



Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter

Nursery

Welcome to Nursery

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our returning families back and to say a big 'Hello' to all of our new families. We have had a fantastic first couple of weeks of term, it is lovely to see the children settling so well into our Nursery routines well and we are very much looking forward to the year ahead.

We are happy to have reinstated our open-door policy as a school and we welcome you to settle your children in the classroom before we start our day in the Nursery. We hope that you are enjoying the posts on our Tapestry platform. These not only provide information on your child's learning journey but will also give more insight into the pattern of your child's day and the type of activities on offer. If you are having any problems accessing Tapestry, please let us know as soon as possible.

With endless possibilities, we hope that there will never be a dull moment in nursery. We work hard to ensure that there are a good range of activities available in both our outdoor and indoor areas and follow children's interests wherever possible. The children have been settling into nursery well and enjoying a wide range of activities to enhance or encourage new interests. We have taken part in carpet times discussing about our value of friendship and how we can be caring friends to one and other. Throughout the year, we will work to help the children to develop the skills they need to think creatively, work collaboratively and problem solve. We will encourage them to develop the resilience needed to keep going when things do not work out and to have the confidence to try new things and ask questions.

At St Mary's, we strongly believe that engagement is the key to early learning. Whilst children are fully engaged in play, our team will interact with them to help them to develop a wider range of skills including numeracy, literacy, science and creative thinking. Above all, we seek to instil a love of learning in all children.

This term, we will be focusing on ensuring that the children are as settled as possible. For the first few weeks we are learning a nursery rhyme a week. Once all our new children are in, we will begin our first topic, '*Why do you love me so much?*' during which we will be learning about what makes us special. We will be thinking about our likes and dislikes, as well as how we can be a good friend to others with the help of Jenie, our new Jigsaw friend. We will also be finding out more about our local area, learning how to care for ourselves and others and naming different emotions. We are reintroducing children to the fabulous Colour Monster books by Anna Llenas to support their learning. We will be linking our learning to our school Christian Values and establishing our class charter. In RE this term, we will begin by learning about the story of Creation and celebrating Harvest. After half term, we will learn more about autumn, investigating the natural changes we can see in our environment. This has to be one of our favourite topics! In December, we will learn about the Christmas Story.

Phonics

We have already begun to introduce many Phase 1 phonics opportunities into our daily provision. Please support us by talking to your children about what noises they can hear in the environment such as aeroplanes, fire engines, birds chirping, animal noises, and at home, washing machines, buzzers, doorbells etc.

Home Learning

Please read and share stories with your child in your home language as much as possible. Look at Tapestry photos together and encourage them to discuss their experiences.

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all outdoor clothing and outer layers. Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes at nursery at all times as this makes any toileting accidents much less traumatic for them while they are settling in.
- Please provide a box of tissues if possible, you would not believe how many we go through!
- In the cold weather, please provide wellington boots and a waterproof coat as we will still be outside as much as possible.
- The school has a no jewellery policy and earrings should be studs only please. Nail polish is not allowed.
- **We would be extremely grateful for a voluntary contribution of £5 per term, to allow us to buy items for cooking and gardening with the children.**
- It would be lovely if you could bring in a family photo for our 'My Family' wall. This is so the children can look at their photo and show their friends who is part of their family - if you are unable to print, these they can be emailed to Office@stmarysn8.co.uk and we will print them for you.
- If you are out and about in our local woods and parks, we would love more natural resources for our mud-kitchen, outdoor loose parts play and seasonal Nature Shelf – so please get collecting! Sticks, pine cones, leaves and acorns are always extremely popular resources.
- We are a strictly nut-free school; please remember this for packed lunches and party/birthday treats.
- We are strictly a latex-free school; no latex materials including balloons, rubber bands, latex gloves etc.
- Please keep up to date with news on our website [here](#)

Key Dates

Please look out for the main newsletters as well as emails/text messages from the Admin Team.

- Friday 22nd September: Jeans for Genes Day - please wear an item of denim with your uniform and bring £1 to help fund research into genetic disorders
- Wednesday 4th October: Harvest Festival Assembly @ 9.30am
- Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October: Half term – school closed
- Monday 30th October: INSET day – school closed to children
- Tuesday 31st October: Children return to school

*You can find the above dates and more on our calendar [here](#)

Library

We will be resuming our library very soon. On **Monday afternoons** and **Tuesday mornings**, we will hold our outdoor library for children to come and choose a book with their adult to take home for that week. This will be **weather dependent** but we hope it gives parents/carers the opportunity to see us and find out more about what their children are doing in a relaxed environment.

If there is anything that you would like to talk to us about, please feel free to talk to us after school, or make an appointment via the school office.

Louise, Sara, Chantelle & Karen
Nursery Team