trips. This helps to integrate the children into the life of the whole school.

In the Nursery the children learn to make new friends and learn to 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 his/her play. However what they do take home is always their own work. Please remember that what may look like a scribble to us could be a work of art to your child, so always award any effort with some praise!



## How to contact us

The Nursery can be contacted in the same way as the school. Our contact details are:

ST. William's Catholic Primary School

Ince Green Lane

Ince

Wigan

WN2 2DG



Nursery

01942 825657



School

01942 235782