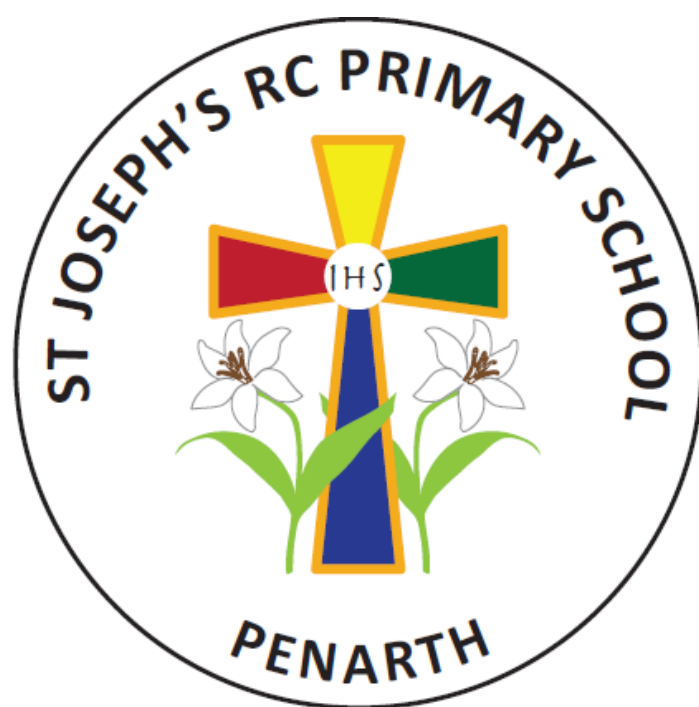


“Jesus: in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, in our learning.”
“Iesu: y nein calonau, y nein meddyliau, un ein bod ac y nein dysg”.

St Joseph's RC Primary School



Information for Parents and Carers of Nursery Children

September 2024

Welcome to St Joseph's RC Primary School. We are a Voluntary Aided, Local Authority funded primary school, serving families from the parish of St Joseph's, Penarth, and St Mary's, Dinas Powys. At St Joseph's School, we place your child at the centre of their learning and place a great emphasis on nurturing skills and attitudes such as resilience, resourcefulness and co-operation. From the day your child enters St Joseph's, we will focus on the development of their Personal and Social, Literacy and Numeracy skills, and cultivate their creativity and physical development through a coherent, progressive and rigorous curriculum. In the Early Years, our children develop a love of learning through engaging in hands-on, practical activities in their stimulating classrooms and in our fantastic grounds.

Early Years Staff (as of May 2024 – this is subject to change for September 2023)

The Early Years staff at St Joseph's school is dedicated to the care, wellbeing and learning needs of all our children.

Nursery Class Teacher	Mrs Gardiner	Mrs Gardiner
Nursery Learning Support Assistant	Mrs Pyman Miss Sharpe Miss De Claire	Mrs Pyman Mrs Mulch Miss De Cl
Reception Class Teacher	Mrs Batten/ Mrs Austin	Mrs Batten
Reception Learning Support Assistant	Miss Stephens	Miss Steph
Additional Learning Needs Coordinator	Mrs Claire Jones	Mrs Claire
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Claire Jones	Mrs Claire
Headteacher	Mrs Laura Taylor	Mrs Laura

You will also have regular contact with Mrs Perry and Mrs Davies, our School Administration Officers.

What we set out to do

At St Joseph's School, we work in partnership with our parents, the Parish and the wider community to support the development of our children. The very essence of St Joseph's School is embodied in the Roman Catholic ethos of our school and is reflected in our mission statement: Jesus: in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, in our learning.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Penarth, bases its values on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which encourages all individuals to grow in the love of God and realise their potential as members of the Christian community.

In our school we aim specifically to:

- encourage our children to grow in self-confidence in a safe environment and a caring community;
- encourage our children to play freely in a stimulating and child-centred environment;
- help our children to explore and ask questions about the world in which we live and
- encourage our children to get on with other children in a friendly and loving environment, and to foster an understanding of other cultures as represented in the community.

The Early Years

Our sector leading learning environment is tremendously stimulating and provides a variety of purposeful and spontaneous play experiences in both the indoor and outdoor settings. Children learn in a safe, secure and language rich environment both inside and outside, in all weathers.

At the heart of the new Curriculum for Wales are the Four Purposes.

The Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales are to support our children to become:

- ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world

- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Our curriculum encourages our children to develop skills, knowledge and understanding across six Areas of Learning and Experience. These are:

- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Humanities
- Expressive Arts
- Science and Technology

In the Early Years, children learn through an interdisciplinary approach rather than through discrete subject-based teaching in order to enhance their development and application of skills into many different areas. We also teach reading

Our approach to learning is based around specific themes (Domain Units) which change regularly throughout the year. Some suggested learning activities for children to complete at home with parents will be given to each child on a regular basis to reinforce their learning. This may include activities that can be recorded through the use of digital technologies.

Forest School

They will also experience regular Forest School sessions with qualified members of staff to encourage an appreciation of the outdoors environment and the promotion of wellbeing. Rain suits and wellies are provided by the school for these sessions.

Religious Education

The presence of the Lord Jesus Christ permeates every aspect of St Joseph's School. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child to know and love God, and to build a special relationship with Him.

Ten per cent of learning time is dedicated to the teaching of Religious Education, during which children learn about themselves, their family, the Church and important stories from the Bible.

Nursery pupils take part in daily prayers. You will be provided with a list of simple prayers in your welcome pack and it would be very helpful if you would help your child to learn these prayers at home.

Christian Meditation

All children from Nursery to Year 6 take part in regular Christian Meditation sessions. These sessions help pupils to be calm and relaxed whilst developing their spirituality through daily encounters with the Lord.

St Joseph's Pupil Profile

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we encourage our children and each other to reflect on the question asked by Pope Benedict XVI, 'What kind of person would you really like to be?'

Jesus is at the centre of our mission statement: Jesus in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, in our learning. This question therefore allows us to think about what kind of person God wants us to be, as well as what virtues or qualities we need to grow in order to become that person. This is where the Pupil Profile supports everyone's journey within the school to become that person. It is made up of eight Virtue Pairs of what makes a good person, based on Jesus' teaching. By striving to show these St Joseph's Pupil Profile Virtues, we are fulfilling the answer to Pope Benedict XVI's very important and meaningful question.

The virtue pairs are:

Eloquent and Truthful

Learned and Wise

Curious and Active

Intentional and Prophetic

Grateful and Generous

Attentive and Discerning

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we are growing to be all of these virtues.

Each class has a Pupil Profile Tree where the children respond to the meaning of the virtue pairs and show how they live this quality in their day to day lives. We focus on a different virtue pair each half term.

School Uniform

School uniform is optional for children in Nursery. A list of the uniform and colours your child needs is below. Your child does not need to wear a uniform with the school logo on it, but if you would like them to, uniforms and other clothing bearing the school logo can be purchased from 'A Class Apart' in Dinas Powys, together with a book bag which is invaluable for carrying home reading books, learning tasks and correspondence. Clothing should be comfortable and appropriate for children to wear both indoors and outdoors and it is very important that it doesn't hinder them in the development of their personal independence regarding toileting, adjusting for cold/warmth etc..

St Joseph's School Uniform

- A navy blue jumper, cardigan or fleece*
- Royal blue polo t-shirt*
- Grey trousers or grey skirt of a reasonable length or grey pinafore
- Black, flat and sensible shoes – no boots or high heels
- Grey tights, dark socks or white socks
- Grey shorts of a reasonable length
- Pale blue gingham dress
- Sun hat or cap to protect from the sun.

Additional information about school uniform is included in our 'School Uniform and Appearance Policy'.

All items, including shoes and bags, should be clearly marked with your child's name on them. Children should bring in raincoats, sunhats and sunscreen at appropriate times of the year. Please encourage your child to develop independent skills: dress and undress with little or no assistance, fasten shoes unaided, put on coats and fasten zips or buttons unaided, carry their own book bags into school.

Daily routines

Nursery sessions are 2½ hours of teaching and learning time.
The morning session is from 9.20 a.m. - 11.50 a.m.

As your child enters the school, a member of staff will be there to greet them. We ask all parents to leave their child with the staff member at the Nursery door at the start of the session to encourage independence.

Snacks

Children up to the age of 7 are entitled to free milk in school. Each day pupils share fruit together as part of their snack.

We would be grateful for a donation of £1.50 per week as a contribution towards consumable items such as the daily healthy fruit snack, playdough ingredients, craft resources and cooking ingredients. This can be donated on any day of the week and can be paid for half a term or a term at a time, whenever you have cash to hand at a convenient moment!

Collection of Children

You will return to main nursery door to collect your child at the end of the session. If you are not collecting your child personally, or have changed your arrangements within the day, please let us know who will be collecting your child. Children being collected for an appointment or returned to school need to be signed in and out at the school office and this needs to be arranged with the office in advance.

Medical Needs and First-aid

Parents should inform the school of their child's medical needs, such as allergies and asthma, before they are enrolled. Parents of children who require a care-plan should liaise with the school and the school nurse so that all appropriate arrangements are in place at the earliest opportunity.

When required, we provide children with plasters from our first-aid supplies. Parents of a child who should not be administered with a plaster should provide the school with this information before their son or daughter is enrolled.

Medicines

We will administer medication to children if it has been prescribed for them by a doctor and there is a written letter of permission from a parent including clear instructions for administration. We do not administer any medicines that have not been prescribed by a doctor.

Free Breakfast Club

There is a free Welsh Government funded breakfast club operating from 8.30am; details of which and enrolment forms are included in your welcome pack. Children attending the morning session are welcome to attend the breakfast club.

Joe's Club Wrap-around Care

There is also a paid wrap-around care club in school from 7.30 a.m. - 8.30 a.m. for £5.00 per session and from 4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. for £9.50 per session. Children attending the after-school session are provided with a healthy snack at no additional cost. Bookings for Joe's Club can be made by emailing Mrs Thomas at Nightingales Nursery: nightingalespreschool@gmail.com or calling 029 20701074.

Nightingales also offer a drop-off and pick-up service for children attending Nightingales half-day sessions in conjunction with St Joseph's Nursery. Please contact Nightingales to enquire about the cost.

Educational Visits

The school plans educational visits to enhance and enrich your child's education. For safety reasons, children in the Nursery require a 1:1 adult helper for all visits that take place outside of the school grounds. We ask, therefore, for a parent or close family member to accompany each child on all educational visits. Further details will be provided prior to the planned visit.

St Joseph's Friends & Family Association is well established and the members of the committee work tremendously hard on behalf of our children.

Its purpose is twofold: firstly to provide some funding to enrich your child's experience in school through the targeted purchase of equipment and resources for learning and play. Many of the attractive features of the playgrounds and fields would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of the Friends & Family. You automatically become a member when your child joins the school and would be very welcome to attend the relaxed and friendly committee meetings held each half term to help plan events to fundraise for our children's benefit.

Secondly, there is a social element to the Friends & Family - often linked to its first purpose - and over the years this has provided an opportunity for parents and staff to meet in a different setting.

Twitter

The school has a Twitter account which is used to share messages and photos about the children's experiences in school and on trips and visits. The Twitter handle is @stjpenarth and parents, carers and friends of the school can follow us.

Finally

On behalf of the governors and staff, Mrs Taylor would like to welcome you and your family to St Joseph's RC Primary School and hope that we can work together to help your child enjoy every aspect of school life.

St Joseph's RC Primary School
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