

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nursery Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Nursery. All of the children have made a wonderful start to Nursery. We are very pleased with how they are settling into their new environment.

Thank you so much for all of the support you have shown so far, both at the stay and play sessions at the start of the week and when dropping them off at the gate, all of which has enabled your child to settle into their new routines, quickly and independently.

We look forward to working with you all over the coming year and would like to remind you that we are always here to help in any way we can.

If you ever have any questions, concerns or queries please don't hesitate to ask any of the members of the Nursery team. We are always available at drop-offs and pick-ups but also via email.

Many thanks,
Miss Bell, Mrs Howe and Susan

Dates for your Diary

10th October – open evening – further information to follow

12th October – open evening – further information to follow

21st October – break up for Half Term

31st October – return to school

14th November – Inset Day – school closed to all pupils

Tapestry



By now you should have set up your Tapestry account and received an information sheet regarding using Tapestry. Please let us know if you are having any problems.

Just a reminder that your child's **personal account** is private between yourself and staff in school. **Personal accounts** are used for observations.

The **Nursery Child** account is visible to all nursery parents and staff in school.

The **Nursery Child** account will mainly be used for updates, reminders, and general Nursery information.

As our keyworker group time on a Monday morning is always sharing 'weekend news', we ask that you upload an observation to your child's personal account by Monday morning, every week. Please include some photos and/or a brief description of what your child has been up to over the weekend. This supports your child in recalling and talking about their most recent experiences and life outside of Nursery.

Lunch Club

If your child is 15-hours and you would like them to access Lunch Club, 11.30-12.30pm at a cost of £4 per day then please speak to a member of staff.

Lunch Club must be booked in advance and is subject to availability.

Toys from Home

Please do not let your child bring toys or other special items, into nursery from home. It causes immense distress if they become lost or broken. Thank you.

Water Bottles

All children are welcome to bring their own water bottle to nursery, clearly labelled with their name and filled with water.

Spare Clothes and Wellies

If you haven't already, please ensure your child has brought in a pair of wellies for the outdoor area.

Also ensure your child has a drawstring bag on their peg filled with at least one full set of spare clothes.

Labelling

Please ensure all items of clothing, including shoes, wellies and coats are labelled with your child's name. As we move into the autumn/winter this applies to gloves, hats, scarves.

Learning in Nursery

At St Patrick's Nursery we learn through play. We follow an In the Moment approach whereby we follow the children's lead and build their knowledge and understanding using their interests and fascinations.

We assess children informally using our own knowledge of the children, as the basis for this. It is not a requirement to have a large quantity of observations to support assessments and therefore Tapestry is used to 'support' our assessments rather than as 'evidence'. As well as weekend news uploads from home we encourage additional uploads too showing us/telling us about your child's new interests/fascinations, skills they are developing and/or wow moments they have at home – all of which we can support, facilitate, build on and celebrate in Nursery.

There are three characteristics of effective learning embedded throughout our approach to teaching, these are stated in guidance for Early Years education.

1. Playing and Exploring
2. Active Learning
3. Creating and Thinking Critically

Teaching and learning can also be categorised into areas of learning, three prime areas and four specific areas, the prime areas of learning are vital to develop in the specific areas.

Prime Areas	Specific Areas
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Literacy
Communication and Language Development	Mathematics
Physical Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

If you would like more information about these areas of learning and how to support your child at home, then please see the next page of this newsletter. If you do have any questions or concerns about your child's learning and/or development, at any point this school year, then please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the nursery team.

Routines in Nursery

08.45-9.00 – Flexible Drop off for 30-hour children and 15-hour morning children

09.00-09.15 – Keyworker Groups

09.15-11.10 – Continuous Provision

11.10-11.30 – Keyworker Groups (storytime and milk)

11.30-11.45 – Flexible Collection for 15-hour morning children

11.30 – 12.30 – Lunchtime

12.30-12.45 – Flexible Drop-off for 15-hour afternoon children

12.45-13.15 – Keyworker Groups (15-hour afternoon children)

Recharge Time (30-hour children)

13.15-15.00 – Continuous Provision

14.45 – *Collection for 30-hour children (no flexibility available)*

15.00-15.15 – Keyworker Groups (storytime and milk)

15.15-15.30 – Flexible Collection for 15-hour afternoon children & *extended provision for 30-Hour children**

*Additional cost for Extended Hour Provision for 30-hour children - £3 per day.
Please notify a member of staff, in advance, if you would like to use the extended provision.

Each child is unique and special. Children do not develop at the same pace or in the same way. At our nursery, we treat each child as an individual.

As a parent, it can be difficult not to compare children to their: siblings, family members and friends. Instead, focus on the things your child can do and work on the next steps in their own learning journey.

Supporting your child at home this term

Personal Social and Emotional Development

- ♥ Encourage your child to ask for help when they need it and share their opinions, thoughts and feelings.
- ♥ Encourage your child to be aware of other people's feelings and needs - show kindness to others.

Physical Development

- ♥ Encourage a healthy lifestyle – being active and eating a range of foods.
- ♥ Access to large-scale play e.g. equipment at the park, soft play, movement games.
- ♥ Play with small-scale resources and malleable play e.g. playdough, Lego, drawing, painting.
- ♥ Encourage independence using the toilet and washing hands.

Communication and Language

- ♥ Listen to and join in with familiar nursery rhymes and songs – developing a few favourites.
- ♥ Begin following simple instructions.
- ♥ Enjoys talking about themselves and things they have done.

Literacy

- ♥ Share at least one book (fiction or non-fiction) **per day** with your child – this develops a positive relationship between your child and books.
- ♥ Provide plenty of opportunities to make marks – lines, circles, squiggles, in a range of directions.
- ♥ Encourage your child to talk about their drawings, giving meaning to their marks.

Mathematics

- ♥ Count regularly with your child e.g. tins into the trolley when shopping, pointing out numbers on houses.
- ♥ Talk about shapes in the environment.
- ♥ Complete jigsaws and puzzles.
- ♥ Talk about daily routines throughout the day e.g. 'this morning', 'after breakfast', 'lunchtime', 'this afternoon', 'before bed', etc.

Understanding the World

- ♥ Regularly talk about family and friends, including special occasions and events for themselves and others.
- ♥ Talk about the cause and effect their actions have on things around them e.g. what happens: when they press a button (light switch), when they press and hold a button (computer mouse), pour more water into an already full cup.

Expressive Arts and Design

- ♥ Encourage imaginative play based on familiar family life e.g. cooking, housework.
- ♥ Take part in big and small creative activities such as painting, playdough, building, cooking.

Religious Education

- ♥ Talk about God, Jesus and other religious figures.
- ♥ Pray together and share simple religious stories.

Contact Details

If you would like to speak to a member of staff but are unable to catch us at drop-off or pick-up times then please email Miss Bell – j.bell300@stp-consett.co.uk . If it is more urgent then please ring the school office – 01207 205982, and your message will be passed onto us.