



Welcome to St. Anthony's Catholic Nursery



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At our Nursery, we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment in which your child can develop and learn with confidence and enjoyment. Each child is valued as a unique individual. We endeavour to cater for the differing needs of each child through building positive relationships.

We aim to provide a stimulating and enabling learning environment in both the inside and outside areas of Nursery. We also make use of the School Hall, the Library and the School Field.

St. Anthony's Catholic Nursery is part of St Anthony's Catholic School and Religious Education is central to our curriculum and the ethos of our school.

Our school mission statement is:

"We walk in the footsteps of Christ and are held in the hand of God"

In doing so, we foster a love of learning, enquiry and truth to develop a respect for others and a tolerance of personal differences.

As a Catholic school, we have the Gospels at the centre of our learning so that each person is nurtured as a child of God to strive for excellence in all that they do. We learn about Jesus by listening to stories, creating art work, role play activities, singing and listening to music. We pray together and may attend special school assemblies.



We want your child's year in Nursery to be happy and successful. We operate an 'open door' policy towards you as parents and carers, so please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything further you wish to know. You can also ask questions or share information via our messaging system, "Dojo".

Important Information About Nursery

What happens daily?

-For 15 hour code children, Nursery is open 5 mornings a week from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 5 afternoons from 12.30-3.30 p.m. 15 hour children can pay to attend for extra hours, which is £7 per hour.

- For 30 hour code children, the times are 9-3pm each day. There is a charge of £2.85 for a cooked lunch each day (or a packed lunch can be sent in, instead- please discuss this with us). Children can extend their day to 3.30 for which there is a daily £4 charge. If children are picked up late, they will be charged for this session.

-Charges may have to increase if costs increase significantly during the year.

- At the start of the session, please wait outside the Nursery classroom, until staff call your children in. Remember, always close the Nursery gates.

-When Nursery opens, let your child take off his/her coat and hang it on their designated peg.

-At the end of the session, please wait outside, until staff call you in to collect your child. If you have been delayed, please phone the school to let us know. If you have arranged for someone different to the person who normally picks up your child, please let us know at the **beginning** of the session or telephone the school.

-The school and nursery gates are locked outside of drop-off and pick-up times. If you need to come to nursery during that time, you will have to speak to the school receptionist via the gate intercom. Please press once and wait as the secretary may be out of the office briefly e.g. taking a message to a class.

-If you have any problems or matters you wish to discuss concerning your child, please let us know at the start or the end of the session- there is more time to talk at the end of the session once the other children have left. You can also talk to the Headteacher, Mrs Edwards, about any concerns or queries you may have.



What should my child wear to Nursery?



All pupils wear our **uniform** which is a green sweatshirt with nursery or school logo, white polo-shirt with nursery logo, black joggers (green & white summer dress or shorts if the weather is hot). **Please name everything.** Logo'd uniform can be bought from myclothing.com (school postcode is CV31 1NJ) and plain uniform from most supermarkets.

- A **named** warm coat or jacket for outside play.
- **Named shoes** that your child can play in and can take on and off themselves -Velcro is best; no laces.

What else does my child need?

Wellies for muddy play and walks - named and kept at Nursery



- A **drawstring** bag of spare, named clothes in case of accidents. [socks, pants, trousers and top]
- A book-bag to carry important letters and works of art home (can be bought from school, £4)
- Long hair needs to be tied back
- A clear, named water-bottle filled with water



What should I tell my child about Nursery routine?

- That they need to help with 'Tidy up time'!
- That we have 'snack time' (milk or water and fruit).
- That they can have a drink of water at any time.
- That they can go to the toilet **independently** and then flush it and wash their hands.
- That they can hang up their own coat.
- That, at the end of Nursery, they must sit and wait until their name is called.



Absences- Studybugs

Please use Studybugs (you need to download the app) to send a message if your child is not attending a session, giving a reason for the absence. Please inform us of infectious illnesses such as mumps, measles or chicken pox. Please do NOT send your child into Nursery following sickness and diarrhea for at least 48 hours after the last bout. If your child has head-lice, please treat them and inform us so we can ask others to check.

If your child becomes ill during the session we will phone and ask you to come and collect him/her.

Please make sure we have your current mobile phone number and the number of at least one other adult who we can contact in an emergency.



Equality of Opportunity

We adhere to the school policies relating to 'Equal Opportunities', and 'Supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities'. Mrs Armstrong (who is also the Special Needs Coordinator) will be able to give advice, support and guidance if any extra help is needed or you can talk to Mrs Edwards.

Key Workers

Each child is assigned to a Key Worker for the whole year. As the year progresses they will spend time with their key worker at snack time and in small group activities.

Voluntary Nursery fund

Parents can support the Nursery with a weekly voluntary contribution of £2. This pays for extras like cooking ingredients and special books or toys to support the children's interests and learning.

What if your child has an accident?

We will endeavor to create a safe environment in Nursery. If there is an accident it will be dealt with appropriately. There is always a 'First Aider' available.

Please encourage your child to tell us if they are hurt during the morning. We will inform you of any incidents, especially bumps on the head. It is vital that **emergency phone numbers** are correct in case we need to contact you.



How do parents find out what's going on?

There is a parents' notice board at the Nursery door. This is used to display information about Nursery. Individual letters will be placed inside your child's named drawer. Messages, photos and learning suggestions are shared online via "Class Dojo" to which you will be invited by email once you have down-loaded the App. A weekly newsletter can also be found on the Nursery notice-board.

There will be two parental consultation evenings during the year, but if you have concerns about your child please discuss these with us at any time.



How do we settle your child into Nursery?

We will arrange a home visit for the first week of the autumn term, so no children will attend nursery this week. This is an ideal opportunity for you to share any worries or concerns you may have and to pass on any important medical information. You can also tell us things that your child can do and what he/she enjoys.

The children will then be admitted to Nursery part-time, in small groups. This will enable them to adjust more easily to the routines of Nursery. It enables them to get to know us, and the other children, more easily. Full-time attendance will start once they are fully settled; in general this will be at the start of the third week for 30 hour children and at the end of the third week for 15 hour children. You will receive a letter after the June parent information evening, confirming your child's induction time-table once we know how many hours they will be attending.

We will ask you to email us a head and shoulders photo of your child, to make a label for their cloakroom peg so that they know where to hang their spare clothes bag and coat.

What do we do at Nursery?

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which is split into seven areas of learning (see next page). Each area of learning is implemented through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. These activities are all play-based as play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Observations and assessments are carried out throughout the year, to enable us to plan activities that match your child's needs and interests.

Areas of Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning and development. All areas are important and interconnected. Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving; they are called the **prime areas**:

Communication and Language:

Through conversation, story-telling, rhymes and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Physical Development:

Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eyeco-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy.

Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Personal, Social and emotional Development:

Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably.

There are also **four specific areas**, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

Literacy:

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. It requires language development which starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together.

Mathematics:

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be supported to count confidently and to develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measure

Expressive Arts and Design:

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials.

Understanding of the World:

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them - from visiting parks and libraries to meeting important members of society. In addition, listening to stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.



Admission to St Anthony's Catholic Nursery School

The Nursery has places for 26 children in the morning and 24 in the afternoon. To qualify for a place, children must reach the age of 3 by August 31st, before the September when they will commence Nursery.

The criteria for obtaining a place at nursery is based on the Local Authority's criteria, in order of priority:

- Looked after children
- Sibling at the school
- Distance from Nursery

Admission to St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

The criteria for obtaining a place at the school is different from that used by the Nursery because the school is a Catholic school. Your child is not automatically entitled to a place in Reception if he/she is in Nursery.

If you wish your child to attend St Anthony's Primary school in Reception then you need to fill in the relevant application form. If your child is a **Baptised Catholic**, please fill in the faith section of the form carefully, stating that your child is Catholic. You **must send** a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate. The application form can be found on the Warwickshire County Council website, under schools admission. It is important to fill this in before the dead-line in January. If you need help, ask Nursery staff or phone the Warwickshire County Council office on 01926 410410.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. If you have any other questions or queries, please do ask. We look forward to getting to know you and your child in September.