



## Welcome to Nursery Croeso i Dosbarth Meithrin



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In our school we  
play nicely

Our school is fun and  
we learn

We like going to church  
and we say our prayers

### **Our school according to past Nursery pupils ...**

Our school is good and it is  
fun

We like having our  
snack in school and  
we sit nicely

We love to be Helpwr  
heddiw, and we like to  
help

In Nursery Class 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

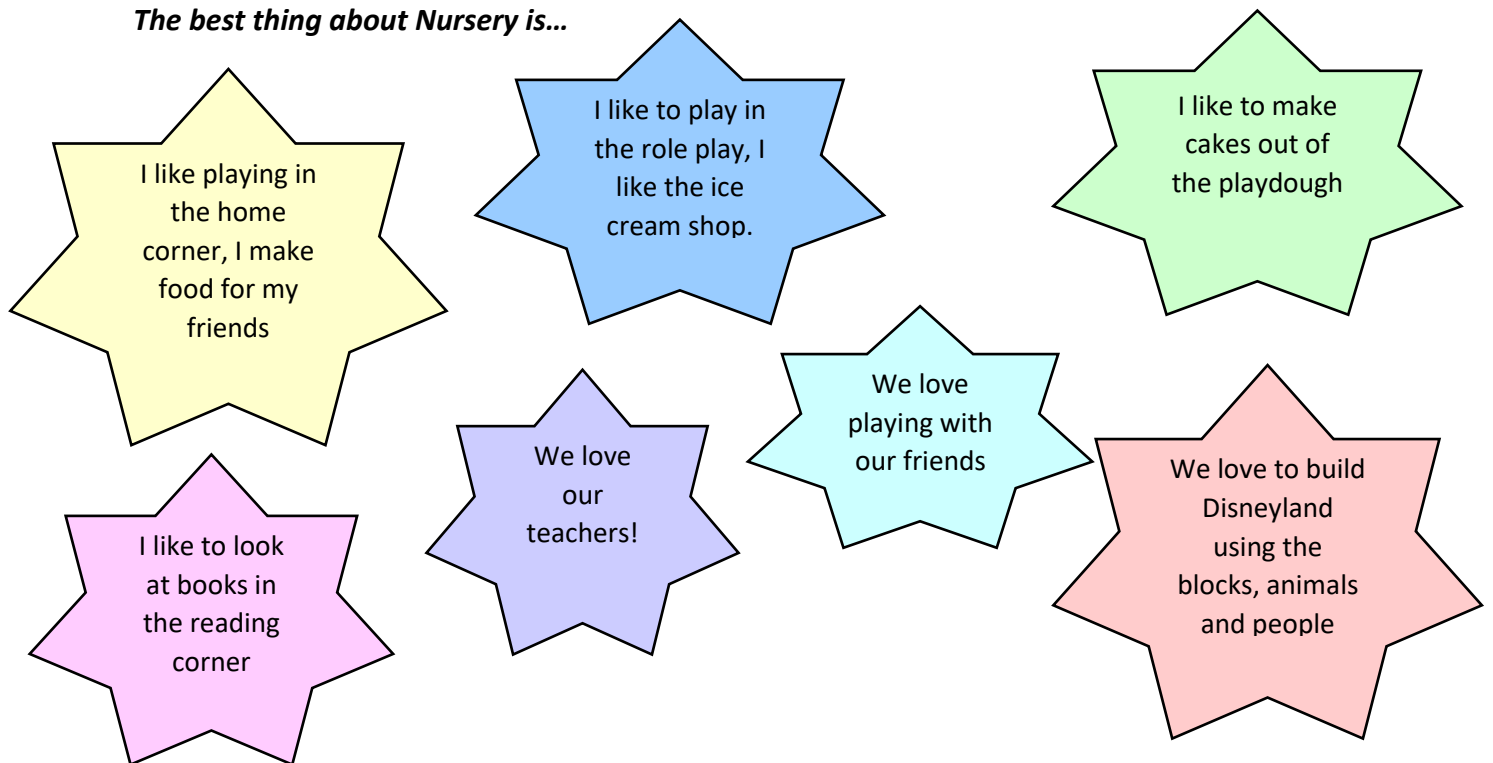
- **8.45- Gate open:** Follow the path in towards the Church house. It is the same gate that the Playgroup children use.
- **9.00-Self registration:** Learners are encouraged to find their own names and hang them on our class prayer tree. In the Spring term, children can choose a book to be read, by placing their names on a choice of two books. This encourages the children to make choices, and this helps the children 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 Nursery morning, we also take opportunities to have directed teaching including rote counting in English and in Welsh. Learners listen carefully to the register and they help to remember who is absent on that day. Then to make sure are numbers are correct, the children have opportunities to independently count the children using our sparkly counting stick. If there is a part of the Nursery session where learners can take the lead, we jump at the chance to develop their health and wellbeing development.
- **Amser Helpwr Heddiw:** This is a special role to the Nursery children and one they enjoy. This year we have added snack helper, Amser tacluso/tidy monitor and book corner monitor, to give the children more opportunities to have a turn to be class helpers.
- **Welsh language:** We 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 songs, colours and shapes.
- **Phonics Time-** In nursery we follow Twinkl Phonics Level 1. Twinkl Phonics is a fully comprehensive, synthetic phonics teaching programme, designed to be used with children from nursery to year 2. It is delivered through the stories and adventures of Kit, Sam and the Twinkl Phonics family, the programme builds and develops the skills and understanding children need to become effective, independent readers and writers.
- **9.30-10.30- Invitations to learn:** These 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 Curriculum for Wales. 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.
- **10.45 Snack time:** St Joseph's prides itself on being part of the healthy schools' initiative and children are offered milk, soya milk or water depending on dietary requirements. They are encouraged to be independent by pouring their own drinks using jugs with lids. Please provide your child with a piece of fruit for snack time too.

This is a sociable time and again where possible child-led through learners giving out the drinks and leading the snack prayer.

- **11.00 – Playtime/Story time/Song time:** Depending on the weather, the children will get 15 minutes to play on the front yard. This allows them to develop gross motor skills, such as climbing on the play equipment and we teach the children playground games, it is so much fun! If the weather is not in our favour for this, we will have song time then we end the session with a story.
- **Home time:** We prepare to go home by independently getting our coats, bags and anything from the home box before having a home time prayer. Then, we line up ready to leave Nursery class at 11:30. Learners leave the setting from the same access point as morning drop off.

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

***The best thing about Nursery is...***



**Our Mission Statement: Grow in Love/Tyfu Mewn Cariad**

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 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 the new RE Directory – ‘To Know You More Clearly’ scheme of work, where we deliver lessons 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. We have regular collective worship sessions too using Ten:Ten resources and follow the ‘Life to the Full’ health and relationships scheme.

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 at our prayer area.

**What ‘Grow in Love’ our school mission statement means to us...**



### **Welsh Early Years Curriculum**

We know that high-quality early education provision is essential to children’s development. The experiences, knowledge and skills needed for lifelong learning, active citizenship and future employment begin in the early years. Our Early Years Curriculum aspires to create in children, positive dispositions towards learning which, if nurtured, will last a lifetime and provide the firm foundation which all our children need to support them in realising the **four purposes of Curriculum for Wales**. It supports our youngest learners to develop as:

- 1) Ambitious, capable learners**
- 2) Creative, enterprising contributors**
- 3) Healthy, confident individuals**
- 4) Ethical, informed citizens.**

Our Early Years curriculum recognises that every child in our setting is unique and that their development is rapid between birth and five years of age. It supports holistic development

by keeping the developmental needs of our children at the forefront of our pedagogical practice. It recognises and values the Welsh language as an integral part of the unique culture of Wales.

Central to our curriculum are **five key developmental pathways** that are fundamental to the learning and development of all young children. These developmental pathways are child-centred and are interdependent, having equal value in supporting overall development and progress. They focus on what is important for the child and link closely to the key principles of child development, as well as to the overarching statements of what matters and descriptions of learning of the six areas of learning and experience. They have been developed to ensure children can be supported to make progress at their own pace and in their preferred learning environment. The five developmental pathways are:

- **Belonging**
- **Communication**
- **Exploration**
- **Physical Development**
- **Well-being**

The learning experiences and our environment will be fun, engaging and effective. The children will learn through play-based, authentic and purposeful learning led by their own interests. Development within and across the five developmental pathways is dependent upon the quality of our interactions and the learning experiences and environments we create. With our holistic approach to teaching and learning, we will ensure that children have opportunities to develop skills within and across the developmental pathways. We will also provide ample time and opportunity for the successful mastery of skills, with long periods of uninterrupted play during which children can become absorbed in their learning.

Children are at the heart of our Early Years Curriculum and, as such, the five developmental pathways are expressed from the child's viewpoint to ensure that provision focuses on the needs, interests and curiosity of three- and four-year-olds. Children are learning to express themselves; they are gaining in independence and they are becoming more aware of their value to those around them. The developmental pathways represent a child's right to experience an environment where play is valued for itself and as part of learning.

If you wish to learn more about the 5 Developmental Pathways and the Welsh Early Years Curriculum, please follow this link: [A curriculum for funded non-maintained nursery settings](#)

### **Parents'/Guardians' Meetings**

There will be two opportunities to discuss your child in a parents'/ guardian meeting format in both the Autumn term and the Spring term. The first meeting is to discuss how your child has settled into Nursery. The second meeting will be more to share work and examples of some of the experiences your child has had access to. This is also a chance to raise any concerns/celebrate achievements during the halfway point of the school year. At the end of the academic year, you will receive your child's first school report.

We also share with you class experiences via the class SeeSaw page – please download this app and sign in when we hand out the QR codes at the start of the term.

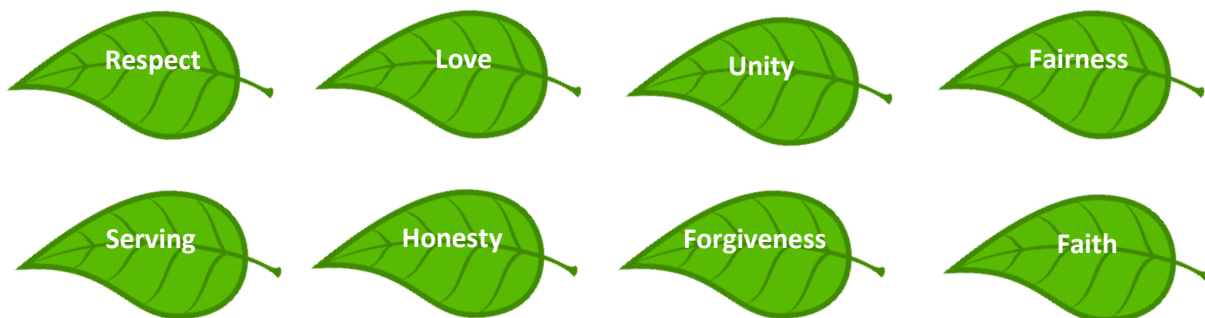
The school also has a Facebook page and a website for more information. Our school website: [Ysgol Sant Joseff – Catholic Primary School](#) contains information and updates regarding Nursery in the Students section – Class Pages – Nursery/Meithrinfa.

The school PTA holds regular meetings and events including uniform sales. They also have PTA Facebook page for more information.

### **Behaviour management**

Through the promotion and recognition of good behaviour, learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. We follow a whole school approach to behaviour management. We use Class Dojo (a website) for a class reward system. Pupils can gain ‘dojo points’ for positive behaviour. The children help to set the reasons for getting points and also reasons for losing points at the start of the school year. Prizes will be given out and a post of your child will be shared on the class SeeSaw page when they receive a certain number of Dojo’s – 25, 50, 75, 100!

There is zero tolerance for children hurting each other. We use a positive behaviour management approach and promote our school Gospel Values:



### **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 ‘leave of absence’ form from Mrs Pritchard in the School Office.

#### ***Uniform***

Nursery children wear a school tracksuit. School uniform is available from Uniformed School and Workwear, Colwyn Bay. The school PTA also regularly host events in which second hand uniform is sold.

Children will wear their school tracksuit to do PE. However, they will require black pumps. Please send these in a drawstring bag clearly labelled with your child's name. We will keep the pumps on your child's peg and return at the end of the year.

***Toilet***

Please ensure that your child is able to go to the toilet on their 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.*