

*Your Child Starts
At
St. Mary's Church in Wales
School, Ruabon*



*Lower Foundation Phase
Information Booklet*

Nursery Class

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to receiving your child into the Lower Foundation Phase - Nursery class; we are already making preparations to welcome your child to the school in September.

Nursery children in the Wrexham County Borough schools attend school every day. Here at St Mary's Nursery pupils come to school every morning from 8.55 am. to 11.30 am.

At the beginning of the year parents are asked to complete an information sheet giving contact telephone numbers and emergency contact numbers, giving school and up to date mobile number will enable you to receive text messages from the school.

A signed consent form to allow the children to go on local visits out of school -to the library, the local park, to the church and into the village etc. These visits are well supervised and form an important part of the Lower Foundation Phase programme.

We also ask for permission forms to be signed to allow your child to access the internet in school and to allow us to use your child's photograph on our Web site and App.

During the year the School organises various Fundraising activities and events to provide additional equipment for the school. We hope you will support us in these events with both practical help and your attendance.

Yours sincerely

N. Booth
Head teacher

Starting School

Starting school is an exciting time both for you and your child.

For some it may be the first time they have been parted from their parent/s or carers, for many, it will be the first time they have had to share the attention of an adult with many others.

Starting school should be a happy time in your child's life and this can easily be achieved if you are willing to play your part in preparing and supporting him/her.

Talk and read to your child, give him/her as much praise as you can. A confident child is a happy child and a happy child learns more quickly than a worried one. Go at your child's pace; if you go too fast, you may put him/her off altogether.

Learning should be fun and feel easy



The Nursery Session

The Nursery will seem a very large place to small children.

Many things will be new to them, there will be other children to play with, lots of toys with which they will learn as they play.

There will be lots of equipment to use inside as well as outside and they will discover many new things.

The routine in the Lower Foundation Phase will almost always follow the same pattern.

We take part in the 'Design to Smile' all Wales initiative so first thing in the mornings we clean our teeth.



CIRCLE TIME

This is where the children meet together on arrival.

The register is taken, 'Helpwr Heddiw' is chosen and the daily weather is discussed.

The children are encouraged to share news, enjoy songs, games etc. or discuss a chosen topic with the adult present and are told about any changes in the routine and the activities available.



WORK TIME

The children are usually free to move about the classroom to the different areas, exploring new skills and trying out their own ideas.

Children are given time to play outside, weather permitting. Please send your child to school with a suitable coat to deal with the changes in our unpredictable weather.

Adults observe the children, help them solve any problems and support them in developing their ideas.

At the end of this time the children tidy up the classrooms themselves with encouragement from the adults.

RECALL TIME

The children come together and discuss what has been happening during work time drawing children's attention to anything of particular interest that has been observed or made.



SNACK TIME

Children go to the toilet and wash their hands.

Please make sure that your child is "toilet trained" and is able to ask 'Please may I go to the toilet?' Try to dress your child in clothes that he /she can manage easily.

SNACKS

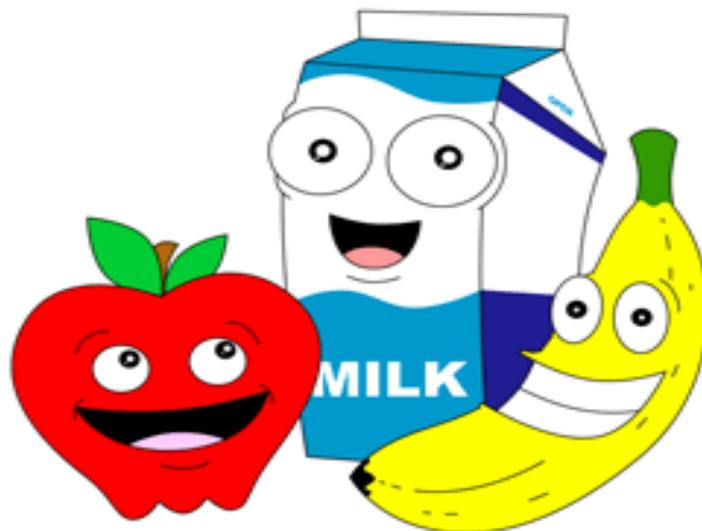
A small charge of 20p per day is made to cover the cost of a small snack and drink (milk or water)

Payment is expected during the first week of the beginning of each term. Please put all monies in an envelope marked with the amount and your child's name.

We offer a variety of 'snacks' to the children and we sometimes involve them in their preparation.

If your child is allergic to any particular food, please inform the Nursery teacher.

Likes and dislikes are taken into account but the children are encouraged to try new tastes.





PLAY TIME

All children are given time to 'play' outside using the climbing frame and slide using, the parachute, taking part in ring games and songs, riding the bikes and playing with the balls.

SMALL GROUP/STORY TIME

At the end of each session the children will enjoy a story with the teacher or work together in small groups with the teacher and TA.s.



As you can see your child has a very busy time in Nursery.

To enjoy and benefit from all the opportunities in the Lower Foundation Phase your child needs to be 'wide awake' and well.

If your child is unwell or tired please keep him/her at home. A child that is unwell needs its parent or carer and infections spread very quickly amongst young children, so please do not put other children at risk.

Please make sure you leave a telephone number where you can be contacted and an emergency number in case your child is taken ill at school and that these numbers are kept up to date.



Keep in Touch

Web site or School App

In September

During the first few days of school the children will attend in small groups, on alternate days.

This is to enable the Nursery staff to help the children to become familiar with each other and their new surroundings.

During the first few weeks your child will be observed by the class teacher and the teaching assistants and assessed on what he/she *'can do'* and not what he/she *'can not do'*:

Please do not worry about this assessment; it is used to help the teachers to plan future activities to meet the needs of the individual child. On-going observations of the children are carried out throughout the year.

You will be given opportunities to discuss your child's progress at Parents Evenings and you will receive an Annual Report during the Summer Term.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Lower Foundation Phase staff if you have any concerns about your child.



How You Can Help

Try to be on time both on bringing and collecting your child from Nursery. Young children can become anxious if they have to walk into a room full of children and staff or if they see other parent/s or carers arriving and not theirs.

If your child wants to bring a favourite toy for the first few days then that is perfectly alright. However once he/she has settled it is better that they leave their precious things at home for safekeeping.

If your child is ill or cannot attend school for any reason please could you inform us at the earliest opportunity by a phone call to the school, a message or note.

All absences from school must be accounted for, if not they are classed as being *unauthorised* and must be *recorded*.

Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

At present 10 days annual family holiday can be authorised by the school but the school does not encourage holidays during term time. Holiday request forms are available from the secretary's office.

Child Protection

The All Wales Child Protection Procedures make it clear that Schools have an important role to play in the protection, of children against abuse/neglect. This is confirmed by the Local Authority School Child Protection Procedures, in conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, which set the necessary action to be carried out by staff.

St. Mary's School therefore has a duty to refer any concerns about the well-being of a pupil to the Safeguarding and Support Department for further advice.

School Uniform

Boys

Pale Blue polo shirt
Grey trousers/joggers/shorts

School sweatshirt

Girls

Pale Blue polo shirt
Grey skirt/trousers

School sweatshirt/
Cardigan

PE Kit - black pumps in a drawstring bag to be left in school.

Our school uniform supplier is

Ram Leisure, Trinity House, Whitegate Industrial Complex, Wrexham,
LL13 8UG

<http://www.ourschoolwear.co.uk/>

Please label all items of clothing including your child's coat and shoes

Finally if there is something worrying your child please do come and see us.

We are as concerned about your child's health and welfare as you are.



Please keep us informed of any changes in home circumstances or family 'problems'.

If you do need to speak with the class teacher it is often easier at the end of the school day unless urgent.

All such information will be treated in the strictest of confidence.