



# Welcome

## to

# St Anne's Nursery



St Anne's RC Primary School  
Washington Road  
Caversham  
RG4 5AA

Telephone: 01189 375537

[www.st-anne's.reading.sch.uk](http://www.st-anne's.reading.sch.uk)

## Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to St Anne's Nursery and look forward working in a close partnership with you as your child grows and blossoms.

In Nursery, we aim to nurture and support all pupils in their personal growth and their aspirations as well as in becoming resilient and tolerant members of the community. To achieve this, we seek to empower pupils building their confidence and independence so that they become eager learners. As a staff, we teach with passion, energy and creativity, setting the highest possible expectations.

This booklet aims to answer any questions which you may have about our Nursery. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on [admin@st-anne.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-anne.reading.sch.uk) or via telephone on 01189375537.

## Introductions

There are lots of adults that you will meet at Nursery.

Mrs Anne Orife  
Nursery Teacher



Miss Claire Corcoran  
Early Years Leader



You will also meet Ms Verhun – our EYP.

Other members of staff you will meet around the school include...

Mrs Bridget Tobin – Executive Headteacher

Miss Patricia Lee – Head of School

Mrs Chloe Jenkins –SENCo

Mrs Tania Glasford – HLTA

Mrs Trudy Fidler – Office Manager

## Admissions

Children are added to our waiting list once we receive a completed registration form. You can collect a form from our school office or request one by email. Parents are welcome to contact us to arrange a visit to the Nursery before you decide to apply for a place. It is expected that children attend either five mornings / five afternoons or full-time.

Please refer to our Admissions Nursery Policy for further details.

## **Transition**

We understand that starting Nursery may be a tricky time and is often the first experience a child has of being away from home on their own. We therefore manage our transition to make it as gentle and easy as possible for both your child and you!

- You will be invited to a short welcome meeting at which staff will give you information about the Nursery and details of how we will settle your child in.
- A home visit by Nursery staff can be arranged for the beginning of the term that your child will start so that you have an opportunity to share information about your child and meet the staff informally.
- A visit to Nursery for yourself and your child will be arranged.
- You will be given a date for your child to start Nursery. We can stagger the start of new children to allow each new child time to settle – This can be discussed during your child's Transition.

## **How to pay**

### **2 year olds**

There are two different funding schemes by the Government that offer *free term time nursery education for 2 year olds*. One fund is for parents claiming benefits (targeted funding) for 15 hours, and the second one for working parents is a 30 hour entitlement, information on criteria and how to apply in the link below:

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/under-5/2-year-olds/>

If your child is not in receipt of any of these free hours, then the sessions would need to be paid as per the following fees:

£24 per each morning or afternoon session (3 hours)

£5 per each lunch session (45mins)

### **3 – 4 year olds**

All children are entitled to *15 hours of funded term time education* from the term following their 3rd birthday. We also offer 30 hours of free term time nursery education for eligible children. Parents must apply directly to HMRC for their 30 hour entitlement via their website:

<https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working>

If you are not eligible for the 30 hours funding, but still want your child to attend more than the 15 hours, you will need to pay for the additional sessions as per below:

£20 per each additional morning or afternoon session (3 hours)

£5 per each lunch session (45mins)

## **Basic Information**

### **Morning Session 8: 45am – 11:45am**

Nursery children enter through the Nursery door. You can bring your child into the classroom to hang up their belongings, self-register and settle them at an activity. The children are collected also via the Nursery door.

Please note that, due to the short amount of time between morning and afternoon sessions, it is incredibly important that you are on time to pick your child up. The Nursery team need to use this time to clean and tidy after the morning session, to set up for the afternoon session and to have their own lunch.

**Afternoon Nursery Session 12.30 – 3.30**

Nursery children enter through the Nursery door. You can bring your child into the classroom to hang up their belongings, self-register and settle them at an activity. The children are collected via the Nursery door. Gates are locked promptly at 3.30 to ensure security. If you arrive late, you will need to enter the school via the school office.



## A Typical Session in Nursery

- Self-register. Settle to an activity
- Group Time
- Focus activities – Individual /Group.
- Snack time
- Activities indoors and outdoors. Focus activities.
- Phonics groups.
- Story and singing.
- Home time.

During the course of a session, children will work as a whole class at times and in small groups, pairs or individually at other times. Adults will join the children in their play and develop their language as well as their knowledge and understanding through targeted questioning and skilful interaction.



## Attendance

Children are expected to attend Nursery five days a week – Monday to Friday during term time. It is important that children attend regularly to make the best of this early education. Nursery is an ideal time for your child to develop their enjoyment of the routine of attending school since, when your child moves into Reception, they will be expected to arrive at school on time and to attend school regularly. All absences have to be recorded in our registers. If your child has an appointment or is ill, please inform the School Office on 0118 9375537.

Children must be collected promptly after each session. If for any reason you may be late, please phone the school to let them know.

If you need to arrange for someone different to collect your child, please do inform us. If it is a person unfamiliar to staff, we will arrange for a password to be given. Your child's safety is paramount and we will not allow your child to leave without this information.

## Clothing

School uniform is optional for Nursery children. We will give you details of where school sweatshirts or cardigans can be purchased should you wish.

If your child wears home clothes, it is really helpful if you send them into Nursery in clothes that they can manage for themselves. Trousers or skirts that have an elastic waist are ideal. Grey or black jogging bottoms or leggings are also great for Nursery. Belts and braces are not a good idea as they take away the child's independence since they will need to ask for help when using the toilet.

Please make sure that your child wears sensible footwear; Velcro fastenings are ideal. If it is raining, it is vital that children have wellies because we do go outside in all weathers. If your child comes to Nursery in wellies, they should also have indoor shoes.

Please ... no flip-flops or loose-backed sandals please and no jewellery please. If your child has pierced ears, they should wear only small studs.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME INSIDE EVERY PIECE OF CLOTHING AND PLEASE CHECK NAME LABELS REGULARLY AS THEY DO FADE AFTER WASHING.**

## **Lunch, Drinks and Snacks**

We are very active during our day in Nursery, so it is important that the children drink lots of water. We have drinking water available at all times.

Midway through each session, we stop for a snack. We use this as an opportunity to have informal conversations as well as talking about how we keep our bodies healthy. A selection of free fruit and vegetables are delivered for the children to eat. Milk is also available each day.

Please note that we do regularly taste a variety of food for our topic work. We will endeavour always to let you know before we do an activity like this, but it is important that we know about any food allergies your child may have on admission.

For children staying all day, lunches can be ordered via Parent Pay or parents may provide a packed lunch.

Lunch sessions: 11:45am to 12:30pm

## **Curriculum**

Learning through play!

Play is a vital part of growth and development for young children. Providing well-planned play opportunities ensures that we provide the very best start for each child.

We use the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework to help us plan for the needs of all children. The EYFS acknowledges that children develop at their own rates and that they learn through being active, playing and exploring and creating and thinking critically.

These are described as Characteristics of Effective Learning.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum – starts in Nursery and continues in Reception - is organised into seven areas of learning. We use these areas of learning to plan the learning environment both indoors and outdoors, to prepare activities and to create learning experiences within Nursery. We also plan through topics that will engage and inspire the children's interests. Each day is thus organised very carefully so that the children get the most from their time with us and make progress at their own level.

You will receive a newsletter at the beginning of each term, outlining the learning and topics that we will be covering.

## **Curriculum**

### **1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

We provide opportunities

- To help children develop a positive sense of themselves and others
- To form positive relationships and develop respect for others
- To develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings
- To understand appropriate behaviour in groups
- To have confidence in their own abilities.

### **2. Communication and Language**



We focus on developing children's confidence and skills in expressing themselves and learning to speak and listen in a range of situations. We plan activities (including sharing books, songs and rhymes) and games which encourage children and adults to talk together.

### 3. Physical Development

Young children's physical development links all other aspects of learning because they learn through being active which, in turn, helps them to be healthy and happy. We encourage physical play and exercise and talk about the importance of healthy eating. Children's skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement are all positively promoted.

### 4. Literacy

Sharing books, songs and rhymes helps to develop literacy skills. In Nursery, the children are given opportunities to sequence and re-tell stories. In addition, our nursery phonics sessions help children to develop an awareness of sounds and to begin to identify sounds within words. These are important early skills which will eventually enable them to read and spell. We also provide opportunities for children to make marks (drawing and writing) using a variety of tools and media both inside and outside.

### 5. Mathematics

We provide opportunities to develop and improve children's skills in counting and in understanding and using numbers. This is often through sharing stories and rhymes which require children to count and solve practical number problems. Through their play and through planned activities, children are able to explore shapes, pattern and size and to develop appropriate mathematical vocabulary.

### 6. Understanding of the World

We plan our nursery to support children's curiosity, exploration and play. Children are encouraged to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. We even plant and grow our own vegetables.

### 7. Expressive Arts and Design

We provide opportunities for children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. We also encourage children to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

### How to Prepare Your Child for Nursery

- Above all, be positive – your child will pick up your feelings!
- Encourage them to be independent by praising them for small things like washing their hands, putting on their own shoes, or doing their buttons up.
- Practise some independence skills, eg putting on their own coat, hanging up their coat, using the toilet independently, putting on their own shoes, doing up zips and buttons. Don't worry or pressure them too much if these things prove too difficult.
- Practise social skills such as taking turns (eg playing games), following directions and making choices.
- Establish a routine for getting ready.
- Share books together, reading and talking about the pictures.

- Count together – eg going upstairs, or counting a group of objects by touching as you count.
- Look for numbers when you're out and about eg numbers on buses, prices in shops, number plates on cars, etc
- Sing Nursery rhymes and action rhymes together, clapping along to songs.
- Talk about shapes and colours; point them out when you're out and about.
- Watch television together and talk about the programme.
- Talk about your child's interests and what they'll enjoy doing at Nursery, eg playing with the trains, riding the trikes, listening to stories, dressing up.

Remember, all of these activities should be fun – it's important not to pressure your child.

St Anne's School is known as the school that is known by love.

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We can't wait to welcome you and your child and to get to know you.