



## Diocese of Portsmouth

# ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

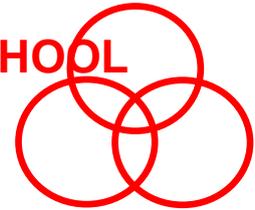
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Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



January 2020

Dear Parents,

### Welcome to St Edmund's Nursery!

We are delighted to welcome everyone to Nursery this term and are pleased to see how well our new children are settling in, and how friendly and welcoming the established children are being. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the next few weeks and we hope that your child will enjoy their time in Nursery.

The Nursery class morning session runs from 8.50 to 11.50a.m., and the afternoon session from 12.00-3.00p.m. Many children stay for a full day from 8.50-3.00p.m. Children and parents will be able to come straight to the classroom door under the canopy when they are dropped off. The full-time children will also be collected from this door at the end of the session. If your child is arriving or leaving at lunchtime, then please drop off or pick up at the cloakroom door.

During a typical Nursery session, the children come in and find their name card to self-register. Lunch boxes are put in the red box and coats and bags are hung up. At the beginning of the morning we have a group time, when we register the children and have a short teaching time which includes counting and teaching related to the theme of the week. The children are then free to access the activities and resources in the Nursery classroom, the middle room, the Reception classroom and the outdoor area. As the children play and develop their friendships they are observed by our experienced staff who watch the children and play with them, and extend their thinking and learning through careful questioning, explanation and modelling language. There are 7 areas of the Early Years curriculum- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Communication and Language (CL), Physical Development (PD), Literacy (L), Mathematics (M), Understanding the World (UW) and Expressive Arts and Design (EAD). Resources and activities which develop learning in all of these areas are always available throughout our setting. As a Catholic school we also teach Religious Education during which we help the children learn that they are all special and all loved by God. During the course of the morning the children may choose to come and have a snack of fresh fruit and vegetables with milk or water. Every morning session ends with a group time which includes Phonics, a story and some singing.

During lunch time the children are supervised by the Early Years staff eating the lunch their parents have provided. They then go and play in the outdoor area or the Nursery or middle rooms with their Reception class friends until 1 p.m. when we register the children. The afternoon follows a similar format to the mornings, with independent play and learning, a snack time, tidy up time, a story and singing before going home.

We record and assess the children's learning using the 'Tapestry' online learning journal. Parents are able to view what their child has been doing at Nursery through observations, photos and videos. If you have not yet signed up for Tapestry, then please give your email address to Mrs Semple and she will set up your account.

Each week we will have 3 children who are our 'Focus children' for the week, and every adult in our setting will give these children a little more attention and observe and note their play and interactions. We will let you know when it's your child's turn to be a 'Focus child' and you will have the opportunity to suggest any areas of learning that you





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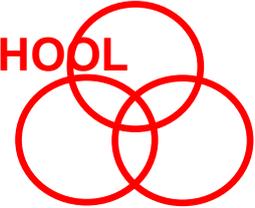
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would particularly like us to focus on, and will be offered a meeting to discuss your child's progress at the end of their focus week.

Our 'Stay and Sing' music sessions will begin again this week (Wednesday 8th January) in the Nursery classroom. Parents are welcome to bring younger siblings to 'Stay and Sing' which is a half hour long weekly Music session.

Children can come to school in their own clothes, but please make sure that their clothes are easy for them to manage independently when they go to the toilet- trousers or skirts with elasticated waists are ideal and skinny jeans and dungarees are not! Some children like to have a school Foundation Stage sweatshirt- these are available for sale from the school office. It would be helpful for each child to have a named pair of wellington boots that they can leave at school to wear for outside play in wet or cold weather, although we do have some spare pairs of our own. Please also make sure that your child has a named coat with them at school if the weather is cold or wet, and a named sunhat if it is hot. We will always try to spend some time outside every day, even if it is raining. It is also important that each child has a bag they can leave at school containing some spare clothes just in case of accidents!

In line with our whole school policy, children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including earrings, to school.

The children are offered a snack and drink during the morning and the afternoon. We will provide the children with a piece of fruit or vegetable and milk or water to drink. You do not need to send any food or drinks to school with your child other than a healthy packed lunch if they are staying at school for a full day.

Once the children have settled in to school then we will be very happy to have parent helpers coming in. If you would like to volunteer as a parent helper then please speak to us about it. We will also have a 'Stay and Play' twice a year, which will give you the opportunity to stay with your child for a Nursery session if you wish, so that you can see what your child does at Nursery.

We always offer a range of learning opportunities for your children in our setting. Sometimes we like to do special activities such as cooking, food tasting or making cards and gifts for special occasions. In order to help us cover the costs of materials we ask for a £5 donation each term, using the attached envelope.

We are always grateful for donations of old greeting cards, children's comics/magazines, sweet wrappers and wrapping paper to use for cutting and sticking.

Please come and talk to us if you would like to discuss how your child is settling in at Nursery. If your child's health or family circumstances change, then please do let us know.

With best wishes,

Mrs Fiona Semple and Miss Michelle Stokes

