



## Diocese of Portsmouth

# ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

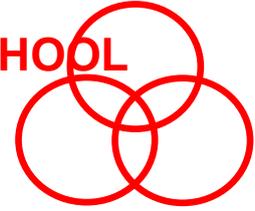
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Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



September 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 children who stay all day are collected between 2.40 and 2.50p.m. Children are dropped off and collected from the gate on Radley Road next to our Early Years classes.

Our topic this term is 'All about me' and we will be looking at our similarities and differences and why we are all special, how to keep healthy and learning about our homes and families.

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. We have a short group time to do the register and find out which adult-led activities will be taking place on that day. 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 RE and 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. Every morning session ends with a group time which includes a story.

During lunch the children are supervised by Mrs Semple, Miss Prior and other members of the Foundation Stage staff. The children then go and play in the outdoor area with their Reception class friends until 12.45p.m. The afternoon follows a similar format to the mornings, with independent play and learning, a snack time, tidy up time, and a story 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.

We have our own system of Nursery Parent's Evening appointments. 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 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. At the moment, due to current Covid guidance, we will offer these meetings virtually via Microsoft Teams.





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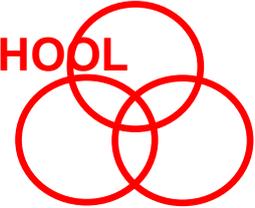
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As the children become more settled we will begin to offer additional group times including a weekly Class Worship session with the Reception children.

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. 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, or getting wet and muddy when playing!

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

The children are offered fruit and vegetables for snack during the morning and the afternoon. Please could you provide a named water bottle for drinks during the day, and a healthy packed lunch if they are staying at school for a full day.

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 Jodie Prior

