

September 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome to our Early Years Class. We will be sending letters throughout the year to keep you informed of our various activities. There is also a Parent Notice Board in the cloakroom with additional information, weekly planning and any planned visits we will be making. Please do check this board regularly for updates and PTFA news.

Whilst the weather is dry, children may keep their outdoor shoes on in the classroom. However, on very wet days, they will need to come to school in Wellingtons and change into their school shoes; this ensures that our indoor learning environment remains clean and dry. We would also like the children to have a named pair of wellies in school so they can always access the sand, water and mud kitchen.

Please ensure that all of your children's clothing is marked with either a sewn in label or a fabric marker pen, and do check from time to time that labels can be read easily. Pen marks do eventually wash out. P.E clothes and spares should be kept in a named P.E bag, if you can please avoid using a child's rucksack as they are very bulky and we have limited space in our cloakroom. Book bags can be purchased from the school office. Can we ask that you put a ribbon or small key ring on your child's bag so that they can easily identify it. Thank you.

Once your children have settled into their new environment we will begin our formal phonics sessions. Each week your children will bring home two new letter sheets to complete with you, they will also be given a 'sounds book' with the sounds covered that week for you to stick in to practice the phoneme (sound) and grapheme (letter shape). If this sounds rather daunting, please do not be concerned, as we will be holding a Communication, Language and Literacy information workshop for all parents in the coming weeks - we will inform you of the date in due course. We do encourage you all to attend even if you have had an older child who has already attended our Early Years class.

We welcome parents into our classroom each morning; to work with their child at an activity, to share a book with them, or to look at our displays and discover what their children have been doing in school. The main door will be open from 8.40am; you are welcome to stay with your child until 8.50am when the tambourine sounds to indicate that it is time to start our day with registration and prayers.

Each morning we sit in small groups to enjoy a drink of milk and a fruit snack. The snack is provided free of charge to all children in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Please register with 'cool milk' at the office to receive milk. This is free of charge up to the age of five after that time a charge is made.

If you have taken up the government's offer of free school lunches we hope your child is enjoying them. They are of a very high quality and cooked on the premises by our very talented school cook Louise. If you have opted for a packed lunch, your child will eat with their class in the hall. The leftovers from your child's packed lunch are kept in their boxes so that you know how much or little they have eaten, please let staff know if you have concerns about the amount your child appears to be eating.

During the autumn terms 1 & 2 we will be exploring the topics "All about me" and "Festivals and Celebrations". We will plan visits into the community and visitors to come into school to talk to us. For some of these visits we will need some parent helpers, there will be a signing up sheet on the parent notice board.

Part of our weekly routine will be a cooking session that will allow every child over the term to have the opportunity to cook using fresh ingredients. We will taste at the end of each cooking session. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of staff.

We look forward to meeting with you at the Parent/teacher meetings in October.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Additional Resources / Volunteers Required

Car magazines, Argos catalogues, large catalogues/books needed that the children can use in cutting and sticking activities.

Junk Modelling - boxes, tubes, plastic bottle tops, foil dishes, scraps of material etc... for use in our Art workshop (we can never have too many!).

Old diaries, note pads, cards etc... that the children can use in our independent writing area.

We always welcome donations of spare uniform and shoes should the children require changing during the day.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come and chat with either Mrs Horton or Mrs Wiley, the most appropriate time is at the end of the school day. May we remind you if you have not already done so to return all forms and about me booklets as soon as possible. Also if you have reports or information from your child's previous setting can you hand those to a member of staff. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Sarah Horton
EYFS Leader

Mrs Becky Wiley
Early Years Teacher

Mrs N Smith
Teaching Assistant

Mrs K Wise
Teaching Assistant