



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

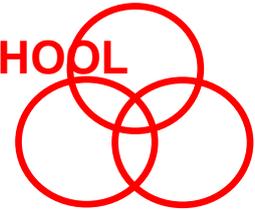
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



January 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St Edmund's Nursery!

As we all know, this term hasn't quite begun as we expected! After much confusion about the new lockdown and school closures, we now know that we are open to families who wish their children to attend at this time, although understandably many families are preferring to keep their children at home with the current high infection rates.

We are delighted to welcome everyone who has returned 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 drop off time is 8.50- 9am, and the morning session ends at 11.50am., and the afternoon session pick-up time is 2.40-2.50pm.

During a typical Nursery session the children come in through the cloakroom door, hang up their coats and wash their hands. Lunch boxes are put in the red box in the classroom. 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 and the outdoor area. When this lockdown ends, and school fully reopens the children will also be able to access the shared middle room and Reception classroom. 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 Phonics and a story.

During lunch the children are supervised by our experienced staff. We are currently having lunch in the middle room, but would usually join the Reception children to eat in the Hall. The children then go and play in the outdoor area. 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.

This term our theme is 'Traditional Tales' and we will be covering the Areas of Learning through activities linked to a range of traditional stories. Some of our older children were here last Spring term- we have the same topic, but will be using different stories and therefore different activities this term.

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. It is always lovely to see your





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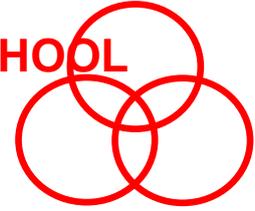
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comments about what your child has been learning, and also photos and videos of what the children are doing at home.

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!

Please be aware that children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including earrings, to school.

The children are offered a snack during the morning and the afternoon. We will provide the children with a piece of fruit or vegetable if they wish. Please send a named water bottle with your child every day, as well as a healthy packed lunch if they are staying at school for a full day.

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 the Early Years staff





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