



St Mary and St Peter Catholic Primary School

Set Sail to Success



Nursery CLASS LETTER September 2021

Welcome to St Mary and St Peter, we hope you will enjoy becoming part of our school community. It is our privilege to be at the very beginning of your child's journey of learning and exploring in a school environment.

Things your child will be learning this half term.

- These first few weeks, with your support, we will be looking to settle your child into school. There is a lot to learn, friends to make, routines to master and a new classroom to explore and discover.
- Our Main focus question for the Half term is 'Who am I? Who are you?' As part of this we would love it if you felt able to share on Tapestry a picture of the people who live in your house for your child to talk to us about.
- Initially we will be focusing on the prime areas of the Early Years curriculum, as shown below.

Physical development

By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, we will support your child to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, coordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye coordination which is later linked to early literacy. We will offer varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and using small tools such as scissors. With feedback and support from the classroom practitioners, these activities will help your child to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Communication and Language

We will be reading frequently to your child, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction topics, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with lots of opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts. We will have lots of conversations with your child. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, we will build children's language effectively. Your child will take part in circle games to support them in listening and paying attention. Children will gain confidence in speaking and listening whilst taking turns in conversations. They are also learning to follow instructions and to pay attention to more than one thing at a time.

Personal, Social and Emotional development

Children will be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist when facing a challenge and wait for what they want. Through adult modelling and guidance, children will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

Things you could explore at home to help your child's

- Share the books that are sent home with your child and make a note about it in your child's diary. Don't worry if you don't have a lot of time in your busy day, either – just a few minutes can make a huge difference. This is a great

<p>learning</p>	<p>time to promote a love of reading for your child which will remain with them throughout their school life and beyond. Every Tuesday your child will choose a book to take home for the week, please make sure the previous weeks book is in their book bag ready to be changed. Occasionally they might choose a book they've had before because they really enjoy it and that's absolutely fine.</p> <p>Tips for reading together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions. ○ Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too. ○ Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next. ○ Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions. ○ Give them space to talk, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story. ○ Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story – as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or use funny voices, your little ones will love it! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please write into your child's school diary a brief comment every night saying how your reading together went. • Check your child's Tapestry account regularly, talk about the learning that you see on there with your child. If you have not already done so, please fill the information about your child on the site. You are also welcome to comment on posts, and add posts of your own about things that your child is achieving at home. Please be aware that if you are commenting on a post that a number of children are tagged in then their relatives will also be able to see your comments. If you are struggling to get on the app please come and see us and we can give you some help. • Talk to your child about school and what they have been doing. Some children are not always eager to talk about school. Sometimes tackling it in a different way can help. Here are some possible prompts: <i>What was the funniest thing that happened to you today?</i> <i>What are you most proud of today? Why?</i> <i>Who were you kind to today?</i> <i>What was the messiest thing you did today?</i> <i>What school story do you like most? Why? What is it about?</i>
<p>Please take note of these points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please check that all uniform have clear names on, including wellie boots and shoes. The children are still learning to recognise their belongings and it helps us immensely to know exactly what belongs to which child. • In the autumn term the weather can change greatly. If it is warm and sunny, please make sure your child has a sun hat and you have used a sunscreen that is long lasting before they come to school. When it gets colder make sure your child has a coat, named hat and gloves. They will also need wellies in school whatever the weather. If they have waterproof trousers, these will be useful as we only have a limited supply in school.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will put any notes and messages either in your child's book bag or school diary, please check every night for us. • You will also find information regarding the class on Tapestry and information regarding the school on the Jigsaw app. • Start of the day routine, please bring your child to the nursery doors. This is also the place you will need to come to pick your child up at the end of their session. Nursery begins at 8:30 and pick up is at 11:30 for the morning session and 3:00 if your child is staying for the afternoon. While we appreciate family life can be hectic, we appreciate you being prompt with your pick up and it can be distressing for your child when everyone else is picked up and they are still left. If for exceptional circumstances you are going to be late, please ring the office to let us know. • Birthdays – we are happy to give out invitations, but please do not bring in any food items to share on your child's birthday. We have a number of children in the class who have certain items that they are unable to eat, obviously any food we provide will be mindful of this, but we are unable to accept/check foods coming in from families.
How you can get in contact with us.	<p>As your child starts school, we know you may have questions, concerns or information you will want to share with us. Please do not hesitate to make contact with us and we will try to answer, explain or solve any issues as quickly as we can. Please also let us know if there is anything that has happened at home that might affect how your child is behaving at school. For example, a pet dying, a late night or your child having seen something sad or frightening. It helps us to be sensitive to your child's particular needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can write a note in your child's diary. • Have a chat to us at the start or the end of the day. These can often be very busy times so please bear with us whilst we are welcoming the children in or saying goodbye. We will be with you as soon as possible. • Organise a time for a telephone conversation or meeting at school. • If it is an urgent issue, please contact the school office via email or telephone.
The practioners in our class are:	<p>The practitioners in our class are: Mrs Agu (class teacher and key worker for all the children) Miss Daniels Mrs Green Our EYFS Lead is Mrs Ricketts who is also the Reception teacher. We are very fortunate to have Mr Boice, who is completing his studies in childcare, with us on Mondays and Tuesdays.</p>
Mrs R. Agu	Nursery Class Teacher