

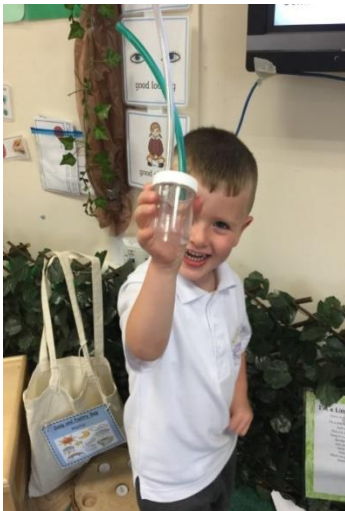
# Welcome to St John Fisher Nursery

*'Believe in the light so that you will become children of the light.'* John 12:36

## About Us

St John Fisher nursery opened in January 2019 and since then we have continued to develop and thrive.

We believe nursery should be a home from home where children can grow and reach their full potential. Our learning environment reflects this and we adopt a calm, happy and nurturing learning environment which seeks to connect children with nature and engage their curiosity.



## Meet the Team

Miss Mould: **Nursery Teacher**

*Mrs Dixon & Mrs Foulkes: Teaching Assistant*

## School Day

Timings for the school day are outlined below;

Phase		
Nursery	15hour	30hour

8.45am-11.45am

8.45am- 2.45pm

We also offer a number of wrap-around care options:

- Breakfast Club from 8am- £2.50
- After School Club until 5.30pm- £5 (£6 Nursery aged pupils.)
- Extra-Curricular Activities until 4pm- from Reception upwards

St John Fisher is 26 FTE (Full time equivalent) place nursery for 3- and 4-year olds. We offer either 15 hour or 30-hour provision if you are entitled.

### Uniform

The uniform for boys and girls is the same.

- Grey school jumper/ hoody with school logo
  - Grey school tracksuit bottoms with logo
    - Lilac polo shirt with logo
- Black/ navy shoes, pumps or trainers with Velcro (preferred) or buckle fastening- **NO LACES PLEASE. This is vitally important so that children can be independent and change in and out of their wellies with more ease.**
  - Wellies to be provided for outdoor play.

### Lunchtime

If your child is accessing the 15-hours offer, they should be collected from school after the morning session at 11.45am.

Children accessing the 30-hours offer will remain with us for lunch. They should be provided with a healthy packed lunch each day and they will eat their lunch together in their own dining area.

Please do not give your child the following items in their lunch:

- Fizzy/ sugary drinks
  - Chocolate
  - Crisps
  - Sweets

We recommend for example: a sandwich, piece of fruit, cheese/raisins, small low sugar yoghurt, water or diluted cordial.

### Snack

Children will be provided with snack and water or milk daily in school and we ask for a £1 (50p part time) contribution per week towards covering these costs. This can be paid per half term or termly at the school office or nursery door. Children will also take part in baking activities and this will help contribute towards these costs.

### Birthdays

We recognise how special and important birthdays are for children. We ask that on your child's birthday, they may come to school wearing a birthday badge but **please do not bring in any sweets or cake for others**. We are a healthy school and we must stay committed to this. In some months we may have more than five children turning 4 therefore that would mean a lot of unhealthy foods being given to children in a short period of time. We also need to be considerate of children who may have allergies and therefore cannot eat certain foods.

### Parental Involvement

It is important to us that your child thrives in our Nursery and develops a love of learning that is achieved through a successful partnership between home and school. We believe our Nursery will provide a warm, secure, happy and stimulating environment with lots of positive social interaction. We consider the education of children is a joint venture between parents and school. When we work together the results have a positive impact on children's development and learning. A successful partnership is vital for confident, happy children who enjoy learning and school life. If you have any questions or queries regarding your child, then please let us know. There will always be a member of staff willing to talk to you should you have any worries about your child's education or welfare.

### Helping your child at home and encouraging independence

We are keen to work with you to support your child's transition into Nursery. There are a few things that you can encourage even before your child begins Nursery that will help them to settle in and feel comfortable. We are happy to give the support your child needs with their developing independent skills and we will also encourage them to 'have a go'. To support this, please can you encourage your child to be as independent as possible before and during their nursery years, as this will help them to be more confident in the nursery setting. For example:

- Encourage your child to take their coat off and hang it on their peg on their own and encourage them to practise putting their coat on independently.
- Try to ensure that your child is confident in toileting, hand washing and drying. If your child is having any difficulties with independent toileting be sure to inform the nursery staff.
- **Occasionally young children may have accidents even when fully independent in their toileting especially in the first few weeks due to it being a new setting and environment. Be reassured that we will deal with any incidents sensitively. We ask all children to bring a change of clothes which must include; spare change of pants, t-shirt, jumper, underwear x 3, socks and a spare pair of pumps as children can sometimes wet through to their shoes. These can be children's own clothes and does not need to be school clothes.**
- Play with your child indoors and outdoors. Encourage development of gross motor skills by supporting physical play, including climbing and clambering. This will support the development of fine motor skills that follow.
- Undertake creative and messy activities with your child. Encourage your child to work with different materials using their hands e.g. dough, cutting and sticking activities.
- Take your child to a variety of places to enrich their experiences which can be drawn upon in Nursery.
- Encourage good table manners and help your child learn how to use a knife, fork and spoon independently.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for putting away their own things and tidying up after themselves. Encourage a sense of responsibility by requiring your child to clear away their toys with help and independently.
- **Clearly label** all items of clothing and book bags. Check from time to time that the labels are still in place and clear.

### Communication between Home and School

Good communication is important for all adults to appreciate the needs of individual children, and to alleviate concerns at an early stage. Please advise the teacher if you have any concerns that can



either be discussed quickly, or at a mutually convenient time to be arranged before or after school.

From time to time, children will receive learning packs such as; The Tiger who came to tea and Bailey Bear as well as having a learning book to complete at home whenever you may want to share an experience with us in nursery. More information will be given about your child's learning book once settled into nursery.

We also hope to open an 'Early Years library' in which with the support of an adult, children can borrow books from school to take home to read and swap at their pleasure.

### Tapestry



We will regularly share observations and information with you about your child's attainment, progress and their next steps through our assessment system. When children start Nursery, you will receive information about setting up your child's account which will enable you to securely access this information. Through this app you will directly see your own child's learning experiences however you will also see you child interacting with classmates in photographs and videos. All information shared with parents/carers is confidential and we ask parents/carers to recognise and understand this and to not share any of the photographs or videos outside of the family or online in any way. This has been a really successful and wonderful way of keeping you informed about your child's learning, but also allows you to post experiences and learning you are doing at home.

### Class Dojo



Dojo is a communication tool used by the whole school to communicate important messages. These may be to celebrate achievements at school or to pass on valuable information and notices. Nursery has a class page where information relevant to our class will be posted as well as a 121-messaging tool should you wish to pass on a message to the class teacher. This has been an invaluable tool to provide up to date information to parents and carers to ensure the best possible communication between home and school. Each parent/carer will be given information to download this app.

### The Early Years Foundation Stage

Children from their early days up to five years old are taught an Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. In Nursery, your child will be taught through the Early Years Foundation Stage

Curriculum. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, the curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:

These Areas of Learning are separated into 3 Prime Areas of learning:

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

And four specific areas of learning:

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

•

Through the teaching of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum there is a balance between adult led, individual and group experiences and those which are chosen by the child. Your child will be working and playing independently and with other children for some of the time. Learning through outdoor play is encouraged and the classroom environment is organised to stimulate and encourage your child to work independently, creatively and to share and take turns with their peers.

### Assessment

Assessment is crucial to learning; it informs planning in all seven areas of the curriculum and ensures children achieve their full potential. In the Nursery setting assessment is on-going and informal. This is completed through playing with your child and making informal observations and notes. Planned observations are also carried out by adults in the class. These assessments and observations provide information about the achievement, progress, and the most useful next steps to plan in your child's learning. These will be shared with you via Tapestry which you can also help contribute to. We encourage parents to be as active as possible making comments and helping to support with any targets set through this tool. You will also have opportunities to discuss your child's progress at regular Parents' Meetings and informal discussions.

### What your child will be learning

An outline of the main topics to be covered in class will be shared on the school website and through communication on tapestry. Our curriculum draws from key texts following our schools 'Reading Spine' (Pie Corbett) as well as using 'Talk for writing' techniques to support children's story

language skills. Children also enjoy many experiences through 'Story World' which captures children's imaginations in exciting and interesting ways. We never quite know what will happen next!

Additional, spontaneous topics that evolve from children's interests or observations may also be explored and we try to offer children experiences to support their 'Curiosity' of life and fulfil a love of learning and desire to always want to know more. We are always pleased to hear from anyone who has expertise in any of the topics, and welcome visitors to share knowledge and experiences with the children. This greatly enriches our discussions and work in class. Although communication and language remain an important focus for children's development in Nursery, as children are developmentally ready, we move them towards the specific focus area of Literacy which entails learning to read and write.



### Reading

At St John Fisher Nursery, we aim to foster a passion for books and stories! By sharing reading books at home, you will further support this growing love of literature. In Nursery we will share books regularly with your child. This will include daily stories being read, shared experiences with Big Books, ICT Talking Stories, and group and individual reading opportunities. Children will also be encouraged to retell and enact their favourite stories and scenes. Reading opportunities at home will greatly support your child's experiences in school, where they can put into practice the strategies that we have been developing. Regular experience with books also contributes to the development of writing skills.

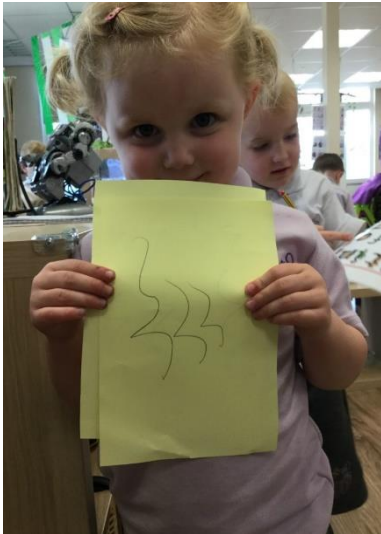
### Writing



Praise all efforts that your child makes to communicate by making marks. This may include pencils, paints, in the sand or using ICT. Involve your child when you are writing cards, letters and messages. This will develop their understanding that print has meaning. Encourage your child to

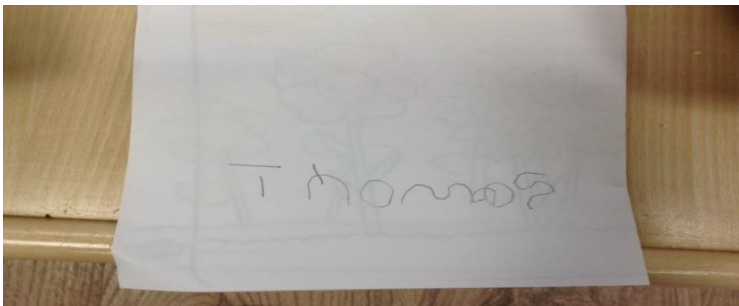


form letters clearly if they are ready to record and encourage lower case not capital letters in their writing, apart from the beginning of names.



As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum there will be many opportunities to encourage, value and celebrate mark making and to develop fine motor skills. Your child will be encouraged to attempt making marks from the outset and praised for their efforts. They will have opportunities to see an adult model writing letters and words and forming simple sentences and be encouraged to write using a range of media. This will include making letters with malleable materials, painting, chalk, crayons and pencils. It is important that children see their 'writing' as valued as this will develop their confidence and encourage them to take risks with their work. Mark making and 'pretend' writing is an important stage in the process of becoming a competent writer.

Children at St John Fisher Nursery will be encouraged to recognise and write their name.



### Read Write Inc

At St John Fisher, we use Read Write Inc programme as a means of phonics leading to early reading and writing. Children will be taught to recognise, hear and say initial sounds, recognise the letter name and sound. Beginning phonics in a fun and informal way in nursery, allows are children to better understand the signs and symbols around them and better prepares them for their school journey. More information on this will be given throughout the year as appropriate.





## Maths

At St John Fisher Nursery we believe that Maths is Fun! The children will experience many mathematical activities that are delivered through music, dance and active participation. For example, being a frog and jumping into a 'pond' when singing 'Five Little Speckled Frogs', hunting for numbers, counting objects or playing target games. As well as counting and encouraging sorting, matching and number recognition, the children will be immersed in mathematical language. Through modelling and small group activities they will be developing an understanding of the language that is associated with Mathematics. How many altogether? How many more to make...? One less than... is? One more than...is? language associated with colour, size and shape - Tall/er/est,? Large/er/est? Small/er/est? Square? Rectangle? Triangle? Flat faces/curved faces/edges?



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



It is important that your child feels safe and secure at St John Fisher Nursery for a successful and enjoyable start to learning. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum will support the development of interpersonal skills through adult modelling and regular 'circle times'. This will include games that promote speaking and listening, confidence building, and an awareness of other people. Children will also be positively supported in all areas of play and group situations to share and take turns, express their feelings in an appropriate way, and to help tidy up after an activity.

Your child is welcome to bring items of interest from home to show and tell to the class on any day. This will encourage their confidence. Please ensure that these are appropriate for sharing with others and are not valuable. We will endeavour to make the time to share them with the class as soon as possible.



### **Coping with the demands of school**

Your child may appear tired once they have attended Nursery for a while. This is often the case, even if they were away from the home for long periods prior to beginning school and are used to long days, children often find the routines in school more tiring. In addition to the energy required for learning about a new environment and new activities, they will be working hard on forming new relationships with adults and their peers. It is advisable to limit after school activities so that your child can relax after school. Children should get plenty of sleep at night in order to be refreshed for school, learning and fun the following day.

NHS Recommendations:

- 3 years old - Daytime: 0-45 minutes      Night-time: 11hrs 30mins - 12 hours
- 4 years old -Night-time 11hrs 30 mins-12 hours.

3-year-old children staying for a full time may wish to have a rest or short sleep during the day. We have found that only a few children may take up this opportunity and quiet space is given for those who choose this on occasion.

### **And finally....**

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child. Starting Nursery School is a very important and special time for parents and children. It is vital that the transition to school is a very successful, positive experience. All children are individuals and each child have their own personal needs. We will endeavour to ensure that each child makes a very smooth transition to school life.



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to a member of staff either at the beginning or end of the nursery session or arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

Let's be curious!

Let's make friends!

Let's make a mess!

Let's read, sing and talk!

Let's play!

