



# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

Welcome to St Lawrence School Nursery Class. Starting Nursery is an exciting time for children and parents and this booklet is intended to provide a useful guide for you.

St Lawrence Nursery offers high-quality educational experiences in a safe, caring environment. We pride ourselves on our high standards and encourage our children to become confident learners. Our aim in the Foundation Stage is to provide your child with a range of creative, diverse and interesting play experiences that will stimulate and inspire them. We want your child to develop a thirst for learning and to promote their self-esteem. We will provide an environment for our children that is thoughtful, inclusive, caring and responsive.

### **Starting Nursery**

By this point, we would normally be holding our New Parent's Meetings and offering induction sessions ('Stay and Play' sessions) to your child. This is currently under review and it is possible that these sessions may not take place prior to September. We are awaiting guidance from the Education Department and will, of course, let you know as soon as we can offer these sessions. As part of our transition process, we will meet or have a conversation with your child's current Nursery Teacher or Key Worker (if they have one) so that we can gain an understanding of your child's needs.

The start dates for our Nursery children are staggered to allow a smooth transition time for your child – as soon as we have more information about these dates, we will be in touch with you. These staggered times give your child the opportunity to settle in calmly and for you to meet with the Nursery Teacher (Mrs Turner) on a one-to-one basis.

All Nursery children are offered twenty free hours per week and the times for these hours are 8:45am – 12:45pm daily. Parents are also given the opportunity to purchase an additional five or ten hours per week and we can offer flexibility with these additional purchased hours. If you wish to have some flexibility with the additional hours, please contact Mrs Banks (Foundation Stage Coordinator), who will try to accommodate your needs.

*Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*



# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

Once the children are settled into Nursery, parents are requested to wait in our 'Quiet Room' in the mornings until the bell goes and the doors are opened at 8:45am. We request that the children do not use the outdoor play area before 8:45am, or after they have been collected from Nursery.

### **Nursery Times**

20 hours per week – 8:45am to 12:45pm

25 hours per week (with the purchase of five additional hours) – 8:45am to 1:45pm

30 hours per week (with the purchase of ten additional hours) – 8:45am – 2:45pm

To apply for additional Nursery hours, please visit [www.gov.je/nurseryhours](http://www.gov.je/nurseryhours)

To discuss flexibility regarding the additional hours, please contact Mrs Banks – [k.banks@stlawrence.sch.je](mailto:k.banks@stlawrence.sch.je)

### **Absences**

If your child is ill or unable to attend a session, please let us know by telephone (863172). It is especially important that children who have infectious conditions such as gastroenteritis or diarrhoea remain at home until at least 48 hours after the last episode.

It is advisable to tie long hair back and to regularly check your child for head lice. Leaflets and guidance on prevention and treatment of lice are available from our Reception Area.

Please let us know if your child has any medical condition, ailment or allergy.

### **Our Curriculum**

The children in our Nursery Class follow the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum'. This curriculum caters for all children up until the end of the Reception year. The Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning, for the purposes of planning and assessment. There is more information about these different areas of learning at the end of this handbook.

*Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*



# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

We are guided by the children's interests and, in addition to this, we have key topics (such as 'Autumn' or 'Colours') which are adapted to stimulate the children's curiosity and encourage them to develop new areas of interest. Newsletters giving information about these topics are sent out on a termly basis.

### Our Ethos

We are very proud of our Foundation Stage Unit and we have a strong Foundation Stage Team. The team meet on a weekly basis to plan together and to discuss the next steps for the children. Planning is based on the children's own interests and so varies from year to year. We are a play-based setting and advocate open-ended play. Our staff are flexible and responsive to the children's needs – sometimes we are needed right in the thick of activities to model and coach, or to develop communication and negotiation skills. At other times, our involvement might send the wrong message – that we don't value or trust what the children are doing. It is important that we have a balance and that we recognise when to get involved in the children's play. Some of the strategies that we use include the following:

- we recognise the children as individuals with differing needs that change over time;
- we get down to the child's level;
- we are interested, open, relaxed and smiling;
- we take time to observe so that we can find out what the children are playing and what their roles and intentions are;
- we consider whether we need to enter the play and for what purpose (for example, offering suggestions, introducing new ideas and vocabulary, managing noise or behaviour, extending the activity through additional resources, or negotiating entry for another child);
- we allow the children to lead the play;
- we ask open-ended questions, or make relevant comments during interactions;
- we try not to direct the play to our own learning agenda; instead we are alert to the qualities of play, and to the knowledge and skills that the children are using and applying.

*Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*



# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

Certainly, there are times when there are more structured sessions in the day – such as our Story Time sessions, Singing sessions, or PE sessions, but the main part of the day involves the children engaging in child-initiated, free-flow, play-based sessions.

Relationships with parents are very important to us; indeed, we believe that this is the most important factor in ensuring that your child is happy and successful at school.

### **Snacks and Lunch**

A substantial mid-morning snack is provided to all children at a cost of £5 per week (approximately £60 per term). Payment is due termly, in advance, and cheques are to be made payable to *St Lawrence School Nursery*. If you wish to pay on a weekly, or half-termly basis, please let us know.

Please could you provide your child with a water bottle (named) that can be taken home and re-filled on a daily basis.

Children will also require a packed lunch – please refer to our Lunchbox policy (on our website) for more information. Please could you ensure that the lunchbox items do not contain nuts – we have a number of children with nut allergies in the school and appreciate your support with this.

### **Clothing**

We encourage outdoor activities as much as possible and so a coat, gloves and hat are required in colder weather and a sunhat in warmer weather. Wellington boots are also necessary (normally these are kept in school). We provide all-in-one wet weather suits for muddier activities. Practical and comfortable clothing suitable for painting, messy play, water play and outdoor activities would be ideal for Nursery life.





# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

### **Toilet Training**

Whilst most children are usually toilet-trained by the age of three, we do recognise that accidents do happen. All children are encouraged to be as independent as possible, but our staff will, of course, provide assistance when required. Please provide spare clothing in the drawstring bag that we will give to you on the first day. This bag is then kept on your child's peg where you can access it and top up the clothing as necessary.

Please name all items of clothing !

### **Safety**

Your child's safety is paramount to us. The Nursery doors are heavy and have double handles as a security feature. Please do not allow your child to attempt to open them alone. Please let us know if anyone else will be collecting your child and inform that person of our parking arrangements.

### **Parking**

#### **Morning Drop-Off**

Only those parents with younger children with them are allowed to park outside the Nursery Area. We request that all other Nursery parents park in our lower playground and walk around to the Nursery.

#### **Afternoon Pick-Ups**

All Nursery parents are allowed to park outside the Nursery at these times (the afternoon pick-ups are staggered and so there is less traffic congestion). Please be aware that the car park can still get busy at these times. Exit from the Nursery car park is always through St Lawrence Arsenal, never back through the entrance. We ask that parents wait in our 'Quiet Room' at pick-up time and we will bring your child to you.



# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

### **Registration for School**

Attendance at our Nursery does not guarantee a place in our Reception Class. A separate registration of interest form must be completed for admission to our Reception Class. Completed forms must be returned to your catchment school. The form gives the option of three school preferences but you will still have priority at your catchment school. Completing and returning the form ensures that you will be sent a school application form in the Autumn term of the school year before your child is due to start school.

### **Foundation Stage Unit**

During the afternoon session, from 1:15pm, the Nursery children will integrate with the Reception children. Both groups of children follow the same curriculum with differentiated activities to cater for individual needs. The children will have access to the Nursery Classroom, the Reception Classroom, the Nursery outdoor area and our Nature Areas around the school. There will always be a member of staff in each area.

This initiative commenced in September 2016 and has proved to be very successful. The staffing during these sessions will consist of a teacher, two Nursery Officers and a Teaching Assistant.

We believe that in setting up a Foundation Stage Unit, the children will have access to a wider range of activities and resources which will then have a positive impact on their learning. The transition process for those children moving into our Reception Class will be smooth and the Nursery children will benefit from playing and learning with the older Reception children.

### **Forest School Activities**

We are fortunate to have a trained forest-school practitioner working in Nursery every morning and two trained forest-school practitioners working in the afternoons. Forest School activities take place outside in our Nature Areas.



*Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*



# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

The children undertake a range of practical activities and carry out achievable tasks. The purpose of involving children in such activities is to raise their self-esteem, develop their self-confidence, independence, enthusiasm for outdoor learning as well as develop communication and problem-solving skills.

### **School Website / Facebook Page / Newsletters**

We have a Facebook page (*St Lawrence Primary School* – look out for our logo) that we use to inform parents of class activities and diary dates. We also email regular newsletters and have an online emailing system which helps us keep in touch with parents. We have a school website [www.stlawrence.sch.je](http://www.stlawrence.sch.je) which provides details of our policies amongst other information.

Please note that we never name children on our Facebook page and we ask that parents do not identify children in any comment that they might make on our Facebook page. There is a consent form to be completed relating to permission to use your child's image on our Facebook page.

### **Reporting on Progress**

There will be meetings with the Nursery Teacher in the Autumn Term and the Spring Term to discuss how your child is settling into the Nursery Class.

If you wish to discuss progress at any other time, please speak to your child's Teacher to arrange a mutually-convenient time.

At the end of the Summer Term, you will receive a report outlining your child's development and progress over the year.

**Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.**

*Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*



# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

# A Parent's Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is taught in school nurseries, day nurseries, pre-schools and Reception Classes and is for children from birth to five years.

Within each of these settings staff will work with your child using play as an important method of learning.

### **Prime areas of learning and development**

The three prime areas below are about children's curiosity, enthusiasm for learning and how to learn and how to form relationships.

#### **Communication and Language Development**

Communication and Language Development is about giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment, develop confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations

#### **Physical Development**

Physical Development is about providing opportunities to be active, interactive and develop co-ordination, control, and movement. Children are also helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy food choices

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Personal, Social and Emotional Development is about enabling children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, to form positive relationships and to develop respect for others, develop social skills and to learn how to manage their feelings, understand appropriate behaviour in groups and to have confidence in their own abilities

### **Specific areas of learning and development**

The four specific areas below help with applying the prime areas.

#### **Literacy Development**

Literacy Development is about encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to foster their interest.

#### **Mathematical Development**

Mathematical Development is about providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

*Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*





# St. Lawrence Primary School



## Nursery Class Information

### **Understanding the World**

Understanding the World is about guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Expressive Arts and Design is about enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology

### **How children learn**

Schools and settings use the 'characteristics of effective learning' when planning educational activities. These are:

- playing and exploring - investigating and experiencing things, and 'having a go'
- active learning - concentrating and not giving up if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- creating and thinking critically - having and developing their own ideas, making links between ideas, and developing strategies for doing things.

### **Early Learning Goals**

Your child will make progress in all seven areas of learning through developmental, age-related achievements. This will help them to reach the early learning goals at the end of the school Reception year.

The goals provide schools and settings with an indicator as to whether your child is working within the expected stage of learning and development. Assessments are made through on-going observations and schools and settings will work with you to build a profile of your child's learning journey through the Foundation Stage.

### **How you can help your child learn**

- give your child lots of love and encouragement so they see themselves as confident and capable
- try not to move your child between too many settings as consistency of care and education is very important for young children
- discover what your child likes and dislikes, every child is a unique individual
- share stories, rhymes and songs
- talk to your child, encourage them to ask questions and enjoy discovering new thing with them
- be involved - work in partnership with your child's school or setting. The contribution you make as your child's first educator is key.

**Information taken from [www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je) website**

*Our Mission: 'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*