



St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

WELCOME TO ST MARY'S NURSERY

We are very excited to meet you and your child and to welcome them into our St Mary's family. Children learn and develop more from birth to five years old than at any other time in their lives and we feel very privileged that your child will be joining us in our Nursery at this key time in their educational journey. We look forward to sharing lots of special times together!

As a nursery school we provide a secure foundation for all children with a range of exciting activities and experiences that follow the areas of learning and development laid out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children learn through meaningful play and we follow the interests and meet the developmental stages of your child. We believe that all children deserve to have the best opportunities available to them and we pride ourselves on the high-quality provision that is on offer at St Mary's Nursery.



ABOUT ST. MARY'S NURSERY

St Mary's Nursery is part of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, in the center of Tilbury. We have been established for over 30 years and we serve the parish families of Our Lady Star of the Sea as well as the wider local community of Tilbury. We work in close partnership with parents, and we strive to be a centre of excellence for the communities that we serve.

Our Mission Statement – “Respect Ourselves, Respect Others, Respect our World, Love God” underpins everything that we do.

Through high quality early years provision, we give every child the best start, from their third birthday. By giving children what they need today, we set them up with the best opportunities of success for tomorrow!

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Calcutta Road,
Tilbury, Essex.
RM18 7QH

Telephone 01375 843254

Email: admin@tilburystmarys.thurrock.sch.uk

Website: www.stmarystilbury.co.uk

OUR STAFF

Headteacher: Mrs V McBrown

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs N Stanley

Assistant Headteacher and EYFS Lead: Mrs S Smith

Nursery Teacher: Miss Cook

Nursery Teaching Assistant: Ms L Mitchell

Nursery Teaching Assistant: Ms P Nieszporek

ALLOCATION OF NURSERY PLACES

Places are offered to children in accordance with criteria laid down by the school Governors. All information, including application packs, can be obtained from our school office.

Children can start Nursery in the school term after their third birthday. Once a place is available for your child, you will be contacted with a formal offer of a place and to discuss your child starting with us.

HOME VISITS

Before your child starts, we will arrange a mutually convenient time for a home visit. This is a very valuable opportunity for us to informally meet with you and your child within a familiar environment; to be able to answer any questions that you may have and to share any important information with you. It is a key time for us to get to know your child and we strongly believe that home visits are an essential part of your child's transition into St Mary's Nursery.

NURSERY SESSIONS

St. Mary's Nursery is open during term time only. All children aged three and four are entitled to government funding that allows children

to attend for 15 hours per week. Some parents are entitled to extended funding which would allow a child to attend St Mary's Nursery for 30 hours per week. To check if you are eligible, please refer to <http://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/>

The 15 hour provision can be taken either in the morning or in the afternoon. The 30-hour provision means your child can stay for a full day from 8.30am to 2.30pm. We can offer extended provision from 2.30pm to 3.30pm if required. This is charged at £8 per hour.

If you would like 30-hour provision but are not entitled to the Government funding you can pay for the additional hours (please ask at the school office). Children who stay all day are required to bring a healthy packed.

Morning session: 8:30am – 11:30am
Afternoon session: 12:30pm – 3:30pm
Full time: 8:30 – 2:30pm

Gates open 10 minutes before the start of each session and close promptly. If you arrive after the Nursery session has started and the gates have been closed and secured, please make your way to the school main office.

Please drop/collect your children via the Nursery gate on Dock Rd.

SNACK AND WATER BOTTLES

All children are offered a healthy snack during the session. All children are asked to bring a **named** water bottle, containing water, with them each day. Juice or flavoured water is not permitted.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY



Play is a child's work. Whilst playing with other children and staff, children apply and challenge their existing knowledge to further their understanding. All staff at St. Mary's Nursery are qualified teachers and Teaching Assistants, highly skilled in planning and delivering a host of activities suitable for your child. The Nursery curriculum is planned in accordance with

the guidelines set out within Development Matters and within the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.



THE EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

At St. Mary's Nursery we plan activities and create learning environments based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum which considers the care, development and learning opportunities for children from birth to five years old. Some activities will be adult led while others are child led. We include lots of sensory play and craft activities. Writing/drawing materials are always available and often incorporated into other situations such as the role-play area.



There are seven areas of development in the EYFS curriculum.

- **Personal Social and Emotional** – Self Regulation, Managing Self, Building Relationships
- **Communication and Language** – Listening, Attention and Understanding and Speaking
- **Physical Development** – Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills
- **Literacy** – Word Reading, Comprehension and Writing
- **Mathematics** – Number and numerical patterns
- **Understanding the World** – Past and Present, People, Culture and Communities and The Natural World
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – Creating with Materials and Being Imaginative and Expressive

You can find further information at www.foundationyears.org.uk

RECORD KEEPING

As staff work closely with your child during the year, they will gather evidence regarding your child's progress and achievements. The evidence consists of their own work (drawing, writing, painting etc.) and adult observations of your child learning in the nursery. This is stored in an individual learning journal that tracks your child's unique progress and celebrations throughout the year. This lovely collection is a wonderful keepsake for the future.

READING

Research shows the benefits of reading aloud and sharing stories with your child, not only for the development of their communication, language and listening skills but also for their emotional development and to help them develop a lifelong love of books and reading.

When your child starts at St. Mary's Nursery, they will be given a book bag containing a book of their choice. Please read this book repeatedly to your child – they will be able to retell the story by the end of the week! We then ask that your child draws a picture about the book in their 'Reading at Home' book (that will be given to you). Please make sure your child brings their book bag to school every Friday to change their reading book.



INCLUSION

All children deserve to have an equal chance of success and at St Mary's Nursery, our SENDCo supports any children who may need additional support throughout their educational journey.

Our SENDCo works with children, teachers and parents and uses the services of other professionals such as Educational Psychologists, speech therapists etc. to identify and further support any child who has special educational needs or disabilities. If you have any concerns, please speak to the Nursery Teacher.

PRAYERS

Our Catholic faith is very important to us here at St Mary's. We have included the prayers that we share together at the end and start of our sessions at the end of this booklet for your information.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

We operate an open-door policy in the Nursery and parents are welcome to talk to us about their child informally when dropping off or collecting your child. If a longer discussion is required, we ask that you make an appointment with the Nursery Teacher so that we can meet your needs effectively. We also hold Parents' Evenings, which are an opportunity for you to visit the Nursery to discuss your child's progress. Throughout your child's time St Mary's Nursery, we monitor their development and will be happy to discuss any areas with you at a convenient time.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We have many special days and activities throughout the year. These include visits within our local area, visitors into Nursery and theme days and weeks. We encourage parents to join us, where appropriate, for these special events.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special occasions and so if you wish to send in a small bag of sweets as small treat for the other children to take home, please make sure that they do not contain any trace of nuts. No party bags and no cakes please.

THE FIRST DAY

On your child's first day at St Mary's Nursery, you are welcome to stay for as long as is necessary to settle your child. Some children are ready and happy to wave goodbye and others take a little longer to settle. We recommend that when you are ready to leave, you say goodbye and then leave. It is not unusual for a child to cry; we are used to dealing with that.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD TO BE READY FOR NURSERY?

- Help them be as independent as possible with the toilet
- Practice washing and drying hands
- Practice putting on their coat
- Give them a good breakfast or lunch before coming to Nursery.
- Make sure they have plenty of sleep not too late to bed!
- Talk to them about coming to Nursery.
- Reassure them that you will come and get them when they have finished playing.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED FOR NURSERY

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS HAVE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN



- White or blue shirt/polo. Blue jumper/cardigan.
- Grey trousers/skirt/dress/shorts. During the summer, girls wear a blue and white check summer dress.
- Uniform can be purchased at your local supermarket. Uniform with the St. Mary's logo can be purchased from Uniformwise or Uniforms by Niki

Uniformwise High Street
Stanford-le-Hope SS17 0HQ
www.uniformwise.co.uk
Tel; [01375 644744](tel:01375644744)

Uniforms by Niki
Walton Hall Farm, Walton Hall
Road, Linford, SS17 0RH
www.uniformsbyniki.com
Tel:01375 672 209

Coat: Outdoor learning is a key part of your child's time at St Mary's Nursery. Whatever the weather, your child will enjoy the outdoor learning environment so please ensure that your child has a suitable outdoor coat, preferably black or blue in colour. Please do not spend a lot of money on a coat as they are likely to get dirt, sand and paint

on it at some point! Make sure it is washable and has your child's name inside.

Shoes: Shoes should be suitable for running around in and climbing. They should have Velcro straps so the children can put their own shoes on by themselves. NO LACES. Please make sure that they are named.



Spare clothes: You are welcome to leave spare underwear and uniform in case your child has an accident or gets wet playing in the water tray.

Wellington boots: These are useful for rainy days while your child learns outside. Please ensure that they are named.



Sun cream/hat: These are essential during the hotter weather. Please apply sun cream at home before bringing your child into Nursery.

Jewellery: For safety reasons, jewellery is not permitted to be worn by children. at any time. The only exception is small stud earrings.

Comfort toys: Sometimes children want to bring a teddy or something similar with them to Nursery. This is very normal as some children need this extra bit of comfort in the early days. Please be aware however that while we will endeavour to look after anything that is brought in from home, we cannot take responsibility for this.

SAFEGUARDING

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure and when they have positive relationships with those caring for them. We take the safeguarding of your child very seriously and refer you to our safeguarding policy which can be found on our school website.

Our Designated Child protection lead is our headteacher, Mrs McBrown and our Deputy Safeguarding leads are Mrs Smith, Mrs Nixon, Mrs Nunn and Miss Beauchamp. They can all be contacted via the school office should you have any concerns.

TRANSFER TO RECEPTION

An academic year runs between 1st September and 31st August and your child will start in Reception at the beginning of the year in which they have their fifth birthday. Whilst we hope that you will chose to send your child to St Mary's Catholic Primary School, please be aware that you need to apply for a school place at whichever school you chose. Parents will need to follow the admission arrangements which include applying online at <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions/applying-for-primary-school-place> .

Please note that transfer to full-time education in the Main School IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

All applications are dealt with by the Local Authority and places are allocated in accordance with the criteria set out by the Governing Body, please see our Admissions Policy for further details.

CONTACTING THE NURSERY

Our telephone number is the main school's telephone number: 01375843254 should you need to contact us.

When your child has started with us, please inform us, via the School Office:

- if your child is ill and will not be attending their Nursery session
- if someone other than yourself will be collecting your child from Nursery. This must be an adult (18 years or over)
- if you move or your contact address and telephone numbers ever change. This is very important.

Finally, all the staff at Nursery want the very best for your child. Should you have any concerns, please do speak to us. We hope you and your child enjoy your time at St. Mary's Nursery!

St. Mary's Nursery Prayers

Morning prayer:

Father in heaven you love me,
You're with me night and day,
I want to love you always,
In all I do and say.
I'll try to please You Father,
Bless me through the day,
Amen.

Before meals:

Bless us O God as we sit
together,
Bless the food we eat today,
Bless the hands that make the
food,
Bless us O God,
Amen.

Afternoon prayer:

Thank You God for the food we
have eaten,
Thank You God for all our
friends,
Thank You God for everything,
Thank You God,
Amen.

Home time prayer:

God our Father,
I've come to say,
Thank You for Your love today
Thank You for my family and all
the love You give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night
and in the morning send Your
light.