

Welcome to St Paul's C of E Primary School
Nursery Class
2024 - 2025



Information Booklet for Parents and Carers

St Paul's C of E Primary School Vision Statement

Jesus offers life in all its fullness, and so we inspire our children to flourish and grow in school, the community and the wider world.

Our school is a safe and caring environment, with Christian values at its heart. Our school respects and welcomes all faiths, cultures and communities.

We ensure every child is valued, encouraging them to discover their gifts and potential.

Hello and welcome to St Paul's C of E Nursery Class

Starting Nursery can seem like a huge step for both you and your child and it may be the first time you have placed them in the care of another person. At St Paul's we will work with you to ensure that your child's first experience of school is a happy and enjoyable one. We fully acknowledge the wealth of learning you have given to your child in their first 3 years of life and always appreciate that you are your child's first educator.

We hope this booklet will answer any questions you may have and help you and your child to prepare, but if there is anything more you need to know, please do not hesitate to ask. We will always be happy to help you.

Meet the Team!



Class Teacher: Mrs Brett
Monday to Thursday



Mrs Cooper PPA Cover
Class Teacher: Friday



Mrs Babcock
Speech and Language Support

St Paul's C of E Primary School

Early Years Foundation Stage

We believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage is an important and valued stage in a child's education, which underpins all future learning by supporting and fostering a child's personal, social and emotional well-being, encouraging positive attitudes and dispositions towards learning and preparing them for continuing education.

Our aims:

- To provide high quality teaching and learning by ensuring high quality provision for all children irrespective of gender, culture, religion, race, special educational needs, disability or social background
- To support and challenge all children to reach their own potential, regarding each child as an individual with specific needs to be met in different ways
- To provide children the time and experiences to grow and develop according to their individual needs and learning styles
- To encourage children to become independent, self-disciplined and self-motivated
- To develop an effective partnership with parents and carers and build upon the invaluable foundation of teaching and learning already taking place at home
- To help each child feel happy, confident, accepted and included, enabling him/her to form good relationships with adults and children
- To provide a happy, well-planned, organised and secure environment which will stimulate the child's natural curiosity and enthusiasm to play and explore, have a go, be involved, enjoy and achieve and make decisions for themselves.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and professionals working with young children describe the important stage in a child's life between birth and age 5.

The most recent version of the EYFS came into force on 1 September 2021.

Nurseries, pre-schools, and childminders (early year's providers) registered with Ofsted or a Childminder agency, must follow the EYFS framework. They are registered and inspected by Ofsted to ensure the quality and standards of their provision. Because the EYFS goes up to age 5, this includes Reception classes in school too.

Why do we have the EYFS?

Children learn and develop rapidly from the moment they are born.

The home is the first environment where play and learning take place, supported by parents and other family members. Babies learn to crawl, walk, and talk, they begin to interact with people and the environment around them.

Their brains develop rapidly in the early years and create vital foundations for learning throughout life.

Research confirms that the experiences that a child has in the early years has a significant impact on their future life chances and that high quality early years care and education makes the biggest difference to every child.

The EYFS provides a framework that sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good progress through school and life. (EYFS 2021)

What is in the EYFS?

The EYFS has three sections:

Section 1 Learning and development describes what early years providers must do to promote the learning and development of all children in their care in seven areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal social and emotional development

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

The first three areas listed are described as the prime areas of learning and development because they are closely linked to a child's brain development in the first three years of life.

The following four areas are described as specific areas of learning that develop when parents and early years educators know what they want children to learn and create the right opportunities for learning to take place.

The activities and experiences (educational programmes), that early years settings provide are based on a child's individual needs and interests.

The emphasis is on learning through play because 'play' is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems (EYFS 2021).

Section 2 Assessment describes how children's progress is recognised.

There is additional guidance that supports the EYFS to help educators to recognise and interpret where a child is in their learning journey. The additional guidance is not intended to be a checklist that educators use to track a child's development by ticking off one stage after another.

Learning does not progress in a set sequence of events which is why educators observe children constantly and use their professional knowledge to identify the areas of learning that a child is secure in, what they need to know next, and any areas where they may need additional support.

Assessment is not all about paperwork and written reports, but the EYFS expects that 'parents and/or carers should be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development' and discuss any additional needs with you and any relevant professionals. For example, if your child appears to be struggling with their speech and language, your child's key person may suggest that they would benefit from being referred to a Speech and Language Therapist.

There are three formal assessment points in the EYFS:

- The progress check at age 2 when you will receive a short, written summary of your child's development in the prime areas
- The Reception Baseline Assessment completed by your child's school within the first six weeks of them starting reception, and...
- Assessment at the end of the EYFS - the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) which is completed in the final term of the year your child turns five. The profile is assessed against a set of **early learning goals** for the seven areas

of learning and development that the early years educators have been supporting them towards.

Section 3 the safeguarding and welfare requirements explain what providers must do to safeguard children; ensure the suitability of adults who have contact with children; promote good health; manage behaviour; and maintain records, policies and procedures (EYFS 2021)

More information about the **Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework** can be found on the school website www.st-pauls.stockport.sch.uk, just go to the Early Years tab.

Organisation of the Nursery

The Nursery offers 15-hour places for up to 40 children. Session timings are as follows:

Monday 8:45am - 3:30pm
Tuesday 8:45am - 3:30pm
Wednesday 8:45am - 11:45am

Or

Wednesday 12:30pm - 3:30pm
Thursday 8:45am - 3:30pm
Friday 8:45am - 3:30pm

If you think you may be eligible for 30 hours free childcare and would like to take this up, please let staff know as we can work with St Paul's Pre-school to facilitate this.

Children who are entitled to free school meals can have a school packed lunch. All other children are required to bring a packed lunch from home.

Our Nursery Teacher is **Mrs Brett** who is supported by a Teaching Assistant. **Mrs Cooper** will be covering PPA time and teaching every Friday. We also hope to have lots of additional help from parents, carers and students. Please let us know if you would be interested in helping out in the Nursery.

Do let us know when you drop your child off, or phone the school if the usual person is not collecting at the end of the session. We will not release a child to someone without parents'/carers' permission.

How do we prepare your child for Nursery?

Nursery Stay and Play

You will be invited with your child to attend a short **Stay and Play** session on **Monday 8th July**. Your child will have the chance to familiarise themselves with the classroom environment, play with the lovely resources, meet some of their new classmates and their new teachers.

Nursery Parent and Carer Meeting

This meeting will be held on **Tuesday 9th July from 5:30pm to 6:00pm** in the school hall and is for parents and carers only. Please do not bring your child unless essential. It will provide you with all the information you need to ensure your child has a happy and successful start to Nursery. You will meet the Nursery teacher and Early Years Leader and other members of the school community and have the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns.

Home Visits

We will arrange to visit you and your child in your home in the first few days before Nursery begins. Home visits provide the opportunity for you and your child to get to know the Nursery Teacher and Teaching Assistant a little better and give you the chance to ask questions or to raise any worries or concerns you may have.

All About Me

Please complete this sheet with your child. It really helps us to get to know the children if we know a little about their family, interests, hobbies, pets etc. This will then be put into the front of their learning journey when they begin Nursery. **If you could bring this completed, along to the Stay and Play or Nursery Meeting that would be great!**

First Days

- Children attending the beginning of the week will start Nursery on **Monday 9th September from 8:45am**
- Children attending the end of the week will start Nursery on **Wednesday 11th September from 12:30pm.**

Every child is different and it can take some a little time to gain confidence and independence. If your child settles happily, he/she will stay for the full day session every day. We will work with you to ensure a smooth transition into Nursery for your child.

Key Person

Each child is linked to a Key Person, either the Nursery Teacher or Teaching Assistant. This person has special responsibility for working with a small number of children to provide them with reassurance that they are safe and cared for at Nursery and with whom parents can share information at any time. You will be told who your child's Key Person is when they begin Nursery in September.

How can you help your child to prepare for Nursery?

You can begin talking to your child now about starting Nursery. This will build their confidence as you discuss the exciting things they will be able to do and all the new friends they will make. Reassure your child by talking about what you will be doing whilst they are at Nursery and let them know you will be coming back at the end of the session.

At home and out and about, encourage your child to:

- ◆ Take turns
- ◆ Wait for your attention
- ◆ Share and look after toys
- ◆ Play with other children
- ◆ Put a coat on
- ◆ Share books with you
- ◆ Talk with you about everyday things



Toilet Training



It is far better for everyone if your child is fully toilet trained when starting Nursery. If, however, you are experiencing problems with toilet training please contact school and we will put you in touch with our school nurse who can provide you with advice and support.

The Nursery Session

Activities

We have a flexible but structured daily routine in the Nursery. On arrival your child will be encouraged to find their name card and then play in the areas until carpet time. Register will be taken and the children will sing their 'Hello' and 'Days of the Week' songs. Children will share a visual timeline of activities on offer that day. The session then provides opportunities for whole class teaching; structured free play and child-initiated activities as well as daily teacher-led tasks. Children have free access to well-planned provision areas inside and out. Every session ends with Story time.

Snack and Chat Time

Snack time provides a lovely opportunity for the children to develop their personal, social, communication and language skills. They sit with a small group and their Key Person, chatting about their news whilst enjoying a healthy snack with friends.

Your child will be offered a variety of foods such as toast, crumpets, naan bread, yoghurt and berries, malt loaf and cereals.



Children are also entitled to a piece of free fruit and milk. If your child does not like milk they will be served water.



In line with the school's healthy eating policy, we ask that children do not bring any food or drink from home into Nursery, thank you.

Snack costs **£10** per whole term and is payable **at the beginning of each term** via Parent Pay, (see more detailed information further on in this booklet). Please note that any monies left over from snack go into our Early Years Fund and help to pay for additional resources for craft, baking and gardening etc.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS ALLERGIC TO ANY PARTICULAR FOOD PRODUCTS OR HAS ANY DIETARY NEEDS

Clothing

Children wear a school uniform in the Nursery. We like the Nursery children to feel a part of school and uniform contributes to a sense of belonging.

School uniform can be purchased from our local supplier, Bonny Bouncer, Stockport Road, Bredbury. All uniform at Bonny Bouncer includes the school logo. However, it is absolutely fine if you prefer to buy elsewhere without the logo, but please adhere to the school's colours. (Please purchase your uniform in good time for the beginning of term)

Uniform

- ◆ Grey or navy-blue school trousers, skirts or pinafores (no belts)
- ◆ Sky blue short sleeved polo shirt/blouse (short sleeves make pulling up sweatshirt sleeves easier for water play and hand washing)
- ◆ Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- ◆ Plain white, grey or navy-blue socks or grey tights
- ◆ Black flat school shoes or school sandals (Velcro fastenings are best for Nursery)



Summer Uniform

- ◆ Blue checked summer dress
- ◆ School shorts in grey or navy blue

Please can we ask you to purchase a school book bag. We have limited room for large bags or backpacks. Children do not need to bring a large bag to Nursery.

Book bags and water bottles can be purchased from the school office.

Outdoor Clothing

We have daily access to a large outdoor learning area. The children will need a pair of wellington boots in school. We can also provide wet weather gear to wear over uniforms on rainy days, but it is always advisable to send your child with appropriate clothing for the day's weather, e.g. a warm coat and hat on cold days and a sunhat for sunny days.



- ◆ Please name all school clothing, wellies and coats. It makes it much easier to find lost items!
- ◆ The development of independence is very important. With this in mind, clothes and shoes that are easily fastened will be of great help to us all!

Please note that many of the activities in our Nursery involve the use of water, sand, dough, clay, paint and glue! Aprons are provided but it is inevitable that clothes sometimes get dirty. Please be understanding with your child when accidents happen; we always reassure them that clothes can be washed.

Jewellery

For normal everyday wear only one stud per ear lobe is permitted and no other jewellery is to be worn. This is for health and safety reasons.

Parent Partnership

At St Paul's CE Primary School all parents are equally valued as part of our school community. We know that parents' interests and involvement in their child's learning is associated with securing positive experiences and outcomes for children, helping children to reach their full potential. Strong partnerships with parents are pivotal to school life and we are committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between home and school.

(St Paul's CE Parent Partnership Policy 2021)

Good home/school communication is very important to us at St Paul's. Our Early Years Team are very approachable and happy to help with any queries or concerns you may have.

Nursery Library

Reading is at the heart of all learning. We actively encourage the daily sharing of books with parents from a very early age.



Reading with and to your child will help to develop and extend their communication and language skills, improve listening and attention, and above all perhaps, give your child a love and thirst for books and knowledge, what better foundation for learning could there be!

At St Paul's we have a small Nursery Library for the children to use on Fridays. Please return the book every week.

Please read with your child as much as you can, it really does make a huge difference to their progress!

Nursery Rhymes

Once the children have settled they will begin to take home a Nursery Rhyme colouring sheet every week. Please practise singing them, tapping or clapping the beat, over the week and beyond!



Take Home Teddy



Each Friday a child will be chosen to take home a teddy for the weekend. This is awarded to a child who has shown excellent behaviour and who has tried hard with all of our activities during the week. They will receive a certificate for this and we encourage you to write about their time with the teddy in her special book. Your child can draw a picture and you can add photographs too. The teddy is returned on Mondays to enable the child to share their experience with the class.

Wow Awards

'Wow Notes' provide parents and carers the opportunity to share any exciting news about children's achievements at home. For example, they may have got dressed by themselves, slept and stayed in their bed all night, or given up a soother. The children feel very proud when their 'Wow Notes' are read out to friends in class and displayed on the Wow Wall!



Knowledge Organisers

Every half-term you will receive a Knowledge Organiser, outlining the learning and skills development for the following weeks, linked to a main theme or topic. It will also note any additional ways you may be able to support learning at home.

Activity Days

We love to invite parents in to the Nursery to share in creative activities with their children, for example making Christmas decorations or Easter Bonnets. Look out for these invitations on [ParentApps](#).

Parent Meetings

Soon after your child has started in Nursery, we will hold the first of two Parent Meetings to share your child's learning journey so far, to discuss how they have settled into school, their progress, targets and how you can support at home. It will also provide the opportunity for you to raise any questions or concerns you may have. A second Parent Meeting will be held in the Spring Term.

School Reports

In the Summer Term all parents will be sent a written report of their children's achievements that year.

ParentApps



You will receive regular communications via ParentApps. The App is free to download and is available to both Apple and Android devices. It will provide you with instant access to our term dates, event information, class information and much more. The App is fully secure and GDPR compliant. Please look out for the email invitation from ParentApps with further instructions on downloading and accessing the App. To ensure you receive all relevant information from school, it is important that the school office has your correct and up-to-date email address and mobile number. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the school office team.

Parent Pay



We are endeavouring to become a 'cashless' school and therefore we accept payments online for items such as tuck, school trips, etc. by using a secure website called **ParentPay**. Payments can be made online using your credit/debit card. You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password; you will be prompted to change these, and to keep them safe and secure. If you have more than one child at our school, or children at other ParentPay schools, you can create a single account login for all your children, or add your child to your existing account.

Making payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Please look out for an account activation email from platform@parentpay.com

Photographs

During your child's time in Nursery, we use photographs and first names for children's peg and drawer labels, learning journeys, displays and on our class school webpages. Please do let us know if you have any concerns in this regard.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is very important that you ensure your child attends Nursery and arrives on time. Latecomers have to be signed in at the main office and will be given a late mark. Attendance is monitored by Services for Young People and by our Pastoral Lead, Mrs Nairn. Although your child is not compulsory school age it is important that they get into a good routine, which will benefit them when they start full time school in Reception. School operates a first day absence call system whereby if a child is not present a telephone call is made to ascertain the reason why.

Leaving School during the day

Occasionally children need to leave the school during the Nursery session to attend medical appointments. Parents taking their child out during the session must sign their child out at the main office.

Sickness

Please telephone or provide a written note for our registration records if your child is going to be absent. The school telephone number is 0161 480 5403. If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, they must be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

If your child needs to have any medications administered during the school day, you will have to complete and sign a consent form.

Term Time Leave of Absence

Taking your child on holiday during term time will have a negative impact on their learning. If you choose to do so you must state this to the Headteacher in writing providing four weeks' notice. We do not authorise holidays during school time except in special circumstances.

Safety

Your child's safety is of great concern to us. All children must be brought to and collected from Nursery by a responsible adult over 16 years of age. We need to be informed if someone other than yourself will be bringing or collecting your child and it would be helpful if you could introduce us to friends and relatives who may do this for you. Please try and collect your child promptly and telephone the school office if you are going to be delayed picking up so we can reassure your child that you will be here soon.

Emergencies

We may need to contact you whilst your child is in school. Please ensure you complete and return the Emergency Contact Form before your child starts in September. Please remember to inform the school office of any change of telephone number, contact names or email addresses during the school year.

And finally,

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. We hope it has provided all the information you need to prepare you and your child for life at St Paul's Nursery. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to pop in to Nursery to discuss them. You know and understand your child better than anyone else and we are always available to listen to any concerns you may have. We hope that your child is very happy at St Paul's and all the staff look forward to working in partnership with you as your child begins their new and exciting learning journey.

Working together we will help your child to

"Be the very best they can be!"