



**Welcome
to
Nursery**

Welcome to the Nursery at St. Patrick's.



At St Patricks we have your child's education, safety and wellbeing at the forefront of our plans. The children have access to an indoor and outdoor learning environment designed to promote all aspects of development and learning through play. All staff in nursery are trained to effectively observe children in order to enable all children to reach their potential.

Learning is a two way partnership between home and school. Everyday experiences and communication with your child is invaluable and will enable links to be made with their learning in nursery. Learning in school aims to build on your child's prior skills, interests and needs in order to support future achievements.

Areas of Learning and Development in the EYFS.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Successful personal, social and emotional development is critical for very young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for achievement in all other areas of learning.

Children learn to

- Be confident
- Be independent
- Show respect
- Develop positive



- relationships with peers and adults
- Take turns and share

Communication and Language

In order to give all children the best opportunities for effective communication and language we give particular attention to:

- Providing opportunities for children to communicate their ideas, thoughts and feeling and build up relationships with each other
- Providing opportunities to share and enjoy songs, rhymes, poetry, music, stories and non-fiction books.
- Displaying print in the classroom for children to look at, including signs, books and labels.
- Providing opportunities for children to experiment with mark making, both indoors and outdoors and on a small and large scale.



Physical Development

Physical Development

We aim to provide opportunities both indoors and outdoors for improving skills in coordination and control of large and small movements. Particular attention is also given to promoting good health and physical exercise. We support children in gaining independence when managing their own personal hygiene, including dressing and toileting.



An Outline of Day to Day Issues

Session Times

Morning Nursery sessions begin at: **8.45am and end at 11.45am.**
Lunchtime sessions begin at: **11.45am and end at 12.30pm.**
Afternoon Nursery sessions begin at: **12.30pm and end at 3.30pm.**

Can you please drop off and pick up promptly. We do understand that sometimes events take over, traffic interferes with plans etc. If this happens then please let us know. It is fine for a relative or friend to stand in for you, provided we have been informed that this is happening and your child is happy in their company. We will not let your child leave school with someone we do not know.

Missing Registration / Lateness

The register for Nursery is sent to the office at 9am. If you are late, it is essential that you use the main entrance of school and sign in at the office. The office staff need to know that your child is in the building for safety reasons, in the event of fire, and also for ordering lunches.

Sickness and Holidays

If your child is sick we would appreciate a phone call to explain the circumstances. We may have other children in school to whom this information is critical, for example parents of children undergoing chemotherapy need to know if they have had contact with anyone with chickenpox. There are also other circumstances where it is beneficial for school to know which illnesses are currently in and around school. If you do not ring us, we will ring you. Alternatively, you can text us on 07537 436320 to advise of any lateness or sickness.

If you intend to go on holiday during term time please write a letter to inform school of your plans.

Snacks and Lunches



A healthy snack is provided as part of a morning and afternoon session. A lunch is provided as part of a lunchtime session. A menu is available online and on the school app. If your child does not like the meal choice a sandwich can be ordered on the day.

Communication between Nursery and Home

The website and school app are kept up to date and can be accessed to find out information about what the children are doing in class and also general information about school. The Nursery join in with events whenever possible and as parents you are invited to attend school assemblies and other events. Although your child's place in Reception is not automatic, we do consider the Nursery as an integral part of our school. It is also possible to get the menu and bulletin by email. Please provide your email address on the sheet provided and we will register you with Call Parents and also download the school app if possible as this will send you push notifications on events which are happening in school. This has become a very popular method of communication which we are actively encouraging at present. Please sign up.

Each child has a learning journey - these are working records of your child's progress and hold evidence by way of photos and observations. You are very welcome to look at this at any time and contribute to with comments, work or photographs your child has done at home.

Parents may speak with the nursery staff at the beginning or end of the day. Your child will have a designated key person who will ensure your child individual needs are met and that they feel safe and secure in their environment. Should you need an appointment then please ask a member of staff. In the summer term a report is sent home regarding your child's progress for the year.

Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures are available to view in school. Please ask if you require copies. Some of our policies are available online at <http://www.stpatselland.org.uk> .

School Uniform

The school uniform is optional for Nursery children. A uniform list, should you require it, is available on our website or from the school office. You can visit either The Uniform Shop on Union Street in Halifax and buy any uniform from there or you can order online from a company called Gooddies who deliver into school or to your home address. <http://stpatrickselland.gooddies.co.uk>

We do not stock uniform in school due to lack of space. Please put your child's name in each piece of uniform. We have a lot of green sweatshirts and gold polo shirts in class!

It is also useful for your child to have a book bag so that information can be transferred to and from nursery. A library book is also allocated to your child that can be changed on a regular basis.

Jewellery

For your child's safety they should not wear any jewellery at school. Please do not send your child wearing bracelets or necklaces. If your child has pierced ears we will only allow studs.

Wet Weather and Sunshine



Your child has access to an outdoor learning environment in all weathers. We do advise that your child has a pair of wellingtons and a change of clothes in school at all times. Sun cream must be applied before school in good weather and you may leave it in nursery to be reapplied if necessary.

Safety and our Car Park



For your child's safety please use our car park appropriately. Follow the one way system at all times and do not drop off in the yellow 'Keep Clear' area. If you walk to school then please use the pedestrian entrances and walkways, **DO NOT CROSS THE ROADS UNNECESSARILY** for a short cut.

At the end of each session we will only give a child to a recognised named adult. Please do not ask brothers and sisters to collect your child on their way home. Keep us informed of named adults allowed to collect your child.

Contact Information

We may need to contact you urgently, in the case of illness for example. It is your responsibility to keep contact information up to date, and we do insist on at least three contact names and telephone numbers. These people should be trusted by you in the case of an emergency and prioritised on the data collection sheet.

What can you do to help your child settle in?

We are aware that starting Nursery can be a wrench for your child and for you! There are a number of ways in which you can be involved in school life.

- Helping in the Classroom
- Helping outside the classroom with library sessions or making or repairing equipment

- Joining in special assemblies and festivals
- Helping with Trips and Outings
- Share you special talent
- Join the PTA

PTA meetings are on the relevant section of the website and you are very welcome to go along and join in with the fundraising activities they organise. The PTA are an important part of school, they provide funds for books and equipment school would otherwise not be able to afford. They also contribute to the cost of trips for the children and have a critical role in fundraising for major projects. We have a very active and enthusiastic PTA, please support them.

If you wish to be involved please ask.

Another thing you can do is help your child to become more independent by way of learning to:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Hanging up my coat | • Using the toilet |
| • Taking off my jumper | • Washing and drying my hands |
| • Fastening my trousers | • Using a tissue to blow my nose |
| • Tidying away my toys | • Using a knife and fork |
| • Being able to share | |

Early Reading and Writing Guidelines

It is important for children to hear lots of rhymes and songs. From these they are able to develop speaking and listening skills, and these then help to develop future reading and writing skills. All children need to develop broad and rich language skills. Rhymes and songs help to develop an understanding of sounds and rhyme in a fun way, inspire children to help to develop their imaginations and creativity. They

also help to develop new vocabulary which children can use in their play.

Rhymes can be said or sung with children as they are playing or exploring, at home or in school, and they will enjoy participating with these. It is important that children hear lots of different rhymes, but will often have their favourites which they sing over and over again.

It is important for young children to see you writing, and have the opportunity to make marks. In nursery we aim to foster an enjoyment for mark making on a big and small scale. It is from here that we then begin to introduce and teach formal writing and letter formation.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School and Community Nursery

School and Nursery Term Dates – 2016/17

Staff Training Day	CLOSED	Thursday 1 September 2016
Staff Training Day	CLOSED	Friday 2 September
AUTUMN TERM	OPEN	Monday 5 September
HALF TERM	CLOSE	Thursday 20 October
Staff Training Day	CLOSED	Friday 21 October
	OPEN	Monday 31 October
CHRISTMAS	CLOSE	Friday 16 December
	OPEN	Tuesday 3 January 2017
HALF TERM	CLOSE	Thursday 16 February
Staff Training Day	CLOSED	Friday 17 February
	OPEN	Monday 27 February
EASTER	CLOSE	Thursday 13 April
	OPEN	Monday 24 April
MAY DAY	CLOSED	Monday 1 May
*HALF TERM	CLOSE	Friday 26 May
	OPEN	Monday 12 June
MIDSUMMER	CLOSE	Friday 21 July
Staff Training Day	CLOSED	Monday 24 July
<p>ASSESSMENT TESTS – TBD KS1 PHONICS SCREENING – TBD</p> <p>Please note that <u>all</u> school children have assessment tests during this week. We ask that you do not take children out of school for holidays at this time.</p>		

