



Starting in Nursery at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



**An information
pack for
Parents and
Carers**

Welcome



The staff of St Joseph's would like to welcome your child and your family to our Nursery.

We hope you find the welcome booklet a useful guide for your child's first experience of school.



**Mrs Whalen
Nursery
Class Teacher**



**Mrs Cavanagh
Nursery Teaching
Assistant**

Nursery Opening Hours

**30 Hour Provision:
8.45am - 3.10pm**

**15 Hour Provision:
8.45am - 11.45am or
12.10pm - 3.10pm**

Our Aims



- Work in partnership with parents and value the help and guidance they give to their children.
- Help children to make sense of the world they live in and help them to take a positive role in it.
- Encourage children to make their own decisions and choices.
- Provide an environment rich in language to encourage communication skills.
- Form positive relationships built on mutual trust and respect.

- Provide a happy, safe and secure environment full of love, care and respect for each other.
- Create a stimulating and fun environment with child-centred and adult initiated play which promotes children's learning and fosters enquiring minds and happy learners.
- Deliver a broad and balanced Early Years Curriculum based on the 7 Areas of Learning outlined in the Foundation Phase Framework.



Starting Nursery

Starting nursery is a significant milestone in your child's life. We help them feel welcome, safe and secure. We are aware of the tremendous input that you, as parents, have already made in the education of your child and we look forward to developing a partnership with you in these valuable early years.

Preparing Your Child

Before starting nursery, talk to your child about coming to nursery and about the things they will be doing and the people they will be meeting. We will share with you a 'Welcome to your Nursery' page with photographs of the environment and the staff to help support you and your child with this. It is important to remember that young children vary in the way in which they react to new experiences so do allow your child plenty of time to settle into nursery - some children may take longer to settle than others.

Partnerships with Parents

We want to work closely with you. Good communication between staff and parents enables us to inform each other of relevant matters concerning your child. We appreciate being informed of any changes at home that might affect your child and will treat anything you tell us in strict confidence.

Updates and News

We want to inform you about the activities and learning experiences that your child will be taking part in. We update parents using the following:



Fortnightly
Newslettter



EYFS Instagram



Youtube



Facebook

We use Tapestry as an online learning journey where we share with you group activities that your child has been involved in or snapshot observations of your child trying/ mastering a new skill. We encourage parents to comment on observations and share observations of their child at home too. This allows us to gain a deeper understanding of the whole child.



How YOU CAN Help



Bringing and Collecting Your Child

- Our Nursery is accessible via St Joseph's Way. If you are driving, please park in the Church car park.
- Please stay on the paths provided to ensure everyone coming to school is safe.
- Please ensure that anyone dropping off or collecting your child is over 16 years of age.
- Please contact our school office or speak to a member of Nursery staff if someone different will be collecting your child or if you are going to be late for any reason.
- Please ensure that your child is brought to Nursery at the time specified to ensure that no learning is missed.

Absences and Illness

- Please inform the school office of any change of address or contact numbers so that we can get in touch with you if your child becomes unwell.
- If your child is absent please contact the school as soon as you possibly can.
- If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please keep them at home for 48 hours after their last period of sickness.
- Please inform us if your child is going on holiday during term time.

Toileting

- If your child has an 'accident' in Nursery, we will take care of them. We do ask that you provide clean clothes and some plimsolls in their bag in case this should happen.

Clothing and Personal Items

- The children wear school uniforms in Nursery. We promote independence in our children so please try to provide them with clothing they can put on themselves.
- We ask that ALL clothing is fully labelled with your child's name.
- Please provide sensible, velcro fastening shoes that will allow your child to access indoor and outdoor activities. We love to climb, run and explore our school grounds.
- Every child will have his or her own coat peg with name and picture.
- We ask that your child brings a named water bottle each day.
- We ask that toys and teddies stay at home as they are too precious and may get lost.

How YOU CAN Help



Snack Time

- During each session, we have a snack time when the children are given milk. This must be ordered through the Cool Milk Scheme.
- A snack of fresh fruit and topic related food will be provided during the sessions.
- We talk to the children about healthy food and where food comes from.
- Please let us know if your child has allergies or shouldn't eat certain types of food.

Nursery Fund

- We ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p per week towards extra supplies such as ingredients for baking etc. It may also be used to provide extra equipment for the nursery, which we may need from time to time.
- We collect the Nursery fund every Monday.

Library

- At St Joseph's we have a passion for reading. Our well stocked library is open each morning from 8.30 for 'Reading Club' to all of our children and families. The children will receive a library card and receive stamps for each attendance. Certificates are given to those children with the best attendance each half-term. We would love to see you there.
- The children will visit our wonderful school library and are encouraged to borrow a book. These will be changed weekly.

All are welcome

- We hold 'Stay and Play' sessions across the academic year when you will be invited to play alongside your child, as well as see your child's progress in their journals and folders. We want you to feel welcome at the nursery and will always have time for you.

'Friends of St Joseph's'

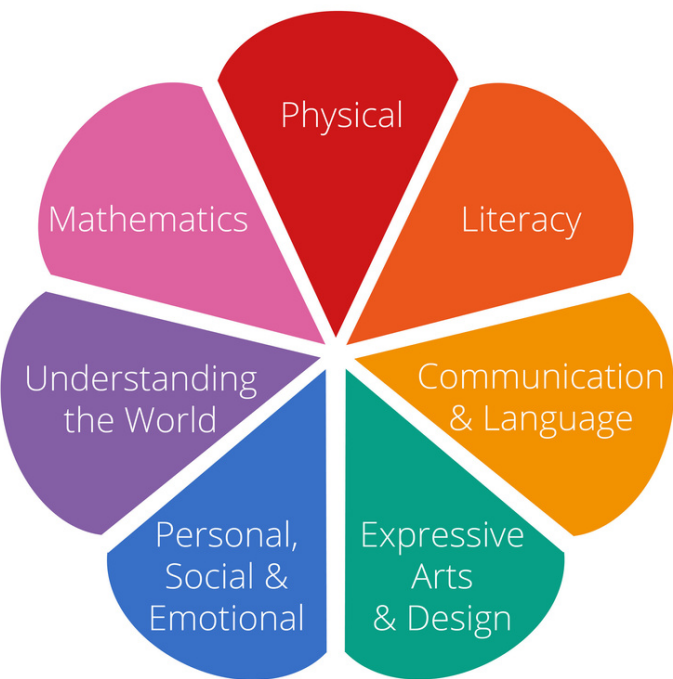
- We have an active PTA who organise events throughout the academic year with the whole purpose of raising money for the school and children. We are always looking for new members so if you would like to be involved then please speak to a member of staff.





CURRICULUM

We plan in a cross-curricular way; using the seven Areas of Learning that are identified in the Foundation Phase Framework, ensuring that children's skills are developed in a meaningful context.



This Area of Learning is at the heart of the Foundation Phase. Children will be given the opportunity to:

- Learn about themselves, their relationships with others both within and beyond the family.
- Develop self-esteem, their personal beliefs and moral values.
- Develop an understanding that others have differing needs, abilities, beliefs and views.
- Celebrate different cultures and develop a positive awareness of their own and others cultures, recognising the value of living in a multicultural society.
 - Become increasingly aware of traditions and celebrations that are important aspects of these cultures.
 - Develop a positive attitude to learning.
- Become confident, competent and independent thinkers and learners.
- Develop an awareness of their environment and learn about the diversity of people who live and work there.
 - Develop positive attitudes towards caring for the environment.
- Express their feelings and empathise with others.





CURRICULUM



COMMUNICATION
AND LANGUAGE

Developing communication and language skills is at the core of everything we do at St Joseph's Nursery. Children will be given opportunities to:

- Take part in class discussions – sharing their own experiences and news from home.
- Listen to and enjoy a wide range of stories during our daily 'Story time' – fostering an interest in reading.
 - Take a library book home each week to share with an adult.
- Experiment with mark-making materials, developing early writing skills.
- Recognise familiar words, sounds and shapes of letters during our phonics sessions.
 - Develop their speaking and listening skills through imaginative play activities.



LITERACY



PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT

Children will be given the opportunity to:

- Develop physically, using their bodies effectively.
- Develop spatial awareness, balance, control and co-ordination
- Develop their gross and fine motor and manipulative skills.
 - Develop physical control, mobility.
- Use a range of large and small equipment.
 - Enjoy physical activity.
- Develop their sense of identity through self-image, self-esteem and confidence.
- Develop their awareness of health, hygiene and safety and the importance of diet, rest, sleep and exercise.



Outdoor Learning

Children in the Nursery have open access to the outdoor area - we consider our outdoor area as an 'outside classroom', as we greatly value the learning opportunities that the outdoor environment offers to young children. We hope that you appreciate that there can be times when the children's trousers, socks or tights may get dirty!

Our 'Secret Garden' is our forest school. The children love to explore it. It offers enrichment to our curriculum and is visited often.



CURRICULUM

We use practical activities to develop mathematical skills and language.

Children will be given opportunities to:

- Play games to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of mathematics.
- Gain experience & confidence in counting, matching, sorting, ordering and comparing.
- Learn about shape and pattern
- Explore ways of measuring time, volume and capacity.
- Enjoy using and applying mathematics in practical tasks & real life problems.
- Use ICT resources as tools for exploring numbers, reading & recording data and matching and sorting.



MATHEMATICS



EXPRESSIVE ARTS
AND DESIGN

Children will be given the opportunity to:

- Sing and use simple musical instruments.
- Explore different sound sources.
- Join in with music and singing sessions.
- Make varied body shapes and move creatively.
- Use a variety of art materials such as dough, clay, paint, chalk, gloop and foam.
- Explore colour and texture.
- Demonstrate an awareness of roles through imaginative play.



UNDERSTANDING
THE WORLD

Children will be given the opportunity to:

- Sing and use simple musical instruments.
- Explore different sound sources.
- Join in with music and singing sessions.
- Make varied body shapes and move creatively.
- Use a variety of art materials such as dough, clay, paint, chalk, gloop & foam.
- Explore colour and texture.
- Demonstrate an awareness of roles through imaginative play.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,

**St Joseph's Way,
Fellgate, Jarrow,
NE32 4PJ**

0191 5364311



enquiries@stjosephsjarrow.co.uk



www.stjosephsjarrow.co.uk



[@st_josephs_rc_eyfs](https://www.instagram.com/st_josephs_rc_eyfs)



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