



**St Mary Magdalene Catholic School Nursery
Newsletter
January 2025**



Dear Parents,

I would like to wish you all a happy new year and offer a very big thank you from myself and the nursery staff for all our lovely gifts at the end of last term.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new children who start over the coming weeks. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

If you have any concerns regarding your child at nursery, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the members of the team.

Kindest regards

Mrs C Ledger

Forthcoming Dates

Thursday 6th February—Stay and Learn Session for Parents. Focus on Music.

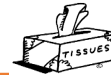
Tuesday 11th February—Coin Challenge. Children to bring spare coins in to make a long 'snake'. Children will be encouraged to use mathematical language for length and number. All proceeds will go to the school fund.

Friday 14th February—Prince and Princess Day. Come to Nursery in your royal attire. Nursery Closes this day.

Monday 24th February—Nursery opens.

Tissues

Thank you to all the families that have donated a box to nursery already. If you have not already donated one please do so as if each family provides one box of economy tissues then these will last us the whole year. Having a good supply of tissues allows children to become independent in keeping themselves clean. Please note that boxes of tissues are best and not pocket packets.



Topics this half term

Each week we will have a focus on the following topics:

Jonah and the Whale Bible Story. Dinosaur week.

Fairy tales in which stories will include Goldilocks and the three bears, The Billy Goats Gruff, Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty.

Please support your child at home by encouraging Fairy tale role play and dressing up with material, dresses or hats. Reading Fairy tales at bedtime.

School Website—

We periodically post photo's of the children's time at nursery on the Nursery page of the school website. Encourage your child to talk to you about what they have done in Nursery as a way of them using their memory, extend their sentences and practice the art of conversation.

Sickness—

Could we please ask that when you notify us of your child's absence via the Studybugs app. You should also state a reason for your child's absence. We need to be able to track if we have an outbreak of a sickness or tummy bug. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.



RE

For our RE topic we will be 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. Children will learn that the Wise Men visited Jesus and gave him gifts. Jesus welcomes and takes care of everyone. Jesus wants us to care for others.



Mittens

Children benefit from having their fingers covered so they can enjoy their time outdoors but they do find gloves difficult to manage. They are also prone to being lost and understandably parents become frustrated when another pair cannot be found. We therefore ask if you can purchase mittens for your child. You can pick them up for a few pounds at the local supermarket. Could you then please attach a piece of ribbon, wool or elastic to them and tie or sow them into your child's coat. If you have any questions about this then please come and speak to one of us.



"Scientists have discovered that it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain, unless it is done in play, in which case it only takes 10 to 20 repetitions."

- Dr. Karyn Purvis

Supporting Mark Making and Writing

Writing is a skill that children learn gradually. They start this journey by mark making not by producing letters or even words. We encourage children to make patterns, circles and lines as these form the basis for most letters in the English alphabet.

These marks can be made in any medium and should be fun. You may notice your child making patterns in their saucers at mealtimes or on the side of the bath with water or bubbles. All of these are important and should be encouraged.

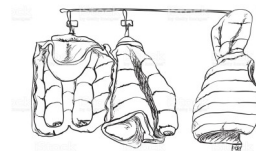
For children that are starting to and more importantly are interested in writing their own name, the letters must be in lower case (apart from the first which should be in uppercase). If you are able to teach your child cursive letters this will help their transition into school much easier but please do not worry about this too much. To see how to form cursive letters please see the Curriculum page within the Key Information section on the school website.

The school website also has other useful links which you may wish to investigate.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

It is important to support your child's learning at home and develop their PSED. Here are a few suggestions.

- Encourage your child to say 'please' and 'thank you'
- Encourage your child to talk about what makes them happy, sad or cross and how to display this behaviour.
- When playing with your child, support him/her in sharing toys
- Ensure that your child is able to go to the toilet unaided
- Try to support your child in taking turns with others



We are still encouraging children to become more independent in their dressing and ask them to find their own coat peg, put their coat on themselves and fasten it. We also ask that they return their coat to their own peg. Please encourage your child to do this and help them by ensuring that their coat is **named** and has a piece of fabric or ribbon that allows them to hang their coat.