

Welcome to St Mary's Foundation Stage



School Mission Statement

Our school family wants this to be a safe, caring, creative and happy place, where we all have a fair chance to learn and grow together and to do the best we can.

We do this by knowing and loving Jesus more every day and by following his teachings in a joyful way.

Introduction

St. Mary's provides a vibrant and stimulating environment where children are supported by and educated by highly dedicated and caring staff. We acknowledge that children learn in different ways and as such we provide a variety of teaching methods to make learning exciting for our children. Extra help is given to pupils who may be experiencing difficulties and more demanding targets are set to extend the abler children. We aim to develop positive attitudes to learning and children receive praise and encouragement at every opportunity. We appreciate that starting school is a big step for both you and your child. At St. Mary's we aim to make this a happy and positive event, where your child will enjoy a caring, stimulating environment. We therefore value a good relationship with you, the parents and carers, as we believe this plays a fundamental part in the settling in process and indeed in the rest of your child's time in school. We recognise that when your child comes here he/she has already learnt a lot from you at home. We want to build on what your child knows and can do, continually taking them further on to the next stage of learning. We strongly believe that your child's education is a partnership between home and school and therefore parents are always welcome to come and see us.

Parents as Partners

You are your child's first educators and we therefore value the information and opinions that you can share with us. We try to involve you whenever we can. We use online 'Learning Journals' to communicate with parents regularly about your child's learning and achievements. We would like parents to contribute to these and you will be issued with a username and password to access your child's Learning Journal in the first few weeks of the September term. If you and your child have been somewhere special, or you have seen your child doing something that you would like to share with us, please use the weekend books which will be sent home weekly once your child starts St. Marys.

On-going Involvement

- ❖ Opportunities in every term for parents to share concerns and celebrate success.
- ❖ All parents are encouraged to share books with their children at home.
- ❖ Staff are available at the end of the school day and you can feel free to ask any questions.
- ❖ News letters are circulated each term.
- ❖ Contribute in building your child's 'Learning Journal'
- ❖ Parents are encouraged to attend your child's class assembly or Whole School Masses

Parents in School

When families support their children with their learning they make better progress, so we are very keen to get you involved in school life wherever possible. In Early Years, Parents/Carers are invited to bring their child to their classroom each morning from 8.45am, but please allow them to come into the classroom independently. The register will be taken at 8:55am.

Keeping in touch

St Mary's has a school facebook page, www.facebook.com/StMarysI, and a twitter account @StMarysI together with our website www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk and these form the key ways which you can use to keep in touch with what's going on. There's a weekly school newsletter which is posted onto our website and facebook page and copies of all letters are uploaded to the letters section of the school's website. Our school calendar is published to the website too. Be sure to visit the Reception class page and sign up to the school's weekly newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/qw2Uv>.

In addition we have a school app which can be downloaded from the Apple App store or Google Play. The app enables you to report your child's absences, check the menu or calendar and find other useful information.

We operate a cashless system and the vast majority of payments are made through Parent Pay. Once your child has started at school their details will be entered into Parent Pay and you will be issued with a username and password. We have to wait until your child starts in school before being able to do this.

Parent Pay and visits and lunches

Through Parent Pay you will be able to pay for school visits and workshops and, even though school lunches are free, make the daily choice for your child's lunch.

At St Mary's every infant child (reception to Y2) has a school lunch. **There are no packed lunches.** If your child has specific dietary needs, please contact the office and they can put you in touch with the area manager from our catering company who will be able to meet with you in school.

School Uniform

Our uniform policy can be found on the policy section of the school's website. Please take time to read it and please note that we do not allow jewellery of any kind in school.

Reporting an absence

If your child is not going to be in school you must let us know on the first day of absence how long they will be off and for what reason. The easiest way to report an absence from school is by using the form on the homepage of our website or by using the school app. You can also leave a message on the school's voicemail.

Learning in the Foundation Stage

At St. Mary's the Nursery and Reception classes follow the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS). This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles.

Unique Child - Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We reinforce every child's uniqueness within God's family.

Positive Relationships - Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships. We do this with other children, adults at home and school. Children will be encouraged to begin to develop their spiritual relationship with God their Father in Heaven.

Enabling Environments - Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

Learning and Development - Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The Curriculum Religious Education is our core subject. It permeates our whole curriculum through prayer, worship and R.E in class. You could help your child by learning the Hail Mary, Our Father and The Sign of the Cross.

There are 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas of learning in the Foundation Stage framework curriculum.

Prime Areas

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

In the Prime Areas children will learn to: -

- ❖ Share, take turns and develop respect for each other.
- ❖ Make friends and become confident independent learners.
- ❖ Behave appropriately when playing with others.
- ❖ Listen to others and understand spoken language.
- ❖ Learn new words rapidly and use them in conversations.
- ❖ Join in conversations with adults and children.
- ❖ Develop control of their bodies using both large scale movements such as running and jumping, and small scale movements such as holding pencils and using scissors.

Specific Areas

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

In the Specific Areas children will learn to: -

- ❖ Enjoy sharing books and stories with adults and friends.
- ❖ Read words and simple sentences (Reception children).
- ❖ Draw, make marks, and write letters and words.
- ❖ Count accurately groups of objects and recognise numerals.
- ❖ Add, subtract and problem solve during practical activities.
- ❖ Use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, distance, time and money.
- ❖ Look closely at how things work, why things happen, living things and the natural world.
- ❖ Use ICT equipment, e.g. programmable toys and computers.
- ❖ Be imaginative, sing songs, dance and create fantastic models, drawings and paintings.

What will children do during at Nursery or Reception class session?

Your child will take part in a wide range of activities, both indoors and outdoors. Your child will learn through activities he or she has chosen, or from those that are led by an adult. Children in the Foundation Stage learn through play based activities that are fun and enjoyable. These activities are supported by caring adults who will work closely with you to ensure your child makes progress. We keep careful progress records for each child that are linked to the Development Matters in the Foundation Stage Guidance. Parents are actively encouraged to contribute to their child's learning journals.

How you can help your child

- ❖ Encourage and praise them because they need to feel successful
- ❖ Look at their work and help them with their homework where necessary
- ❖ Come into school whenever you can - such as assemblies, open days. Children really love to see you in school
- ❖ Always encourage your child to take pride in their work
- ❖ Take time to share a book with them - take them to the library regularly. Talk about what they are reading at school.
- ❖ Encourage good manners and respect at all times to everyone in and out of school

How you can help the school

- ❖ Ensure that all contact information is up to date
- ❖ Make sure that we are aware of any medical problems
- ❖ Let us know immediately if your child is absent
- ❖ Let us know if you have a change in home circumstances - this information will be kept confidential
- ❖ Make sure your child is in school on time every day
- ❖ Send your child into school in the correct school uniform
- ❖ Send your child in with their PE kits (Reception only)
- ❖ Ensure that homework books and reading books are returned to school on Wednesdays (Reception children)
- ❖ Make sure that everything is named clearly
- ❖ Check your child's hair regularly
- ❖ If there is a change in the person collecting your child, please let us know!

Clothing and Footwear – Nursery - Although we provide aprons we cannot guarantee that glue or paint will not splash on clothing or shoes. Nursery/Reception: We recommend that children wear sensible shoes that are easy for them to independently manage. Children should not wear footwear with laces or sandals of any kind. The Early Years Foundation Stage requires children to have constant access to outdoor provision and learning in all weather conditions, we therefore request that during the winter months' children wear warm clothing and bring a waterproof coat, children should wear the green school coat or a dark coloured one to School each day. During the summer months' children will need a sun hat and parents should ensure that all clothing protects their child's shoulders and upper arms. Protective sunscreen should be applied before arrival to school. We have some spare clothes in school in the event of "accidents" and if your child does bring home clothing please wash and return as soon as possible. We are always grateful for donations of clothing, underwear, wellingtons, etc., that have been outgrown.

Home Visit

If your child is joining our Nursery or is a new child to the school and is joining Reception our staff will visit you and your child at home. Children can find a new school frightening. A home visit will enable us to see your child individually in an environment that is safe. Once your child has started school, we may mention a particular aspect of the visit as a starting point for conversation. This will help your child feel that we know a little about them. Recognising a friendly adult face as soon as they enter the classroom can also help children to settle more quickly. Home visits provide an opportunity for one-to-one interaction with you. Please see it as an opportunity to ask questions about your child's experiences in school. The home visit will provide you with an opportunity to talk about your child and the school, to voice concerns, to clear up misunderstandings, and to lessen worries and fears that you or your child may have. The visit should not last more than 20 minutes.

Meet and Greet

Your child will have an opportunity to visit their class in July. They will spend one hour with other children who will be in the same class. They will also meet their teacher and teaching assistant. Please be prepared to leave your child during this time as we would like to see how they get on.

All About Me

Attached with this booklet is an 'All About Me' sheet, in order to fully support your child, the information you provide will help your child's Teacher plan for your child's transition, needs and assist them to settle. Please encourage your child to contribute their ideas, please provide a current photo of your child and a family picture as this will form of part of the first terms learning.

For your information:

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office@smi.hounslow.sch.uk

www.smi.hounslows.sch.uk

All About Me:

In order to fully support your child, this 'All About Me' sheet is designed to provide your child's Teacher with the additional information they need to aid your child's transition to Nursery/Reception. It will help us to plan for your child's needs and assist them to settle. Please encourage your child to contribute their ideas, please provide a current photo of your child and a family picture as this will form part of the first term's learning

I like to be called:

My date of birth is:

My home language is:

My cultural identity is:

I have been to a nursery/playgroup before, called:

My special toy or comforter is:

Other people who are important to me:

Things I like:

Things I don't like/worry me:

My Photo & My Family Photo (please do not stick)

My current interest and achievements

My family has noticed that I am interested in

Personal, Social & Emotional Development
e.g. I am interested in other children's play; I find it difficult to share toys; I like being with adults

Communication & Language:
e.g. English is my second language; I understand simple questions; I use simple sentences

Expressive Arts & Design:
e.g. I like painting; I like to dress up; I can build tall towers with bricks

Physical Development:
e.g. I am learning to use the toilet by myself; I can wash and dry my own hands; I am confident using a climbing frame

This is what I can do

Knowledge & Understanding of the World
e.g. I have a sense of my immediate family; I like looking for worms; I can take a photograph

Literacy:
e.g. I like listening to stories about ..
I can draw a....

Mathematics:
e.g. I can talk about numbers; I like playing with shapes; I can count to.....

Experiences and Opportunities to Support my Learning and Development

My Teacher has noticed that I'm interested in

To be completed by teacher

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Communication & Language

Expressive Arts & Design

My next steps are:

Physical Development

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Mathematics

Literacy

At home I could:

