



St. Bernadette's School Nursery Information for Parents and Carers

Welcome!

It is with much pleasure that we welcome you and your child to St Bernadette's Nursery where we hope the whole family will quickly feel part of our larger school community.

We appreciate that parents are the first and most important educators in a child's life and we are, therefore, delighted that you have chosen St Bernadette's Nursery to support you during the next stage of your child's development.

Our mission statement, "Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus" underpins all our activities as we endeavour to live the message of the Gospels by:

- developing a loving, caring community which recognises and celebrates the unique, God-given nature of each individual;**
- valuing every member of the school community and developing the potential of each individual;**
- creating an educational environment in which we are all encouraged to enjoy our work whilst aspiring to the highest standards of achievement and behaviour;**
- giving children, families and staff the experience of being part of an active Catholic community.**

In practice, with the very young children we will be encouraging them to care for:

- **all things, God given and man made;**
- **others, as we would like to be cared for ourselves;**
- **our school building, gardens and equipment.**



School Logo

The rosary, which encompasses our logo, reminds us of St Bernadette's love for Our Lady - a love that embraces our school. The background is divided into three segments to represent the parishes we serve primarily:

- **Christ the King, Kents Hill**
- **Our Lady of Lourdes, Coffee Hall**
- **St Mary's, Woburn Sands**



Our school colours of claret and navy are incorporated into the design, together with light blue, the colour that is traditionally associated with Our Lady.

Religious Education

In school, children will follow topics from "Come and *see*", the Religious Education Programme recommended by the diocese, and they will be encouraged to:

- make the Sign of the Cross;
- join in prayer at the beginning and end of the day;
- reflect quietly for short periods;
- talk about the topic;
- begin learning the Our Father and the Hail Mary.



At home, these activities may be supplemented by finding opportunities for prayer; making an Advent wreath; going to church etc.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage is the first of three key stages in the primary section of the National Curriculum. After the Foundation Stage in Nursery your child will be starting Foundation 2 in a school. This may or may not be St. Bernadette's but we hope that your child will have had the best start to their school career

When children join us at 3+ they follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Four guiding principles should shape practice in early years' settings. These are:

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;



- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers; and
- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.



Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

- communication and language;
- physical development; and
- personal, social and emotional development.

We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world; and

expressive arts and design.

We are very proud of our exciting provision and high quality resources in the Nursery. Our children make good progress from their starting points and leave ready for the next stage of their journey. We believe that our provision helps your children to be healthy, happy, communicative, sociable, curious, active and ready for their next phase of life and learning.



Our Foundation Stage area is designed as indoor and outdoor classrooms where children will enjoy a variety of well planned play activities.

Play gives children opportunities to learn, become independent and feel confident; it is also challenging and fun - happy children become willing learners.



Therefore, be ready when your child says s/he played all day!

Learning at Home

- Play games, especially ones that develop matching, counting and memory skills

- **Count to ten, start at zero, then try backwards from ten to zero**
- **Look for numbers in the environment: on doors, gates, buses, during shopping trips to Tesco or Sainsbury etc**



- **Share a book**
- **Discuss the pictures**
- **Ask questions: "What do you think will happen next?"**
- **Let your child see you enjoying a book**



- **Spend some quality time talking with your child and remember to listen, too!**
- **If your child has English as an additional language please provide opportunities for your child to learn and understand some basic phrases such as requesting to use the toilet and a drink, or to express when they are feeling anxious or sad.**

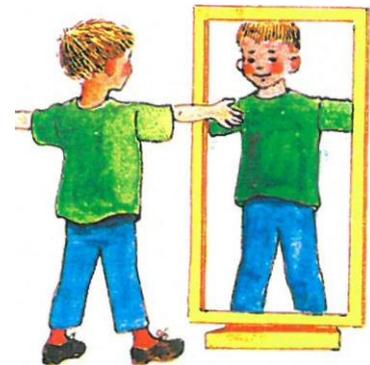
This booklet is printed in the style of writing children are taught as they progress through the school. When writing your child's name for him/her, please use this style and avoid printing words in block capital letters.

Always remember to keep learning fun, lots of praise and encouragement - no nagging!

Personal Skills

Is s/he able to go to the toilet and wash her/his hands unaided. (please see leaflet attached)

- Will your child share and take turns?
- Does s/he say "Please" and "Thank you"?
- Can s/he dress her/himself?
- When changing clothes, does s/he turn them the right way?



Medical Matters

Medicine will not normally be accepted in school. However, arrangements may be made for children with inhalers or a doctor's prescription, which requires a dose to be taken during the session, providing that an indemnity form is completed by parents. The medication should be handed in at the school office and should be in its original container, clearly labelled with the

child's name and the dosage.

Please inform the school immediately if your child has head lice or German Measles.

If a child has an accident or is taken ill during the day, parents will be contacted through the information held on the school system. It is, therefore, essential that details in school are updated when there is any change of address, telephone number or other emergency contact number. Please pay particular attention to informing us about new mobile telephone numbers - thank you.



School Clothing

Our uniform can be ordered from school gateway.

Children in the Nursery wear:

- **Navy zipped hoodie;**
- **white polo shirt;**
- **navy tracksuit trousers;**
- **flat black shoes.**

Please ensure your child has spare clothes which can be kept in a drawstring bag on their coat peg. Please ensure any item of school clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

Building and Maintenance Fund

During the course of a school year, our Diocese asks parents to pay £30 per child, or £45 per family, to the Building and Maintenance Fund. This is so that when any building works are completed the school can pay the



parental/governors contribution of 10% of the cost. This is very specific to Catholic schools. The money may either be paid annually or in termly instalments of £10 or £15. The Diocese runs a special account for our school and processes Gift Aid nominations on our behalf so that the tax may be reclaimed. If you are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration as we will benefit by receiving the tax you have already paid, currently 28p for every £1 paid. In reality this means that for one child the fund would receive an additional £8.40, for a family paying £45 the reclaimed tax would be £12.60 - all straight out of the Chancellor's coffers!

Members of Staff for September 2017:

Headteacher: Mrs Zamora

Rachel Morris (class teacher)

Mrs Perrin (nursery nurse)

Mrs Forman (Additional nursery nurse for cover)

Dates and Times for 2017/2018

	Open morning of:	Closed at end of afternoon session on:
Autumn term 2017	Wednesday 6 September	Friday 20 October
	Monday 30 October	Tuesday 19 December
Spring term 2018	Wednesday 3 January	Friday 9 February
	Monday 19 February	Friday 23 March
Summer term 2015	Monday 9 April	Friday 25 May
	Wednesday 6 June	Friday 20 July

The school holiday dates are as follows;

Autumn 2017 half term break	Monday 23 October . Friday 27 October
Christmas 2017 break	Wednesday 20 December . Tuesday 2 January
Spring 2018 half term break	Monday 12 February . Friday 16 February
Spring 2018 Easter holiday break	Monday 26 March . Friday 6 April
Summer 2018 half term break	Monday 28 May . Tuesday 5 June

***The following days are also training days (inset days) for staff when children will not be in school.**

- Monday 4th September
- Tuesday 5th November
- Monday 4th June
- Tuesday 5th June

**Full-Time sessions begin at 8.45am and finish at 2.45pm.
Morning sessions begin at 8.45am and finish at 11.45pm.
Please arrive promptly for the start of the session and
come in ten minutes before the end of the session so
that you can help your child collect his/her things - thank
you.**

***INSET days are specified for staff training and the
school is closed for children.**

. . . and finally

**Please remember a place in FS1 at 3+ does not mean
automatic entry into main school; you will have to:**

- complete a new admission form and supply supporting documentation to join the main school at 4+ in FS2.**
- Milton Keynes Council co-ordinates admissions for the annual entry into school and produces an Information for Parents pack which will be available from the school office from mid September.**
- Applications should be sent to Milton Keynes Council via their on-line service.**

The details given herein are correct at the time of printing. Any changes will be notified through the school newsletters.