



September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to St Andrew's C of E (V.A.) Nursery and Primary School. I am really looking forward to getting to know all the children in Nursery this year, welcoming them into class and helping them to learn our new routines and have fun exploring their new environment.

Leaving School

Thank you for completing the Authorised Person and Collection Arrangements form found in your information pack. I am sure you understand that safeguarding is our top priority and children will not be sent home with an alternative person unless I am informed beforehand. **However, if this form is still outstanding, please complete and deliver it to us before the start of term in September.** Should normal collection arrangements change for your child, please email the school by 9.30am on the day.

Parent Representative

If you are interested in the role of parent representative for our class, either morning or afternoon sessions, providing a communication link between parents and school, please let us know.

Communication and Language

I am sure you would agree that reading for pleasure is so important. When the children have had some time to settle into the daily routine, we will introduce a weekly Library Day. On this day each week, children who bring a book bag to Nursery will be able to choose a book from our library box/reading area and take it home with them for one week to encourage language development and early reading skills. We would urge you to become involved in reading to, and with, your child.

In addition, an exciting reading project entitled 'Power of Reading' is implemented throughout the school to enrich children's reading experiences through exposure to high-quality literature. In Nursery, we engage with this project during our literacy lessons and daily story time. We look forward to enjoying a wide variety of texts that we can incorporate into our curriculum.

In the coming weeks, we will be introducing a class friend – our Everywhere Bear. Everywhere Bear will be coming home with one child each Friday to spend the weekend with you. He arrives equipped with a diary. We would love you to use this diary to note all the adventures which the Everywhere Bear has with you – you could even include a photo or two, if you wish! It would be great to see the children writing or drawing in the diary but of course, parents can scribe for their children as well. Our Everywhere Bear will be sent home on a Friday and is due back to class on the following Monday. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Throughout the year, children are welcome to bring in an item to discuss that either celebrates an achievement or family day out. This Let's Talk session not only develops their communication and language by helping them to build confidence to speak in a small group but also fosters positive self-esteem. For example, this could be a certificate/badge, a photo showing them learning a new skill or ticket/brochure from a family day out/visit or something interesting they found whilst out and about (e.g. leaf/shell/pebble etc). It would also be appropriate to bring in an artefact that is connected to our current learning theme. However, **please do not bring in children's toys.** Please could each child also bring a **baby photo** and a

family photo in the first week of school for our 'All About Me' display, which the children can share and reflect on throughout the year.

Clothing

Due to having both a morning and an afternoon class at Nursery, most children will be sharing their cloakroom peg with a pupil from the opposite session. As a result, I'm sure you understand that cloakroom space becomes very limited. If you could provide **a named drawstring bag** with a full change of clothes that children can leave at the setting, this would be greatly appreciated. Please make sure that **all items provided are clearly labelled**.

In addition, it is vital that all daily clothing is also clearly labelled as children often remove items if feeling warm whilst learning and playing inside. This would include their coat, hat, scarf, gloves, shoes/trainers and any jumpers/cardigans/sweatshirts that they wear to school that day. As we go outside in all weathers (and enjoy getting messy too), the children will need to bring a hooded raincoat with them every day. Please could you also provide a pair of named wellington boots that your child can keep at Nursery.

Supporting your child's independence

I am sure you would agree that children's independence is crucial to helping them settle well at Nursery. Please support your child to learn fundamental independent skills. It is our expectation at St. Andrew's that all children should be fully toilet-trained and are no longer using nappies or pull-ups, unless there is an underlying medical condition.

Helping children to develop these important independent skills as much as possible not only boosts their self-esteem and self-confidence but also greatly helps towards smooth transitions and less stressed staff! Please encourage your child to learn how use the toilet independently and wash their hands and how to put on/take off their own coat and change into/out of shoes and wellies by themselves. It is advisable to send children to school wearing clothes that they can easily manage themselves. For example, elasticated leggings and shoes/trainers with Velcro. **Please do not send children to school wearing shoes with buckles or laces as they cannot manage these themselves.**

Enrichment

In Nursery, we look forward to enriching our curriculum even further by arranging regular dedicated time to enjoy and participate in Design and Technology, cooking, gardening, STEM and art projects.

Culture Week

Of course, we will be getting to know each other really well through our small group work, Exploration and Piazza times. However, we would like to extend children's knowledge and understanding of each other by learning more about the different cultures, languages, traditions and customs within our Nursery classes. Therefore, we will be having a Culture Week starting **Monday 21st October**. In order for Culture Week to be as successful as possible, we really need your support and input too. For example, we would love some family members (parents, grandparents, older brother/sister, aunts/uncles) to come into school during that week to share and talk about their culture, language and traditions with us by bringing in artefacts, traditional clothes, sharing food, telling a story, sharing music etc. If you or a member of your family would like to be involved, please do speak to us as soon as possible so that we can arrange a suitable timetable during this exciting week.



Learning Journeys

We would like to invite you into class to share your child's learning. Our sessions take place at **11am for the morning class** and **3pm for the afternoon class** on the following dates: **Thursday 28th November, Tuesday 25th March** and **Friday 5th June**. We would welcome your contribution to your child's learning journal and your views about your child's progress by completing a Parent Voice slip during each visit. This is a valuable time to celebrate your child's experiences, successes and achievements. Children are always so proud to share their learning and environment with their family. **Please make a note of the dates in your diaries (and set any necessary reminders too!)**. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Consultation Meetings

Our Parent Consultation meetings will take place during the Autumn and Spring terms. More information to follow in due course.

Invitations

Please can I ask that parents give out any party invitations at the beginning or end of the sessions and that these are not brought into the classroom – thank you.

Food and Snacks

The school will provide a healthy snack along with milk and water throughout the session every day. Snack will be available as a rolling snack. As a result, you do not need to send any food or water bottles in with your child.

Lunch Club

Children attending our morning session have the opportunity to attend a lunch club at Nursery from 11.20 until 12noon each day. Children will need to bring in a packed lunch and the session costs £5.00. If you are interested in booking your child into Lunch Club, please complete the form you have been previously emailed. Please note we are a **nut-free school** so please check the ingredients of packed lunches.

Medication

If your child has prescribed medication, or there are any changes to their medication, please make sure that you inform the office and complete the required forms.

I am really looking forward to working with you as your children grow in confidence, discover new interests and thrive in our incredible learning environment. Here's to a fantastic school year with the Class of 2024-25!

Yours sincerely,

Miss J Sharma
Nursery Teacher