



Welcome to Nursery Croeso i Dosbarth Meithrin



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Our school according to past Nursery pupils ...

"Our school is happy and you make a happy face!"

"It's somewhere you can play and listen to the teachers and have fun."

"Big and tall to the sky and full of toys, friends and fun."

"St Joseph's Nursery, I like it, we do work and play and go to Church and Assembly."

"It's St Joseph's school we play nice, have fun and do work."

"Our school is fun and I laugh, I like school."

In Nursery we love to be busy! Learners will have the opportunity to work independently, in groups and as a whole class. We use every opportunity to take our learning from indoors to out. Everyone is valued and both children and staff promote an inclusive, community feel in line with our school mission statement of 'Grow in Love'. We are lucky to belong to many families at St Josephs; we are part of our class family, school family and our Church and Parish family. This sense of belonging, family and security is core in our approach in Nursery class. We want this to be the best possible first experience of formal education and, above all, we want your children to be happy in our school.

A typical Nursery Day

The best thing about Nursery is...

"I love playing in the book area with my friends, we read books."

“I like to do work and play outside and be a good friend.”

“Sharing my toys and giving my friends a hug”

“I get creative!”

“Number time, there is 27 children here today!”

“I like doing work, it’s great”

“Doing our numbers and sharing”

- **8.55- Gate open (TBC: Subject to Covid Risk Assessment)-** Lower gate on yard adjacent to Brackley Avenue opens for children to come in to school.
- **9.00-Self registration-** Learners are encouraged to find their own names on a coloured lego block to promote both name and colour recognition. This helps them to know their work group and recognise their friend’s names too. Early reading skills are being developed without learners even realising!
- **Time to count-** Whilst learning through play is one of the main themes of the Foundation Phase ethos, we also take opportunities to have directed teaching including rote counting. Learners listen carefully to the register and have the opportunity to help me fill in our fire register with dots next to those absent. To make sure we are correct we count up to the number of children in class on that day! If there is a part of the Nursery session where learners can take the lead, we jump at the chance to develop their personal and social development- one of the core learning focus of the Foundation Phase.
- **Amser Helpwr Heddiw-** This is a special role to the Nursery children and one they enjoy. Children will all have the opportunity to have a turn to be our class helper/ Helpwr Heddiw. This is a chance to practice our incidental or every day Welsh by asking and answering simple Welsh questions such as ‘Pwy wyt ti?’ (Who are you?) and ‘Syt mae’r tywydd heddiw?’ (What is the weather like today?) We then move onto other Welsh language patterns as a class including practicing our days of the week through song and counting the seven days of the week led by Helpwr Heddiw.
- **Magic mirror time!** This is my favourite part of our morning routine. Helpwr heddiw is asked to make a wish for the class. Children come up with ideas such as “I wish everyone will share their toys” or “I wish that everyone will stay on green” (our behaviour traffic light system) We blow the magic bubbles and hope our wish comes true, the magic mirror lights up if our wish is coming true!
- **Circle time-** We gather together to discuss the session’s topic, theme or focus.
- **9.30-10.30- Focus tasks-** These focus tasks will either be individual, small group (2/3) or large group (6/7)) activities based both inside and outside. They will be in keeping with the theme of learning through play in a holistic style as promoted by the Foundation Phase curriculum. If we can get messy and creative whilst doing so, all the better! We let our imaginations run wild and learning experiences are better for it.

- **10.30- 11.00-** Tidy up time and teeth brushing. Our school is part of the Design to Smile scheme promoting oral health and hygiene among young children. With Parental/ Guardian permission, learners brush their teeth everyday under trained staff within the Nursery class setting.
- **11.00 Milk time-** St Joseph's prides itself on being part of the healthy schools initiative and children are offered a carton of milk, soya milk or water depending on dietary requirements. This is a sociable time and again where possible child-led through learners giving out the drinks and leading the snack prayer. We also use milk time to develop both Welsh and English oracy skills by learners asking and answering questions by the use of talking points cards. In our groups (6/7 learners in each group) one learner will go and choose a talking point (subject for the discussion e.g. animals) and bring it back to their group. The idea then is that learners have a conversation amongst themselves about this topic. In the warmer months learners will have the opportunity to grow and produce their own snack including strawberries, tomatoes and different herbs to have at milk time.
- **After snack-** We prepare to go home by independently getting our coats, bags and anything from the home box before having a story or song time. After our home time prayer we line up ready to leave Nursery class at 11:30. Learners leave the setting from the cloakroom door onto the front yard; the same access point as morning drop off.

We may only have 2 ½ hours of Nursery but we use every minute!

What 'Grow in Love' our school mission statement means to us...

"We need to listen to Jesus to be good and kind and love."

"Gather together to be a good person."

"Be good to teachers and friends and love them."

"Listen to God."

"We grow in love with God."

"People be good and kind and work hard"

"It makes us happy"

"Share and be kind"

We want all learners to develop the values that make up our Grow in Love ethos. In our classroom we have a prayer and reflection area. This is somewhere learners can go at any time.

From the beginning of the Nursery year we attend both school assemblies and Mass at St Joseph's Church (**TBC: Subject to Covid Risk Assessment**) where elements of our 'Grow in Love' mission statement are discussed, scripture is shared and good news is celebrated.

Nursery learners enjoy this time, especially songs and hymns. Our class favourite is ‘Gather Together’.

“Pray to Jesus and God and Gather together, share with each other and grow together.”

Learners follow a ‘Come and See’ scheme of work where I deliver a four week topic based on themes like family, belonging and friendship whilst exploring and responding to important times in our Christian calendar. We work together on how we can be good citizens and part of our Christian family.

Prayers are used to give thanks during different parts of our Nursery session. We have a prayer at the beginning of the session, at snack time and at home time. The children will learn to make the sign of the cross and realise that this is a time to give thanks and share a quiet moment of reflection together and/or independently.

Whole school approach

Whilst Nursery are only in school for half a day, Nursery is very much part of a whole school life. Like the rest of the Foundation Phase, the Nursery curriculum follows the seven areas of the Foundation Phase; 1. Personal and Social Development, Wellbeing and Cultural Diversity, 2. Language, Literacy and Communication, 3. Mathematical Development, 4. Knowledge and Understanding of the World, 5. Welsh Language Development, 6. Creative Development and 7. Physical Development. Learners will have the opportunity to learn skills within the subject first and then apply them in different areas of learning in line with the Welsh Assembly Government’s revised areas of learning.

Children’s progress is tracked in line with Welsh Assembly Government’s guidance- The Foundation Phase Profile. This system will track your child’s progress on their journey through to the end of Year 2 in an organic and observation based approach.

With the implementation of the digital competency framework (DCF) Nursery will begin to learn digital skills including online safety, using different types of multimedia and skills such as saving work and printing work.

There will be two opportunities to discuss your child in a parents’ meeting format in both the Autumn term and the Spring term. The first meeting is to discuss how your child has settled into Nursery and the second meeting will be more to share work and examples of some of the experiences your child has had access to.

We also share with you class experiences via the school’s Twitter page- @StJosephsColBay, monthly Nursery newsletters and where possible, each day I will place a whiteboard with reminders and information about what we have done that day on the gate as the children are dismissed.

Behaviour management

“We grow in love together when we are friends, when we are on green and when we love together.”

Through the promotion and recognition of good behaviour, learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. We follow the whole school approach to behaviour management using our traffic light system. All children start everyday on green as a fair and fresh start. Should children have been given a warning about their behaviour and not reflected on it or changed their behaviour, their name will be put onto yellow. The only time a learner will be placed on red is if they are consistently ignoring instructions that relate to their own or others safety. There is zero tolerance for children hurting each other. Should your child be on any colour but green at the end of the session, then I will verbally pass this on to you.

Assertive mentoring

In line with the whole school approach Nursery begin their journey with the assertive mentoring system. In Nursery we track four main features of school life- attendance, punctuality, classroom behaviour and uniform. These features are colour coded each half term- green, yellow and red. This is based on their percentage of attendance, their punctuality, their classroom behaviour and their wearing of uniform and bringing in of PE kit. Adopting these elements of the assertive mentoring scheme allows us to get into good habits ready for entry into Reception and Statutory Education.

Housekeeping

Absence

Should your child be absent from school please inform the office at your earliest convenience so we can authorise the absence. Should you wish to take a holiday in term time, please obtain a holiday form from myself or Mrs Pritchard in the School Office.

Uniform

With assertive mentoring tracking in mind, for PE, children will require black pumps only, to be sent in a drawstring bag clearly labelled with your child's name. They will wear their school tracksuit to do PE. School uniform is available from Boppers Boutique, Colwyn Bay. A supply of good quality recycled uniform is available to purchase from the British Heart Foundation charity shop in Colwyn Bay. The school PTA also regularly host events in which second hand uniform is sold.

Toilet

Please ensure that your child is able to go to the toilet on his/ her own.

My Promise To You

I promise you every day your child will learn something.

Some days they will bring it home in their hands.

Some days they will bring it home in their heads

And some days they will bring it home in their hearts.

-Valerie Welk