

St Mary's Bryanston Square

Starting Nursery Information

Staff List

Nursery Class

Miss Caitlin Harris	Teacher/Coordinator
Mrs Lynda Pearson	Early Years Educator
Miss Nicola Dillon	Qualified Teaching Assistant

Reception Class

Miss Alison Bowden	Teacher/Senior Management
Miss Lisa Kadiri	Qualified Teaching Assistant

Office Staff

Mrs Margaret Browning	School Secretary
Ms Lynda Farrell	Administrative Assistant
Mr Bruce Manson	Finance Officer

Mr Peter Hadfield	Headteacher
Mrs Sarah Taylor	Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Sheelagh Leith	Learning Mentor
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Ms Kyra Sheppard	Reading Recovery Teacher
Miss Sonia Walker	Bilingual Support Teacher

Photographs

Could you please provide one photo of your child at the beginning of term for us to use for labeling.

Nursery Session Times

The morning session is 9.00am-11.30am.

The afternoon session is 12.45pm- 3.15pm.

Absence

Please let Mrs Browning know on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend.

The school telephone number is (020) 7641 4130.

We keep a register and it is important that any absences are justified. Nursery places are sought after and therefore may be withdrawn for non-attendance. If you are planning a holiday absence during term time please apply to the headteacher for permission. Mrs Browning has the application forms

Illness and Medication

Please inform us if your child contracts an infectious illness so we can watch out for any illness which may be 'doing the rounds'. We cannot dispense medication to children other than for asthma, so please keep children at home until they are completely well. If your child uses an inhaler at home you can ask your doctor for a spare one to be kept at school (which should be labeled with your child's name).

Always ensure that your telephone numbers are up-to-date so that we can contact you in case of emergency during the school day.

Home-Time

At the end of the session, once a member of staff has opened the door, please come into the nursery to collect your child. Your child should be collected by a nominated adult. Please inform us in advance of any change of person collecting your child (we will not let your child go home with a minor).

If your child brings anything home try to spend a little time talking to your child about his/her work (either as you greet them or later at home). Ask him/her to tell you about it (even if it is not recognisable to you, your child will have had a purpose/idea in mind). This will help you to share in your child's day and achievements. If there is no work to go home don't forget to ask about the session anyway! At this stage of the children's development they are often actively involved without producing an end product.

N.B.

All the children **must** be toilet trained before entry to nursery but please include a complete change of clothes in a plastic bag with your child's name on it in case of occasional 'accidents'.

Milk

School milk is free! We encourage all children to drink it and the majority develop a liking for it if they have not already done so. If your child does not drink milk they will be offered a drink of water.

Snack

The children are now provided with a piece of fruit each day and we have a snack time of either fruit or toast each session. Please do not let your child bring sweets, crisps or any food into the class.

Nursery Fund

We ask for a voluntary contribution of 50p per week per session. This money covers the cost of baking and special activities.

Toys and Belongings

Please do not allow your child to bring toys into school as these can get lost or damaged. Although we realise that children sometimes may need soft toys for comfort, personal belongings are best left with parents until the end of the session.

Clothes

The children will be involved in outdoor activities all year round and so please provide shoes with a good grip to help make running and climbing safe as well as a warm coat with a hood. Aprons are provided for messy activities but it is best that clothes that can withstand wear and tear are worn. Please do not send your child to school in new or special clothes.

Please remember to buy easy fastening clothes, elasticated waists are much easier for the children to manage by themselves. Try to avoid zip and hook fastening trousers and school shirts with cuffs. It is important that your child is able to be independent and not reliant on an adult. Unless your child is able to tie laces please try to buy velcro or buckle fastenings.

School Uniform

Although school uniform is not compulsory in the nursery, wearing a uniform helps us to feel a part of the wider community of the school.. School sweatshirts can be bought from Mrs Monaghan (one of our parents) who will usually be in the Music/Parents room from 3pm on Tuesdays and grey jogging trousers/ shorts or skirts may be worn. Clothes, particularly jumpers are easily misplaced and often look alike.

Please label all school clothes clearly with your child's name.

The children are expected to be responsible for their own jumpers and sweatshirts (these may be placed in our 'jumper box')

What happens in the nursery?

Many of the children who come to nursery have already attended a playgroup or nursery. They will find that there are similarities but the day is a little more structured and their play will become more challenging. The curriculum is based on the 'Foundation Stage' for children from 3-5 years. The day is planned to provide activities and an environment which will develop each child in the six areas of;

- **personal and social development:**

focusing on learning how to co-operate with others and developing independence.

- **communication, language and literacy:**

verbal expression, looking at and handling books, joining in with rhymes and play writing.

- **mathematical development:**

jigsaws, construction blocks, number songs and rhymes, looking at shape, colour, pattern and comparing length, weight and size

- **knowledge and understanding of the world:**

looking at the natural and built world around us, the recent past in our lives, planning and making things and using technology around us.

- **physical development:**

outdoor play, music and movement, cutting and gripping small objects and managing fastenings

- **creative development:**

imaginative thinking, acting out roles, listening to and making music, and art and modeling.

Most of our activities include learning across several areas.

Having a good look around the nursery will give you an idea of the types of activities in which your child will be engaged. They will have a busy session in the nursery and the play is planned with learning intentions in mind.

Early Years Activities

The nursery and reception classes are classed as the 'Early Years'. The nursery and reception classes plan their themes together which allows us to share special activities. We share an outdoor area and have a 'integrated activities session once a week where the children may work in either class as they choose. These activities help to ensure a smooth transition from nursery into reception class.

Partnership with Parents

Whilst your child is at nursery good communication between home and school is crucial. This enables us to work together to ensure that your child feels secure and happy at nursery.

We believe that parents are the first educators of children and as such you have specialist knowledge of your child.

Staff will usually be available at the beginning and end of each session to talk informally between 9.00-9.15am and 12.45-1.00pm. If you would like to have a little

more time to talk please arrange a convenient time with the staff. A parent/teacher consultation each term allows us to review your child's progress and achievements.

We will send home a nursery newsletter which will help you to talk to your child about our activities in class and find out about what's going on.

How can I help?

We really hope you will get involved in the life of the nursery. Having more adults in nursery helps the children's language skills to develop as they share and explain their activities. We can use everyone who is willing but if you have a particular skill or interest, let us know. Trips and special events depend on your support.

Some of the ways you could help:

- **reading stories to the children in English and other languages**
- **photocopying and laminating**
- **taking part in activities** such as cooking and sewing
- **translating information**
- **preparing the snack** for the children
- **accompanying us on walks** around the area e.g. an Autumn walk

Lastly, thank you for your support and we look forward to getting to know you and your child!