



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



**An information pack
for parents and
carers**



Website: www.stjosephsjarrow.co.uk



Facebook: @stjosephsjarrow



Twitter @stjosephsjarrow

Nursery Twitter: @nurstjosephs1

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.

Nursery Opening Times

For 30 hours provision children	For 15 hours provision children
8.45am – 2.45pm	8.45am – 11.45am

Our Aims

We strive to:

- 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.
- 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.

Starting Nursery

Starting nursery is a significant milestone in your child's life. We will do all we can to 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

Starting nursery is a very exciting time for young children and together we can make it a very happy and rewarding time. 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.**

It is important to remember that young children vary tremendously 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 Newsletter (also accessible via our School Website)
- Our Class Twitter Page – accessible via @nurstjosephs1
- Ongoing updates showcasing the wonderful things we have been doing via Facebook @stjosephsjarrow



Consultations

We hold two 'Stay and Play' sessions each year when you will be invited to play with your child, as well as see your child's progress. However, there is no need to wait for these if you have questions or concerns. 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.

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 do not walk through the staff car park.
- Please ensure the safety of all children by closing all gates and doors after you have passed through them.
- Children must be brought and collected by a person over the age of 16 years.
- Please tell us if someone different will be collecting your child or if you are going to be late for any reason. Also let us know if you need to collect your child early.
- Please ensure that your child is brought to Nursery on time. We plan a busy session and wouldn't want anybody to miss out on valuable learning and experiences.
- We would be grateful if you would ensure that your child is collected on time at the end of each session as children can get upset if they are always left until last.



Absences and Illness

- Please inform us 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 possible.
- 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

We expect your child to be fully toilet trained before they are admitted to Nursery but we know accidents will happen! If your child has an 'accident' in nursery, we will change them and try to provide clean clothes. Please return nursery clothes as soon as possible as supplies are limited.

Clothing and Personal Items

- We are proud of our uniform and therefore expect children to be wearing school uniform at all times.
- Please arrange for your child to be sensibly and comfortably dressed in clothes that they can cope with when going to the toilet, playing in the water or changing for outdoor play. It is important that they are able to develop independence.
- Ensure that your child's coat and hat, for example are named and that they do bring a coat on cooler days as we value our outdoor learning.
- Please provide sensible shoes: many shoes are not suitable for climbing as they have no grips. We love Velcro shoes!
- We discourage jewellery as it can get caught or lost.
- Every child will have his or her own coat peg with name and picture.
- Children should not bring any toys to nursery, as they can easily get lost or broken.



Snack Time

During each session, we have a snack time when the children are given milk. Please tell us if your child does not want milk as water will be provided. A snack of fresh fruit and topic related food will be provided during the sessions. During this time, we talk 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

In line with other nurseries, we ask for a voluntary contribution of £1.00 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

Children are encouraged to borrow a book from our library. These are changed weekly.



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.



We also develop children's ICT skills through all areas of our curriculum. At St Joseph's Nursery, children begin to:

- Understand the uses of ICT.
- Use iPads to take pictures and record sound/videos.
- Access computers and iPads to practise their number and letter formation as well as count, match and sort objects.
- Begin to develop simple programming skills using our 'Beet-Bots'.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Well-Being

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.

- To 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.

Communication, Language and Literacy

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 range of mark-making materials and develop 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.



Mathematical Development

We use practical activities to develop mathematical skills and language. Children will be given opportunities to:

- Play games to develop their skills knowledge and understanding of mathematics.
- Gain experience and 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 and real life problems.
- Use ICT resources as tools for exploring number, reading and recording data and matching and sorting.



Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Children will experience the familiar world through enquiry, investigating the indoor and outdoor environment in a safe and systematic way. They will be given experiences which will help them to:

- Increase their curiosity about the world around them.
- Begin to understand past events, people and places, living things and the work people do.
- Use all their senses.

- Enjoy learning through exploration, enquiry, experimentation and asking questions.
- Learn to demonstrate care, responsibility, concern and respect for all living things and the environment.
 - Develop the skill to communicate using a range of appropriate vocabulary.
 - Express their own ideas, opinions and feelings with imagination, creativity and sensitivity.
- Learn through participation in experiential learning activities and through the use of sources such as stories, photographs, maps, models and ICT.



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!

Creative Development

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.





St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
St Joseph's Way,
Fellgate, Jarrow,
NE36 4PJ

0191 5364311

enquiries@stjosephsjarrow.co.uk

www.stjosephsjarrow.co.uk



@nurstjosephs1



@stjosephsjarrow