

CONVENT OF MERCY NURSERY SCHOOL



September & October 2023

The first few months of the school year is always a busy time as children settle into the Nursery School routine. We hope that this school year will be a happy learning experience for you and your child. **If at any time you have any questions/concerns please feel free to discuss them with your child's teacher.**

During the month of September we focused on building up a positive relationship between staff and parents, staff and children; so that school and learning will begin and remains an enjoyable experience, during each child's time in our Nursery school.

As the month progresses, independence and confidence will be encouraged with the introduction of new and familiar activities/routines e.g. painting, working with dough, sand and water activities, story time/rhymes and songs, recognition of one's own belongings, understanding sharing/caring etc. Simple rules for health and safety will be established from the beginning e.g. no running in the classroom, children will be encouraged to respect each other's work e.g. not knocking down others brick models, not throwing sand or snatching. Sharing/taking turns will be encouraged.

At all times positive behaviour will be encouraged and promoted in the Nursery School.

As parents and co-educators you can help your child by:

Talking positively about school/about your child's school day and activities.

Helping them become independent/confident by recognising coats, belongings, using tissues and toilets etc. Reading stories, repeating Nursery rhymes/songs e.g. The wheels on the bus, Jack and Jill, Baa baa black sheep, Twinkle twinkle little star, Incy Wincy Spider.

END OF SEPTEMBER UPDATE

The children have settled very well into the Nursery, learning new routines and developing new friendships. The Board of Governors and staff would like to thank you all for your help and co-operation during the settling in period. We greatly appreciate that you have ensured that you follow the allocated time slots, that one adult only brings the children and you keep us so well informed of any absences or COVID-19 issues.

Nursery Staff

Room 1: Miss Donoghue - (Principal), Mrs Rogan (Nursery Assistant) Mrs Topping (Classroom Assistant), Rebecca (Assistant)

Room 2: Miss King - (Teacher), Mrs Magee (Nursery Assistant), Rosemary (Assistant)
Mrs Polly is the schools secretary and Ms Carlin is the school caretaker.

October Topics

The themes for the month of October will be AUTUMN and HALLOWEEN. We will be looking at the changes around us, the leaves falling, the changing colour on the trees or the need for a warm coat. We will be listening to Meg and Mog and other spooky stories. We will be asking the children to look out for signs of autumn & Halloween objects around the home or when they are out and about jumping on the crunchy leaves.

Front Door

In the interest of Health and Safety the internal doors will open and close as follows once everyone has settled into the dinner routine. The main door into the hall will be open 5 mins before these times.

	<u>DROP OFF</u>	<u>COLLECT</u>
<u>Group 1</u>	8.55 - 9.05	1.00 - 1.10
<u>Group 2</u>	9.05-9.15	1.10 - 1.20

(If you have to collect your child early please inform a member of staff)

PLEASE ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARRIVE AND ARE COLLECTED PROMPTLY & FOLLOW THE ONE WAY SYSTEM WHEN EXITING VIA THE STAFF CARPARK

Child Protection

The Convent of Mercy Nursery School has a legal responsibility to care for and protect the children in its care. We do this by providing a safe, secure and supportive environment for the children. We ensure that all staff have been vetted before working in the Nursery School. Student teachers, assistants and supply teachers, will have been vetted.

Copies of the Child Protection and Pastoral Care Policies are available in the school website for parents to read.

We will provide individual copies during Parent/Teacher meetings.

Throughout the year we will be displaying a range of topics from the 'Every Child' book on the school website which develops our and the children's awareness of the rights of the child. You will receive a letter prior to this to explain the displays in more depth.

Safety

In the interest of the children's safety please take extreme care when driving and parking in the school grounds - the speed limit is 5mph. We have limited parking and while the staggered times helps this - Fr. Murray has invited you to use the Chapel car-park when leaving and collecting your child (he asks that you use a parking bay in the chapel car park).

Parents are not to park their cars in the area leading to the staff car park (STAFF ONLY) or on the footpath which is for those walking to school.

FOLLY LANE IS AN ACCESS ONLY ROAD - PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON IT AS YOU MAY RECEIVE A PARKING TICKET

Please ensure that you hold your child's hand in the car park and supervise them at all times.

Clothes Bank

Cash for Clobber will pay the school for each bag of recycled items that we collect in the clothes bank, please help us to raise funds for the school by recycling unwanted clothes. All clean and dry clothes, shoes, hats, gloves, handbags, textiles and blankets can be recycled. The best quality items are then re-worn or reused in developing countries and the not-so- good quality items are shredded and recycled as wipers for the car industry. Heavy and poor quality items are recycled or 'flocked' and are used as stuffing for mattresses and sofas.

Please check the items that can be recycled on the Clothes Bank.

Parents Meeting

The Nursery teachers will be meeting with parents to discuss how their child has settled into the Nursery in early November.

Meetings will be available as the children go home, to comply with current guidance we will be offering telephone call meetings or the option to meet in the Quiet Room.

We are sending a message via the school website to gauge an interest in those wishing to meet in school or have a phone call before confirming the timetable.

Dinner Money

Please ensure that dinner and snack money is paid on a Monday morning.

Snack Money £3.00

Dinners cost £12.50 per week

Dinner & snack £15.50

All money must be placed in the snack bag provided or an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and the amount.

Snack Money

Nursery school is like a home from home and therefore we have a snack table for the children to experience new foods, grow in independence serving their own snack and develop friendships with their peers as they chat together. We ask that £3 snack money is paid each week - the money is used to buy a selection of foods for snack time such as range of fruits, vegetables, meats, breads and dairy products such as cheese, yoghurts etc. BUT that's not all - we also use this money to buy ingredients to make playdough, for cooking or science activities and then whatever is left is used to cover the cost of visitors throughout the year - such as Mr Hullabaloo, ZooLab, Big Bad Bass, the Hawaiian Beach Party to name but a few.

So what works out at about 60p a day goes a very very long way and we would prefer not to ask parents to cover a larger amount when shows come to the school.

We ask that it is paid each Monday or if you would like on a monthly basis (£12) - please ensure that all monies are placed in the snack bag provided clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please note that snack money is not included as part of Free Meals.

Birthday Celebrations

Throughout the year we will celebrate all the children's birthdays with birthday buns provided by the school. **Why birthday buns & not a cake?** We changed to this option during COVID times - the child can blow out the candle on their bun & everyone else gets their own bun. Therefore no other cakes or items need to be sent into the Nursery.

Halloween Party

The children are invited to come to school dressed, as their favourite character on Thursday 26th October for a Halloween Party there will be NO dinners that day.

The Nursery will close at 11.30 on Thursday 26th October

Halloween Break

The Nursery will be closed for Halloween Break
Friday 27th October - Thursday 2nd November.

Re-opening on Thursday 3rd November.

Visitors to the Nursery

- Friday 3rd November - Mr Hullabaloo - Autumn Show