



Early Years News

Autumn 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, we would like to say welcome to St. Mary's, we wish your child a very happy first year at school and look forward to working with you in the years to come. The children have all had a great few days settling into school life! We would like to take this opportunity to tell you about all the exciting things we will be learning about during the Autumn term.

This term, we will loosely follow two topics "All about me!" and "Autumn" which will give us the chance to get to know your children well and will include a walk in the park to look for signs of Autumn. Primarily though we will follow the children's interests when planning activities for them. Later in the term we will learn about the festivals of Diwali and Bonfire night before we begin the lead up to Christmas which will culminate in our Early Years Christmas celebration. Learning sessions will build gradually into our day, with short 5 minute carpet times where we gather to do phonics, learn a song or play a maths game together. Much of our time will be spent doing child-initiated learning where children can make choices and plans about their own play and activities.

Beach School



We are very pleased and excited to announce that we will be starting Beach school after half term. This is a great opportunity for children to use their local beach as another place to learn as well as teaching them to care for our planet. The idea of Beach school is that we go often and in all seasons. More information to follow ...

Birthdays

When your child has their birthday, they are very welcome to come into school dressed in their home clothes for the day.

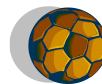


Phonics and Reading books



We will be using the 'Essential Letters and Sounds programme to teach letter sounds and early reading. The children will bring home a reading book linked to the sounds they have been learning that week. Please encourage your child to read this book to you EVERY DAY for 5 minutes. This gets children into good habits right from the start. They will take part in whole class reading and writing activities as the term progresses .

Your child will also bring home a story book, which they have chosen themselves, for you to share with them. We do not expect your child to be able to read this book at this stage and it will be enough for you to read it to them and then chat about the story and pictures. During this first half term, if your child seems too tired when they get home, just wait for a more appropriate time when you are both happy and relaxed. We will change these books weekly.



Physical Development

In addition to P.E lessons, Physical Development involves the children learning practical skills such as using scissors, constructing models and threading. We will use the hall, outside area and playground to encourage a range of skills with small and large apparatus.

SHELL AND STARFISH CLASSES WILL HAVE PE ON TUESDAYS

However, children will need their kits in school each day of the week. Each term we will send home their kits to be washed. If your child has pierced ears the stud earrings must be covered with tape for PE lessons.

If you opted for a staggered start here is a reminder of the timings!

Week Beginning 9.9.23 Children arrive at 8.25am and are collected at 11.30am

Week beginning 16.9.23 Children arrive at 8.25am and are collected at 12.20pm—after lunch

Week Beginning 23.9.23 Children arrive at 8.25 am and are collected at 3pm



Your Child's Progress

We will invite you in to school to discuss how your child is getting on in class and give us an opportunity to agree your child's next steps for learning and how you can support them at home. This will begin after the half-term break in October. We will arrange a date with you individually.



You are invited to a workshop to find out about your child's very first year at school and what they will be learning

'Six weeks in'

This will be held on

9th October after you have settled your child in class



Please also come along and find out how to support your child with reading

'What is ELS ?'

This will be held on

Friday 27th September 8.45am after you have settled your child in class

We will send more details nearer the time



Important Dates

Please also see main dates list on the school website.



Wednesday 25th September at 9am

Welcome liturgy for Early Years children and their families
(School Hall)

Thursday 3rd October

Harvest Festival 2pm
(Our Lady of Sorrows church)



Thursday 12th December at 2.15pm

Early Years Christmas celebration
(Shell and Starfish classrooms)



If you have any questions or queries, please pop in to chat to any of us at the end of the school day. If you feel you need a longer time to talk to the teacher, we will be happy to make an appointment with you.

Mrs Lauder, Mrs Jeffries and the Early Years team.

