



Hello and a very warm welcome to St Cuthbert's Early Years Unit!

This introductory newsletter aims to give you the essential information you need as your child begins either Nursery or Reception. If you have any questions or queries please speak to a member of staff. We will be more than happy to help!

Arriving at School

The doors will be open to both children and parents at 8.45am until 8.55am. On entry, children should hang their coats up, put their book bag into the appropriate box, place their water bottle in the tray which is located in the snack area, and then find their name on the table and stick it onto the self-registration chart. Please encourage and support your child to be as independent as possible in carrying out these daily routines.

It is an expectation that all children have arrived at school no later than 8.55am. If they arrive later than this, then it is required by the teacher to record their attendance as late in the register. This is necessary due to a requirement from Ofsted to improve our pupil punctuality and attendance.

Morning Nursery Session: 8:45am to 11:45am

Afternoon Nursery Session: 12:15pm to 3:15pm

Reception Session: 8:55am to 3:00pm

Collection from School

Morning Nursery: Children will line up in the entrance area and be dismissed.

Afternoon Nursery: Children will wait on the carpet to be collected by parents.

Reception: Children will wait in class one (within unit) to be collected by parents.

Please do inform us if your child will be collected by someone different than usual. It would also be helpful to know if your child will be picked up by a member of staff from a different setting – please let us know which setting and what days they will be collected.

The Curriculum and Topics

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, there are three prime areas; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, and Physical Development. These areas will be a 'prime' focus in your child's Nursery years. There are also four specific areas; Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design, Literacy and Mathematics. At the end of your child's Reception year, they will be assessed against the early learning goals in all areas.

Children will also follow a catholic curriculum; 'Come and See', and they will take part in reflection and prayer each day.

This year, instead of having a topic based curriculum which changes every half term, we will base all our learning over the course of the year around 'Stories, Seasons and Celebrations'. You will receive a topic web each half term which will outline the learning which will take place in each area of the curriculum.

Home-School Books

This year we are introducing 'Home-School Books' for both Nursery and Reception children in which your child will bring home a task focused on their learning in school each week. This will also provide an easier opportunity to record achievements your child has made at home. (More information to follow.)

Star of the Week & Pet Pals

A Nursery and Reception Child will be nominated every week as 'star of the week' to reflect their achievements. They will bring home a certificate and this will be announced on the weekly school newsletter.

As a reward for outstanding effort, achievement and behaviour, children will have the opportunity to bring a 'Pet Pal' (soft toy) home for the weekend or school holiday. This aims to further support communication, language and literacy development and promote positive behaviour.

Special Helpers & Show and Tell

Every week a child from each session (Nursery am, pm and Reception) will be chosen as 'special helper'. They will take on responsibilities such as collecting and returning the register, leading class prayers and helping at snack time. Those children who are selected as a special helper will be allowed to bring in an item to 'show and tell' at the end of their week as special helper. They will bring home a 'show and tell' voucher as a reminder at the beginning of the week.

Fruit & Milk

A daily snack for your child is now free however children will only get one option therefore children are allowed to bring in their own fruit for snack time if they wish for something different.

Milk is free for all children under the age of 5. If your child is 5 or over and would like to have milk each day then this can be arranged. Please visit the office for queries about milk.

Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day, they have independent access to water but may bring their own water bottle if they wish. Please only fill water bottles with water, no juice allowed.

Reading

Reception and Nursery children can choose a school library book to take home. They can change their book independently as often as they wish. Some children may need encouragement, and we appreciate your support with this system in order to make it as manageable as possible. Often the best time for your child to change their book is when they first arrive at school. Reception children will also have a book which is appropriate to their level to read at home. If your child can read 5 minutes a night it will improve their literacy skills greatly. There will be a yellow record book to write in when you have done some reading and your child will be rewarded for this.

Personal Belongings

Please ensure that all items belonging to your child are labelled with your child's full name. This should include all clothing, water bottles, bags and packed lunches.

Physical Education

Reception children have a PE lesson every week – please ensure they have a full PE kit (shorts/trousers, t-shirt and sandshoes).

Nursery do not have a formal PE lesson, but take part in a range of physical activities on a daily basis. They are not required to change into a PE kit.

Change of Clothes

As accidents can often happen, it is a good idea for your child to keep a small bag on their peg containing a few spare items of clothing. At school we have limited items of spare clothing, so if your child comes home in any of our spare items, please could you ensure that they are washed and returned as soon as possible.

Achievement Assemblies

We hold an achievement assembly on the last day before the end of each term to celebrate the work and achievements of every child. You will be informed of dates and times in the school newsletter.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

I will be available after school on most days if you have any queries or questions.

Miss Morton