



## Diocese of Portsmouth

# ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

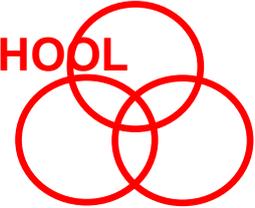
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Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



January 2022

Dear Parents,

### Welcome to St Edmund's Nursery!

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 the new children over the next few weeks and we hope that everyone 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 classroom door, hang up their coats and wash their hands. Lunch boxes are put in the red box in the classroom unless children are having a hot school lunch. 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. We have a large number of children in Nursery now, and we split the children into 2 groups for some group times- Ladybirds and Bumblebees. The Ladybirds group are the older children who will be moving up to Reception in September, whereas the Bumblebees group will have another academic year in Nursery. This term the Ladybirds will focus on developing their listening skills and sound discrimination including oral blending and segmenting of words in Phonics, developing ideas through discussion, recognising their names and practising name writing and consolidating accurate counting and number recognition. The Bumblebees group will focus on speaking and listening activities, developing listening skills and sound discrimination in Phonics, and practical Maths activities such as counting, sorting and sharing objects. After group time the children are then free to access the activities and resources in the Nursery classroom, Middle room, and Reception classroom along with 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 singing and a story.

During lunch the children are supervised by our experienced staff. The children go to the Middle Room and eat their packed lunch or hot meal, which is available to order daily for £2.20. The children then go and play in the outdoor area. The afternoon follows a similar format to the mornings, with group times, independent play and learning, a snack time, tidy up time, and a story before going home.

This term our theme is 'Once Upon a Time' and we will be covering the Areas of Learning through activities linked to traditional tales. If your child was in Nursery last January we covered the same topic, but used different stories and





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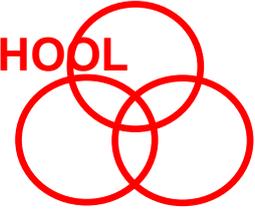
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activities to the ones we will use this term. In RE we will cover Christmas, Revelation and Lent. We will also include some lessons from the RHE curriculum where we will learn that we are all different but all special, that Jesus teaches us how to care for each other, that there are lots of people around us who help us and take care of us, and that our bodies are special and we need to look after them.

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 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 as we will always try to spend some time outside every day, even if it is raining. If it is hot, then please apply sun cream at home before your child comes to school as we are not allowed to apply it. It is possible to buy long-lasting sun creams that are effective for 6 hours or more and these are ideal for a day at school. A named sunhat is also very important as the weather improves. 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 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 and not having a school lunch. We do not allow nuts in school, and some of the children in the Foundation Stage have nut allergies, so please make sure that packed lunches do not contain any nuts- do check cereal bars and chocolate spreads as they sometimes contain nuts.

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.

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. I check the class email daily during term time so that is also a good way to contact me- [nursery@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk)

With best wishes,

Mrs Fiona Semple and the Early Years staff

