



Meet the Nursery team:



Mr North
Principle



Mrs Thompsett
EY & KS1 Phase
Leader



Miss Tugwood
Nursery Manager



Mrs Blackman
Nursery TA



Mrs Calway
Nursery TA



Mrs Wainwright
Nursery TA



Miss Jessup
Nursery TA



Parent Information Booklet



St Mary's Nursery
St Mary's Primary Academy Folkestone
Warren Road
Folkestone
Kent
CT19 6QH

**ST. MARY'S
NURSERY**



Welcome to our Nursery

On behalf of the governors and staff at St. Mary's Academy, we would like to welcome you and your child to our nursery. We hope that our relationship will be one of trust, understanding and a positive experience for all involved.

St. Mary's Nursery is managed by qualified and experienced Early Years' teachers and staff.



Our Aims:

- To develop in every child a positive self image, confidence and sensitivity to others.
- To help children and their parents to make an easy transition from the family home to the larger community of the nursery and school.
- To maintain a welcoming, secure and stimulating environment in which little minds and bodies can grow happily and at their own pace.



As a parent/guardian, how can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development and have a long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them each day helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas.

At St. Mary's Nursery, we like our parents to be involved in their child's learning and development, when your child starts you will be set up with an account on Tapestry where you will be able to see your child's observations in nursery and what learning they have done. You will be able to add photos and observations from home as well. Every week your child will be set some home learning specific to them that you can support them at home.

Every 6 weeks your child will come home with a Focus child sheet which you complete and bring back to nursery for the start of their nursery week. It is really important the focus sheet is completed and handed back to the nursery staff.



Admission

St. Mary's Nursery caters for children aged from 2 years old and over for 15 hours a week. We have limited 2 year old spaces which can either be charged at a cost of £5.20 per hour or funded through FF2 funding. Every child is entitled to 15 hours the term after their third birthday. There are 26 places per session. Children attend for two full days and one half day per week.

The sessions we offer are as follows:

Little Learners:

Monday and Tuesday, 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Wednesday morning, 8.45 am to 11:45am

Little Discoverers:

Wednesday afternoon 12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Thursday and Friday 9.00 am to 3.00pm

We admit children on the following criteria:-

A small number of places will be offered to children with special educational, social, emotional or medical needs, as assessed by the Pre-School Review Panel.

Proximity of the child's home to St. Mary's Nursery, with those children living nearer being given priority (measured 'as the crow flies').

Once eligible for the Free Early Education funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, children can access the 15 hours outlined above, provided there is space available. Admission arrangements for the Nursery are in accordance with KCC Policy. More information on Free Early Education funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds can be found at:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare>.

It is hoped that most children attending our nursery will be able to transfer into the rest of the school as they get older, but separate applications have to be made. This is because parents do not have to take up pre-school placements but attendance in full time education is compulsory after a child reaches the age of five.



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Price List:

Hourly rate for 2 and 3 year olds - £5.20

Weekly for 15 hours for 2 and 3 year olds - £78

Early start with breakfast 08:00—09:00 am. - £5.00

Early start without breakfast 08:30—09:00 am. - £2.50

Late collection 15:00—15:30 pm. - £2.50

Nursery fees are required if your child is not receiving Free For Two funding or the government 3 and 4 year old funding.

Fees are expected to be paid termly and in advance.

Fees can be paid through Parent Pay or the tax-free government scheme.

Early start sessions and late collections have to be pre-booked termly with Miss Tugwood or Mrs Thompsett

Any questions or requests for early start sessions please email nursery@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk

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What will your child need to bring?

- A named water bottle with plain water to be placed in the water bottle tray inside.
- A named lunch box with a healthy lunch to be placed on the lunch box trolley outside. Lunch boxes should contain starchy food, such as bread, potato, rice or pasta, at least one item of fruit, vegetable or salad and a balance of foods from different food groups
- A spare set of clothes in a named bag to be placed on their peg.
- A named coat
- Nappy and wipes if needed.
- Slippers if your child would like to wear them inside.

We have many pairs of spare wellies and have a selection of wet weather clothing. We like to learn in all types of weather!

In the hot weather, we ask that children have sun cream applied before arrival and they bring a suitable sun hat.

Please could children wear shoes that they can easily take on and off as children like to take their shoes off inside.



What is the EYFS framework?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child and was developed with a number of early years' experts and parents.

In September 2020, the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter the most. This framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child's development.

The EYFS Framework sets out:-

- The legal welfare requirement is that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare
- The 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge
- Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually by the end of their Reception year; these expectations are called the Early Learning Goals

At St. Mary's Nursery, we use the framework to ensure your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 Prime areas first.

These are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

These Prime areas are the most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the Prime areas will then help them to develop skills in 4 Specific areas. These are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities that take place at St. Mary's Nursery, ensuring activities are suited to your child's needs. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking, which takes place both indoors and outside.



Our Daily Routine:

09:00 Nursery day begins

09:10 Welcome Time

09:15 RWI

09:35 Child Initiated Learning

11:50 Story/Singing Time

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Child Initiated Learning

14:15 Forest Time

14:50 Story Time

15:00 Home Time

Our timetable changes due to the needs and interests of the children throughout the day.





In the Moment Planning

Our nursery follows the 'in the moment planning' approach. This means that our nursery day is led entirely by the children and their interests. When children are playing and selecting what they do themselves, they become deeply engaged. While this is happening, our adults are observing and waiting for the moment in which they feel they can make a difference. Our adults value and listen to the ideas and needs of every individual child. This ensures that every child has a voice in our nursery and our highly skilled staff expertly enhance their learning experiences and implement each child's next steps effectively.

This approach to learning ensures the relationships between our staff and the children are successful and that the children feel excited and empowered by their learning.

When you tour the nursery or attend any stay and play sessions our staff will be willing to explain this further and demonstrate how it works during a typical nursery day.



What do I do next?

Children's names can be entered for a place any time after birth. This must be done by collecting a register of interest from St. Mary's Academy Office or the nursery.

The completed form should be returned to the nursery or academy office. Evidence of your child's home address and date of birth need to be seen when you apply. This could be a Doctor's letter, National Health document etc.

Once we have received the completed form, your child will be placed onto our waiting list. You will be contacted by telephone at least 2 weeks before your child's 3rd birthday or 'free for 2' date to arrange a Stay and Play session and/or a start date. You will be informed of session availability when you are contacted.

If you have any questions, please ring the academy office (01303 251390) and a member of nursery staff will contact you.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our friendly nursery. You are welcome to come and look around. Just contact the academy office to book a time.

Please check our website for more information: www.stmarysfolkestone.com

