

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



Welcome

As head teacher of St. Mary's Catholic Primary, I feel proud to be part of such a friendly, happy school community. Everyone at St. Mary's school is valued for their contribution to providing your child with a learning environment that is safe, stimulating and caring. We work together as a team to benefit all the pupils in our care.

I know every child's name

Confidence in a school comes from knowing and understanding what is happening within it. We are a small school with a strong family atmosphere which allows all staff to know every child's name and know them as individuals.

Catholic Ethos

In our daily lives we strive to show and reflect the Gospel values through our own school values of: kindness, patience, respect, independence, generosity, confidence, curiosity and joy.

Parent Partnership

Parents, we believe, are the key factor in a child's faith and learning journey. Included in this booklet, are parent and pupil views and experiences of the impact St Mary's has had on developing successful learners. We champion the link between school and home and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time at St Mary's.

Governors

'Governors are highly ambitious for the school. They share your determination to provide pupils with the best possible education.' Ofsted 2019

Get in touch

I would urge you to visit our positive community. I am confident you would find our school welcoming and supportive. We have a nurturing staff, who listen and actively encourage your involvement. I know that you will be impressed by the holistic education we can offer your child. Please call to make an appointment to visit.



Our Mission and Values

Our Mission

Inspiring children to love learning and live in the light of Christ.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery values all children for their unique gifts and talents. Each child is encouraged to reach his or her full potential, academically, socially and spiritually.

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Children are nurtured and supported as they grow to become curious, confident and independent learners, who work hard and aim high.

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All are welcomed into our happy, caring Catholic school community, which has the Christian values of love, patience, generosity, kindness and mutual respect at its heart.



Inspiring children to love learning and live in the light of Christ

Admissions

Admission into Nursery

Admission to Nursery can be arranged through contacting the school office on the details below. We can offer the 15 and 30 free hours and more details are available in the Early Years section of this prospectus and our website.

Admission into Reception

All children can attend full-time education following their fourth birthday. To apply for your child's Reception school place at St Mary's, please follow the procedures of Warwickshire County Council which can be found on their website and our own. Contact our school for details and a St Mary's admission form. The closing date for September applications is in mid-January that year.

Access

Regardless of ability, all pupils are admitted to our school in the same way. Our car park has disabled parking and the building is accessible by ramp for wheelchairs. We also have a toilet adapted for disabled users.

Visit

If you would like to look around our school for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit. Please don't hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Telephone: 01926 812512

Email: head3505@welearn365.com

Catholic Life

At St Mary's, we believe in inspiring children to love learning with Jesus as our guide. We place Christ at the centre of all we do. We are a caring Christian community as an extension of home, where children feel confident and secure, valued by all and helped to become caring, successful members of the community.

Mass

We are part of the parish community of Our Lady and St Wulstan. Children and families gather to celebrate mass on a regular basis with our parish priest who also visits school to support learning and development of children's faith.

Sacramental Preparation

In year 3, we prepare our children, with the support of families and parish, to receive their First Holy Communion and Reconciliation.

In years 5 and 6, our children make the decision to affirm their faith and prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bi-annually, also have the opportunity to attend a residential Catholic retreat to Alton Castle, Staffordshire.

Daily Prayers

Prayer is a special part of our daily lives as we talk to Jesus. Each day begins with the morning prayer to ask for help throughout each day. We thank God for our food at lunchtimes and for a successful day of learning before we finish our school day. All prayers are available on the website.

Charitable Outreach

As part of our faith, we believe in helping others as much as we can. Therefore, we promote fundraising activities such as: CAFOD, Macmillan coffee mornings, Poppy Appeal, Southam Food Bank, etc. On a regular basis, we enjoy collaborative projects with Gallanos House residents, fusing generations.



Get involved

We would love you to meet our families and for you to see our school in action. Every Friday, we gather together to celebrate the achievements throughout the week, both inside and outside school. Our children lead assemblies for parents to enjoy, along with giving musical performances to a captive audience.

Each year we celebrate a Harvest Festival assembly in October; perform Nativity plays at Christmas, and stage an Easter performance. We host a joyful May Procession to celebrate Our Lady once a year.

At the end of each year, we host a Year 6 leavers assembly and awards ceremony where local dignitaries and celebrities present awards to individuals.



Volunteer

We are blessed to have many parent volunteers and governors who help in many ways: within classrooms, reading with children, accompanying school trips and walking to the local library and swimming.

Inclusion: A Curriculum for All

"Pupils are polite, confident and their enthusiasm for learning shines out. The school's values of love, patience, generosity, kindness and mutual respect are embedded across the school."
Ofsted February 2019



We are proud of our inclusive community which ensures that everyone experiences support, tolerance, respect and understanding in our school. We regularly celebrate different cultures, learn other languages and visit other places of worship.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

We understand that each child is an individual, who will have their own particular needs, gifts and talents. We are committed to providing high quality provision and support for all pupils regardless of ability. There will be regular reviews to check progress. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged.

Our School Day

Our school gates open to welcome children on the playground at 8:45am. Children gather here before school to be welcomed each day by their teachers.

Times of school sessions:

Morning lessons : 8:55 – 12:00pm

Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00pm

Afternoon sessions: 1:00 – 3:20pm

Nursery Times:

Morning session: 8:55 – 12:00pm

Afternoon session: 1:00 – 3:20pm

Breakfast Club:

Monday – Friday 7:45 – 8:55am

After school club:

Monday – Thursday: 3:20 – 5:20pm

Friday – 3:20 – 5:15pm



Wraparound clubs

Breakfast club opens at 7:45am each morning and offers a wonderful environment for our children to have their important first meal of the day, whilst relaxing with their friends.

After school club begins at 3:20 and offers children a light snack and a range of exciting activities using our inside and outdoor environments. Children learn to cook, produce lovely artwork, grow their own food, use our range of computer and ipad equipment, enjoy film nights and play with friends.

Uniform

Uniform

We expect to see all children in our school uniform which makes them look smart and encourages them to take pride in St Mary's and feel that they belong to the community; it also promotes positive attitudes to learning.

Our uniform consists of: a blue sweatshirt, grey trousers, skirt or pinafore, and a white polo-shirt or shirt. In the Spring/Summer, grey shorts can be worn or blue and white dress. All children to wear black, sensible school shoes.

Our PE kit consists of: a white T-shirt and navy blue/black shorts. In the winter months, tracksuits or jogging bottoms can be worn. Plimsolls for indoor use and trainers for outside sports are required. Names must be clearly marked inside each item of clothing to return easily to rightful owner.



Houses

Every child is assigned to one of our four houses, which are named after the patron saints of the British Isles:

- St George
- St Andrew
- St David
- St Patrick

On our annual sports day, children wear a T-shirt in their house colours.

School Meals and Snacks

At St Mary's we promote a healthy eating environment. Children are offered a choice of nutritionally balanced hot meals every day through the school catering service. From Reception to Year 2, all children receive a free school meal, or may bring in a healthy lunch box from home.

At break times, children are encouraged to eat a healthy snack brought in from home.

Children are expected to bring a bottle of water to keep hydrated throughout the day.

Early Year Foundation Stage

Early Years

A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances and attitude to learning. Children in Reception and Nursery follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework to provide a safe and stimulating curriculum and develop the whole child in readiness for the rest of their school life.

Robins Class

Our family at St. Mary's School provide a positive, engaging and welcoming Early Years setting for both Nursery and Reception children. We offer flexible nursery provision and a full-time Reception class, all taught by a qualified teacher and teaching assistant.

During our recent Ofsted inspection it was noted that

'As a result of good provision, children of all abilities settle quickly in the early years and make good progress.'

'Pupils have total confidence in the adults who look after them and say they feel safe in their school. This view is shared by all parents.'

'Children develop positive attitudes to learning because of the strong focus on developing personal and social skills.'

Nursery (Little Robins)

Admissions and Funding

We can provide full time nursery provision but are flexible and provide various sessions (term time only).

Full Day: 8.55am-3.20pm

Morning Session: 8.55am- 12.00pm (Additional lunchtime cost until 1pm)

Afternoon Session: 1.00pm-3.20pm (Additional lunchtime cost from 12pm)

We offer the mandatory 15 hours free entitlement (2 ½ days at no cost) for children the term after their third birthday. (Additional sessions incur a charge)

You may be entitled to extended funding such as the '30 hours free childcare' depending on your circumstances, so please speak to the school administrator for more information.



A Day in EYFS (Little Robins)



Nursery Expectations:

- Recognise their own name
- Start writing some letters out of their name
- Recognise numerals 1-5
 - Count to 10
- Be able to maintain their listening and attention during an adult led activity

A day in our EYFS setting as a Little Robin:

We welcome the children into the classroom at 8.55am and then dismiss the children at 3.20pm, unless they are accessing different sessions (see times above).

Break Time, Snack and Lunch Time

We normally have a morning and afternoon break time, where the children get the opportunity to play on the school playground or on the field. After the morning playtime, we gather together to enjoy a piece of fruit and milk while we encourage communication and social development.

Lunchtime is between 12-1pm. Nursery children can purchase a school meal or bring their own packed lunch. Lunchtime menus can be obtained from the school office.

Teaching and the Learning Environment

All Nursery children will access adult-led sessions, independent learning time and an engaging indoor and outdoor environment. The adult-led session will support the children's speaking, listening and attention skills and early maths.

Uniform and PE Kit

Nursery children are expected to wear school uniform and bring a PE kit into school.

Please refer to the 'school day' page where you can find more information regarding this.

We endeavour to plan PE sessions so that all nursery children access at least one PE session per week. The children also have constant access to the outdoor environment to continue their physical development.

Starting Nursery

Once we receive your admissions documents, we will be in contact to arrange 'settling in sessions'. Parents are welcome to stay with their child during the first settling in session. However, if you feel your child would be comfortable to come independently we can accommodate this. We understand that every child is an individual so we work closely with parents to ensure that the settling in period can be as seamless as possible for both the child and parents.

Reception (Big Robins)

A day in our EYFS setting as a Big Robin:

We welcome the children into the classroom at 8.55am and then dismiss the children at 3.20pm. The children are expected to attend school full time. The children are dropped off and collected from the classroom door leading onto the big playground.

Break Time, Snack and Lunch Time

We normally have a morning and afternoon break time, where the children get the opportunity to play on the school playground or on the field. After the morning playtime, we gather together to enjoy a piece of fruit and milk while we encourage communication and social development.

Lunchtime is between 12-1pm. All reception children are entitled to universal free school meals until the end of KS1. School lunch menus can be obtained from the school office. Alternatively, children can bring their own packed lunch from home.

Teaching and the Learning Environment

All Reception pupils will have access to adult taught sessions, independent learning time and an engaging indoor and outdoor environment. The teacher taught sessions will focus on RE, phonics, literacy and mathematics. The children are then given the opportunity to practise what they have been taught by independently engaging in carefully planned and resourced activities throughout the classroom environment across the curriculum.

Starting Reception

Reception pupils will be invited to settling in sessions prior to starting school in the following September. The children will have the opportunity to meet their teacher and become familiar with their classroom. Parents will be invited to a meeting where we share all the essential information you need prior to your child starting their Reception year.



Reception Expectations:

- Write their own name
- Recognise letters and the sounds they make
- Recognise numerals 1-20
 - Count to at least 20
- Recognise 2D and 3D shapes

Curriculum

Broad and balanced

We believe in a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum that offers exciting opportunities for children to learn. We want children to develop their skills and learn how to apply them in order to reach their full potential in school and their life beyond.

Children in our school receive Religious Education lessons in line with the Diocese of Birmingham programme of study. This follows the teaching of Jesus Christ and encourages children to follow his example in their daily lives.

Each class follow a two-year rolling programme of study which can be viewed on the school website. This ensures that children do not repeat learning and receive a varied and exciting curriculum.



Class Structure

Each class has a name chosen by the school council. Each name is a bird that has a spiritual link.

Robins: Nursery and Reception

Goldfinches: Year 1 & 2

Kingfishers: Years 3 & 4

Skylarks: 5 & 6

Curriculum

Key Stages 1 (ages 5-7) and Key Stage 2 (7-11)

We cover the subject areas of the National Curriculum in a creative, cross-curricular way. We believe engaging children fully in their learning helps increase the progress children make. Children learn appropriate skills and how to apply them in different contexts. We also employ the expert services of a professional sports coach to work with KS2 children in the PE curriculum and a Forest School Specialist.

Parents are informed of the curriculum topics for each class through the school website. These highlight the learning in each of the National Curriculum areas as listed below:

Religious Education

English

Maths

Science

Computing

Design Technology

History

Geography

Art

Music

Physical Education

Languages (KS2)

Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Education

Learning Logs



Enrichment

Enrichment opportunities

Children are able to enjoy a wide range of enrichment activities throughout the day offered by staff and outside agencies.

Clubs

There are a range of after school and lunch time clubs available that children are able to join, including:

- Book club
- Gardening club
- Choir
- Homework club
- Netball
- Football
- Art club
- Science Club
- Running Club
- Drama Club



Music

We offer a range of instrument tuition through County Music Services who also support year 3 and 4 in developing musical understanding through their 'Upbeat' programme. Currently, our children can learn: guitar, violin, flute, clarinet, recorder, saxophone and trumpet.

Sports

We believe every child should be safe and understand how to keep themselves safe and healthy. We acknowledge the importance of every child being a capable swimmer and therefore offer lessons in liaison with the local sports centre.

In addition, children take part in daily marathon running, in order to complete a full marathon over the course of an academic year.

Educational Visits

Educational visits

To further enhance and enrich the children's learning, we offer education trips to a variety of topic-related places. These vary depending on the topic and can include museums, theme parks, Stratford-upon-Avon, theatres, farms, businesses and even our local library.

Another way to enhance the children's learning is to invite visitors into our school. These can include relatives or experts related to the children's learning, such as African drummers, entomologists with live creatures, Brazilian dancers and a planetarium.

Forest School

We believe that the outdoor environment is just as important as the classroom. Because of this, we are delighted to offer Forest School activities with trained members of staff and outdoor providers. The children can strengthen physical skills and take part in practical thinking and creative activities using our purpose-built 'Secret Garden' area.



Friends of St. Mary's (FOSM)



Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) are an integral part of the school and have continuously been successful in raising funds and hosting many events within the community.

They organise events for the children and local community to enjoy and then use the money raised to provide resources the children may not otherwise have had.

FOSM recently provided the Early Years Class with an artificial grassed play area and raised £2000 towards the new school perimeter fencing.

Example Events

- 50p Friday (selling goodies after school)
 - School Disco
 - St. Patrick's Night
- Breakfast with Santa
 - Summer Fayre

Friends of St. Mary's (FOSM)

Class Rep

FOSM has class reps who act as a link between the school and parents. They send out text reminders for events that are happening. They will ask you at the beginning of the year if you want to be included on the text reminders.

Can you help? FOSM needs you!

The committee are always looking for new members, new ideas and new helpers.

Getting involved with FOSM is a great way to meet other parents, carers and to make new friends!

They hold a monthly meeting during term-time in order to plan the year's events and to create new ideas for raising money.

If you would like to help FOSM in any way at all, from helping out occasionally at events, contributing ideas or joining the committee please contact them!

You can get in touch by:

- Leaving your details with the school office
- Speaking to any of the committee members
- Or enquiring through Facebook

