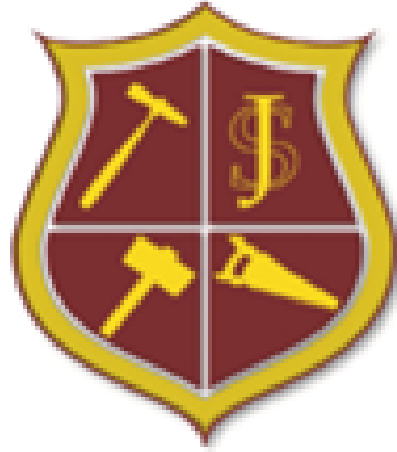


# St Joseph's Nursery



## Information for Parents



**"We grow together in God's love as we pray, learn and play**

**Dyn ni'n tyfu gyda'n gilydd mewn cariad Duw wrth i ni weddio, dysgu a chwarae"**

*Article 1- 'You have the right to learn and to go to school'*

*Article 19 – 'you have the right to not be harmed and kept safe'*

**Welcome!**

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome both you and your child to our Nursery.

#### **Our Mission Statement**

**"We grow together in God's love as we pray, learn and play**

**Dyn ni'n tyfu gyda'n gilydd mewn cariad Duw wrth i ni weddio, dysgu a chwarae"**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a Catholic community embracing a partnership between the school, home and the parish. It offers to each member the opportunity to deepen their relationship with Christ through prayer and worship within an atmosphere of love, peace, justice and reconciliation.

We believe that every individual is uniquely created and loved by God and therefore has the right to be part of a community where each member is valued and respected for their own worth, irrespective of race, culture, faith or ability. The children will be helped to appreciate that they are members of God's wider world in all its richness and diversity.

Our broad, balanced curriculum entitles all children to have an equal opportunity, to grow in knowledge and understanding, and in the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values which will enable them to develop to their full potential.

To achieve this the school will:-

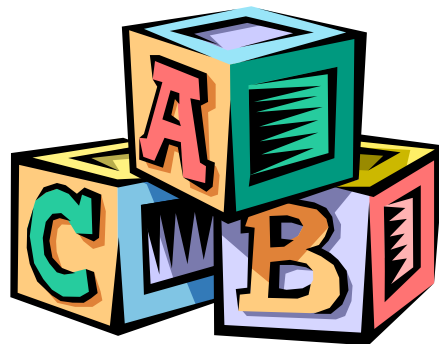
- Encourage each child to develop a relationship with Christ through prayer, worship and awareness of the Scriptures.
- Respect and value all members of our community, bearing witness to the Gospel values of justice, freedom, love and reconciliation in all our relationships and throughout our daily lives.
- Recognise each child's educational/creative entitlement, enabling them to attain their true academic potential and provide opportunities to value and celebrate their achievements.

- Develop co-operation and embrace a spirit of partnership between the school, home and parish.
- Respect and appreciate our friends from different cultures, races and religions.
- Foster a love and respect for all of God's creation.

Our main aims for your child are:

- To ensure a safe and happy environment where your child is provided with a variety of activities which will enrich their development.
- To enable your child to confidently draw on lots of new experiences in their learning.

- To introduce your child to the Foundation Phase curriculum and introduce your child to the routine of school life.
- To encourage your child to make their own choices enabling them to become more independent.
- To prepare your child for mainstream education.
- To develop a good relationship between home and school.
- To encourage links between nursery and the wider community.
- To build upon the foundation of learning already laid at home and provide a stimulating environment for inquisitive minds in which your child will acquire a variety of basic skills.



Prayer forms an important aspect of our Religious Education work.

We pray together at the beginning and end of each nursery session.

Children learn set prayers.

Below are the main three prayers the children say.

### **Morning/Afternoon Prayer**

Good morning/afternoon Lord,

We praise your Holy name and we thank you for giving us this lovely new day.

### **Going Home Prayer**

Now the mornings/day is over,

We lift our hands and say,

Thank you Heavenly Father for today.

We're sorry for the wrong things but glad about the right, Keep us Heavenly Father in your love tonight.

Amen.

Jesus is with us, Jesus is strong, Jesus loves us, Jesus loves everyone.

The sign of the cross is the most important way to begin and finish prayers

**The sign of the cross** In the name of the Father, And of the Son, And of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Time is spent each day in class praying together.

At St Joseph's Nursery we follow the 'Come and See' Religious Education Programme.

Religious Education is taught through four-weekly topics.

The topics followed over the yearly cycle are;

**Autumn Term**

Myself  
Welcome  
Birthday

**Spring Term**

Celebrating  
Gathering  
Growing

**Summer Term**

Good News  
Friends  
Our World





The aim of the programme is to provide a systematic presentation of the Christian event, message and way of life, in an appropriate way, according to the age and stage of development of the individual child. It aims to help members of the next generation to have a deep love and knowledge of Christ which will enable them to be joyful witnesses to him in the world.

We do encourage you to take your child to Mass every Sunday morning or Saturday Evening.

Mass times are;

Saturday Evening; 6pm

Sunday Morning; 9.15am; 11am

Parish Priest Fr Justus

**We follow the Foundation Phase Framework for Children's Learning.**

The seven Areas of Learning are:

- Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity
- Language, Literacy and Communication Skills
- Mathematical Development
- Welsh Language Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development.

The Foundation Phase places great emphasis on developing children's:

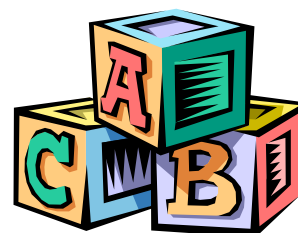
- Skills and understanding.
- Personal, social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being, in order to develop the child as a whole.
- Positive attitudes to learning so that they enjoy learning and they will want to continue with their education for longer.

- Self esteem and self confidence to experiment, investigate, learn new things and form new relationships.
- Creative and expressive skills and observation to encourage their development as individuals with different ways of responding to experiences
- Activities in the outdoors where they have first hand experiences of solving real problems in maths, science and learn about conservation and sustainability

## How to Prepare your Child for Nursery

### Encouraging pre reading skills

- Share and enjoy books together
- Tell the stories from the pictures
- Discuss the author
- Encourage your child to join in familiar phrases eg. 'We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to find a big one'.....
- Point to the words as you read this reinforces left to right orientation.



- Encourage your child to discuss the characters and events in the book.
- Encourage your child to make predictions 'What do you think will happen next?'
- Encourage your child to be aware of the wealth of language all around them. Point out signs, labels shop names etc.

#### Encouraging number skills

- Sing together number rhymes and songs this is a fun way of counting
- Read stories which help to develop mathematical language such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *The Three Little Pigs*.
- Encourage your child to count whenever possible- counting buttons on their coat, stairs to bed, toys as they put them away.
- Point out numbers that you see in the environment eg, house numbers, buses, in the supermarket.

**1 2 3 4 5**

## Encouraging pre writing skills

Your child will only make marks but this is the first stage of writing.

- When you go to the supermarket let your child make a list
- Encourage your child to use a variety of different mark makers eg. felt pens, paints, chalks, thick pencils and crayons.

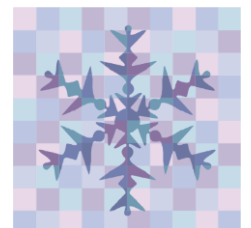
## Strengthening fingers

Finger strength is a fundamental building block in the development of fine motor skills. Ways to develop finger strength include:

- Threading
- Use of playdough - pressing, rolling, moulding, squeezing, twisting
- Cutting
- Picking up small objects with thumb and finger, tweezers

## Encouraging Independence

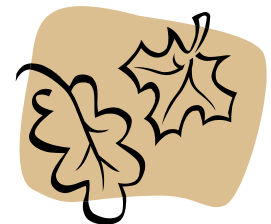
- Encourage your child to put their coat on and off
  - Ensure your child can ask to go to the toilet □



Encourage your child to tidy up after themselves. □ Ensure your child can express their own needs.

### Encouraging scientific skills

- Talk with your child about their environment and help them to be aware of the changes taking place during the seasons.
- Give your child plenty of hands-on practical experiences eg. water play, building/construction, nature walks.
- Encourage your child's natural curiosity.



### First Day in Nursery

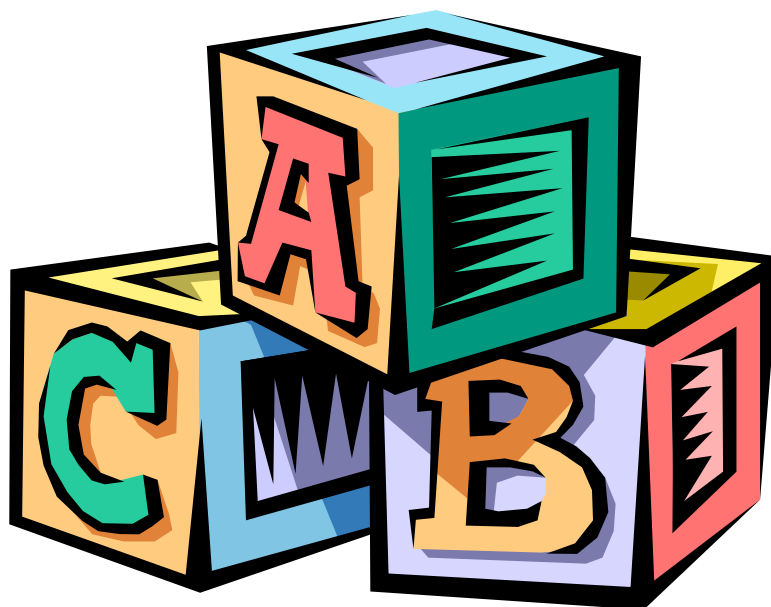
We try to make your child's first day in nursery as happy as possible; it is a key day in both your life and your child's.

When you bring your child on the first day, you will be shown where your child is to hang their coat.

Your child may be a little upset on their first days and it is easier for both you and the child if you leave them quickly. They generally settle fairly quickly.

If you wish, we are happy for you to ring us to put your mind at rest.

Class information can be found on the school website. Also, information/news/events are often displayed on the classroom window



## Nursery Day

Morning session - 9.00am - 11.30am.

Afternoon session - 12.50pm - 3.20pm.

Both the morning and afternoon sessions run as follows: Children self register and explore some of the activities put out for the day.

The children then have carpet time, sing prayers. This is followed by a focused activity, inside and outside and a choice of creative work, construction, puzzles, water, paint, sand, music, choosing-reading of books, computer/ICT, or free play with the many and varied structured play materials. Children are encouraged to learn through practical experiences, both inside and outside, wherever possible using real life situations. PE takes place weekly and children will be required to change into shorts and t-shirt.

Then they tidy up and all children are expected to help clear away.

During snack time the children are offered milk/water and share their fruit.



We gather together, share work, listen to a story/singing.  
Prayers.

Throughout your child's time in Nursery, most of their recorded work or art work will be kept in their book 'A Journey through Nursery'.

In the nursery we have a wide variety of areas including:

- Quiet area
- Home corner
- Areas for sand/water
- Role play area
- Book corner
- Table top activities
- Writing area
- Maths area
- Construction area
- Computers/white board

- Creative area
- Digging area
- Sensory area



Your child will spend a lot of time playing, but remember, they are learning to share, to take turns, develop independence and care for other people.

At certain times of day, your child will come together with the rest of the children, as part of a small group as well as the whole class. This gives your child a sense of belonging and encourages their social skills by giving him/her the opportunity to join in discussions, prayers, songs, stories, music and movement.

We cannot take responsibility for jewellery worn by children. Therefore, it is advisable that no jewellery be worn to Nursery. We are, as a school, expected to adhere to this Health and Safety legislation.

**PLEASE ENSURE EVERY ARTICLE OF CLOTHING  
HAS YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON IT.**

**Uniform - gold polo shirt**

**Grey trousers/joggers/skirt/pinafore**

**Grey sweatshirt.**

**Uniform with the school badge can be purchased from  
YC Sports, Crwys Road.**

A large part of our day is spent outside so please ensure that your child is sent to nursery in appropriate clothing for the weather.

Winter: coat, scarf, gloves.

Summer: hat, sun-cream

NB: We are not allowed to put sun-cream on your child.

Each day your child will be encouraged to brush their teeth, as St Joseph's are part of the Welsh Assembly Project to lessen tooth decay in children.

**It is extremely important that a responsible adult  
who is known to staff and your child**

comes to pick him/her up. Children will only be released from Nursery to adults who are named on the alternative pick up sheet and have signed their permission for the school to have their contact details..

Please try to bring your child every day as Nursery places are in great demand and he/she may become unsettled if attendance is irregular. Also, your child will be missing out on vital early years skills, which then means they will be at a disadvantage compared to their peers.

However, if your child is ill and is going to be absent please let us know by ringing the school secretary on 02920621625

Should your child have had sickness or an upset tummy, please keep them home for at least 48 hours.

We do ask each child to contribute £1 a week for Nursery funds. With this money, we are able to cover costs for

baking, special treats throughout the year and to repair and renew equipment and toys.

We also ask children to bring in a piece of fruit each day to eat as a snack with their milk. This provides them with necessary experiences such as sharing, discussion and healthy eating.



You can help us by.....

- Bringing your child to and from nursery on time.
- Letting us know if somebody different is picking up your child from nursery.

- Letting us know if your personal circumstances change.
- Dressing your child in practical, washable clothes/uniform and shoes that are easy to put on and take off.
- Teaching your child to put on/take off their coat.
- Putting their name on your child's clothes.
- Not bringing toys/ sweets, personal belongings etc to nursery.
- Remembering that your child should be able to use the toilet without too much help.
- Working with us to eradicate any teething problems on entering nursery.



**Points to remember**

Monday Bring in £1 and a piece of fruit.

Tuesday Bring in a piece of fruit

Wednesday Bring in a piece of fruit

Thursday Bring in a piece of fruit

Friday Bring in a piece of fruit

Please check the nursery notice board for any changes to routine.

There are a number of forms that we ask you fill in and return to nursery as soon as possible - these can be completed online. These forms are:

- Tooth-brushing permission
- Internet Consent
- Home School Agreement
- Emergency contact information/allergies, health problems

## **Equal Opportunities**

All children are given all the educational opportunities that the school has to offer.

Welsh culture, other traditions and cultures are included in the delivery of the curriculum - in songs, stories pictures etc.

We celebrate diversity and experience aspects of life in other countries through mini topics such as, International week, Eco week, Thinking about our World fortnight, etc



## **Home School Tasks.**

These mostly take the format of art and craftwork. Your help and co-operation with these tasks is appreciated. These tasks help you and your child to work together. Remember to involve your child- the results are meant to be child-like!

## **Special Educational Needs.**

Each child's development both socially, emotionally, behaviourally, intellectually and physically will be carefully monitored and assessed. Every effort will be made within the nursery to meet any educational need.

If any problems do occur, we will discuss them with you and your help and support will be sought to ensure that both home and school work together to try and work through the problem.

If necessary, other professional help will be sought from outside agencies and you would be made fully aware of the steps that would be taken.

## **Nursery Staff**

Nursery Teacher - Mrs H. Wheeler

Teaching Assistant - Mrs C. Brooks

## **Address**

St Joseph's RC Primary School

204, North Road

Gabalfa

CARDIFF

CF14 3BL

Telephone: 029 20621625

## **Headteacher**

Mrs A. Riordan

## **Deputy Headteacher**

Mrs H. Wheeler

## **Chair of Governors**

Mr S. Lawrence

## **Parish Priest**

Fr. Justus

In the early years of your children's lives, we are laying down the foundations for all future learning. An important feature of this is continued liaison between parents and Nursery staff. We want

you to feel involved in your child's development during their time in Nursery

As parents/guardians, you are always welcome to come in and discuss any aspects of your child's development.

If there is anything worrying you or your child please don't hesitate to share the concern with us.

We look forward to working closely with you for the benefit of your child.