

St Lawrence School Nursery

Information Booklet



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



Welcome to St Lawrence School Nursery. 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.

Starting Nursery

As part of our induction process, your child will be offered a 'Stay and Play' session where they will be able to familiarise themselves with the Nursery staff and the setting. This session will be informal and play-based. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children and this is a good opportunity for parents and Nursery staff to meet and chat about the children.

The start date for our Nursery children is staggered to allow the children time to settle and give parents the opportunity to speak with the Nursery Teacher on a one-to-one basis on the first day. You will have had a letter advising you of the start date and time for your child.

All children, from this September, will be offered thirty free hours per week and these are the hours between 8:45am and 2:45pm. It may be that children may start on fewer hours and gradually build these up as appropriate. This would be something to speak with the Nursery Teacher about.

The drop-off time for Nursery is between 8:45am and 9am. The Nursery Teacher will wait outside the Nursery gate and children can be dropped off to her and then taken in as they arrive to be supervised by the Nursery Officers. It is expected that parents will attend for the first morning in September, and then drop off from outside the setting after the first morning.

Nursery Times – 8:45am to 2:45pm

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. Children suffering from chicken pox may return to Nursery once the spots have dried up. Children suffering from impetigo or conjunctivitis may return once the condition has been treated – please seek advice from your doctor.

It is advisable to tie long hair back and to regularly check your child for headlice. 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.

The key areas are as follows:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making Relationships
Self-Confidence and Self Awareness
Managing Feelings and Behaviour

2. Physical Development

Moving and Handling
Health and Self-Care

3. Communication and Language

Listening and Attention
Understanding
Speaking

In addition to these key areas, there are specific areas of learning:

4. Literacy

Reading
Writing

5. Mathematics

Numbers
Shape, Space and Measures

6. Understanding the World

People and Communities
The World
Technology

7. Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and Using Media and Materials
Being Imaginative.

The Nursery Team meet regularly to plan together and discuss the next steps for the children. Planning is based around the children's own interests and so varies from year to year.

Here are a few examples of projects that we will be doing with the children during the year:

Why Do Leaves Go Crispy ? – an Autumn-themed topic which looks at the changes that take place in Autumn, explores natural items, such as conkers and other 'Autumn Treasures' and looks at how animals adapt to seasonal changes;

How Does That Building Stay Up ? – a project about buildings, structures, properties of materials, houses and homes;

Can We Explore It ? – a project which captures children's natural curiosity about the world around them, from the smallest holes and hiding spaces to great adventures in far-away places. Children will be making maps and looking at different types of transport within this topic.

Snacks and Lunch

Children are encouraged to bring in snacks for their mid-morning snack – please refer to our Lunchbox policy on our website regarding snacks. Please note that we are a nut-free school.

Please could you provide your child with a water bottle (to be taken home and refilled on a daily basis).

Children will also required a packed lunch – please refer to our Lunchbox Policy included within this pack.



Please do not include any items which contains nuts – thank you.

Children are supervised at lunchtimes by our two Lunchtime Supervisors and have half an hour to eat their lunch followed by half an hour playing outside (weather permitting).

Clothing

Practical and comfortable clothing suitable for painting, messy play, water activities and muddy activities are ideal for Nursery. Although aprons are provided for messy activities, accidents do happen and so we request that parents do not send their children to Nursery in their 'best' clothes.

We provide a drawstring bag for all children and request that parents provide two sets of spare clothing, including underwear, for their child.



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. It would be helpful if you could provide your child with named puddle suits and Wellington boots. These items are generally kept at school.

Please name all items of clothing !

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 staff will give assistance where required.

Try to ensure that your child's clothes are easy for them to remove and fasten again.

Please provide two sets of spare clothing in the drawstring bag that will be provided by the school – this bag is kept on your child's peg.

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 picking up your child and inform that person of our parking arrangements.

Parking

Morning Drop-Offs

Only those parents with babies 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 Nursery at these times (the afternoon pick-up times are staggered and so there is less congestion). Please be aware that the car park can still be busy at these times. Exit from the

Nursery car park is always through St Lawrence Arsenal, never back through the entrance.

Please could you wait outside the Nursery Classroom door at pick-up time and we will bring your child to you.

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 allows you to give three school preferences, but you will 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.

Forest School Activities

We are fortunate to have a trained forest-school practitioner working in Nursery every morning and two trained practitioners every afternoon.

Forest School activities take place outside in our Nature Areas. The children undertake a range of practical activities and carry out achievable tasks. The aim of involving children in such activities is to develop their self-confidence, independence, enthusiasm for outdoor learning as well as their communication and problem-solving skills.



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 send home regular newsletters and are in the process of setting up an email service to parents.

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

We ask that parents make themselves familiar with our 'Social Media for Parents' policy which is available on our school website www.stlawrence.sch.ie Your support with this is much appreciated.



Reporting on Progress

There will be an informal meeting with the Nursery Teacher at some point in the Autumn Term and again in the Spring Term to discuss how your child is settling into Nursery.

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

At the end of the Summer Term, you will receive your child's learning journal showing your child's development and progress over the year.

We use the EExAT online assessment and tracking system which enables us to create online learning journals for your child. This enables us to record children's learning and development. These journals are accessible to parents and parents are able to add their own observations and photos to these journals. Information about EExAT together with log in credentials will be sent to parents once children have settled in and the system is up and running.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns – it is very important to us that we have good relationships with parents and carers.

