St Jude's Pre-School
St Jude's Catholic Primary School
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Monday 21st September 2026

Dear Parents

During Autumn Term 1 (03/09/26-23/10/26), we will focus on developing the following skills. Children will have lots of opportunities to learn, practise and build their confidence in these areas, with their progress monitored throughout the term. Our curriculum consists of four milestones and an extended curriculum. Children will be taught according to their stage of development.

Aspiration 1 - To settle in and develop independence

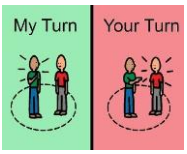
First Milestone – skills and knowledge



- Separate from main carer, sometimes with support
- Manage a range of transitions and can play with increasing confidence on their own and alongside other children
- Use the key person as a 'secure base' throughout the session, 'touching base' as/when needed
- Grow in confidence, begin to explore a wider range of resources

Aspiration 2 - To take turns to speak and listen, responding to questions

First Milestone – skills and knowledge



- Use words and/or gestures to communicate meaning
- Start to respond to simple instructions through words, actions or gestures

Aspiration 3 - To name and express their feelings and emotions

First Milestone – skills and knowledge



- Show that they feel happy or sad using verbal or non-verbal communication
- Start to approach key person or another adult when they require emotional support

Aspiration 4 - To know and be familiar with 5-8 nursery rhymes

First Milestone – skills and knowledge



- Show interest in songs and rhymes when listening to others sing/say the rhyme or listening to an adult read them from books
- Share books with adults and respond to the words and pictures in books through gestures and/or words

Aspiration 5 - To know how to use tools and equipment safely, whilst gaining control

First Milestone – skills and knowledge



- Start to develop proprioceptive skills such as using a pushchair, lifting bulky objects, pushing and pulling an object and swinging and hanging from a bar. They are supported to use the equipment safely
- Start to show interest in mark making using a comfortable grip – palmar/digital pronate grasp
- Explore paint and malleable materials using a range of tools safely

Mathematics - To develop good number sense of numbers 1-5

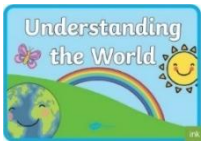
First Milestone – skills and knowledge



- Distinguish between big and small sized objects
- Sort objects into sets
- Build with a range of resources of different sizes include bricks and stacking cups
- Complete inset puzzles
- Explore capacity showing some understanding of full and empty

Understanding the World – To take part in a wide range of activities to explore different cultures, religions and environments

First Milestone – skills and knowledge



- Explore resources that have a cause and effect relationship
- Start to explore and sort resources and materials
- Use their senses to explore the environment both inside and outside

Songs/Rhymes



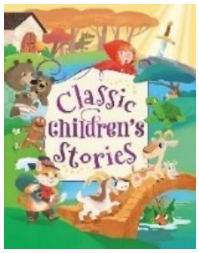
- Ba Ba Black Sheep
- If You're Happy and you Know it
- Head, shoulders, knees and toes

Poetry Basket Poems



- Wise Old Owl
- Stepping Stones
- Tommy Thumb

Stories



- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO1kkIka9rs
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g15by4ST2w8
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gyI6ykDwds&t=2s
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Susanna Davidson
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOJ_A5tgBKM&t=67s

Word Aware (language/concepts we will be teaching the children)

Word Rap: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=428l9PIED_I



- More
- Little
- Noisy

Little Wandle (Letters and Sounds)

- Rhyme time - joining in with rhymes, singing fast, slow, loud and quiet, distinguishing between sounds, clapping syllables in words.



R.E.

- Creation

Cultural Capital - We build children's cultural capital by introducing them to new experiences, people, places, stories and ideas, while celebrating the valuable experiences and knowledge they already bring from home.



- 'Me and My Family'

  Family experiences
  Favourite stories
  Local walks

Forces Friendly Provider

- Mrs Breakwell completed training called 'Military Matters'. This was completed over an academic year. I would like to thank Mrs Breakwell for all her hard work in completing the training, training staff, supporting parents, collecting evidence and leading the assessment in pre-school. I am very proud to share that we have now been recognised as a 'Forces Friendly Provider'.

Tapestry

- Your child's key person will upload an overview of what we have been doing in pre-school each week. You are welcome to respond in the comments when you receive the update. Thank you to those parents who have already done so. It is lovely to hear that you share the photographs as a family each week.

Important Dates

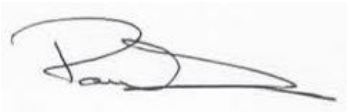
- Half term - 26/10/26 – 30/10/26



If you would like to share any home learning relating to the above (or any other celebrations/experiences), please upload it onto Tapestry and your child can share it with his/her teachers and friends.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely



Ms Paula Cantillon
Pre-School Manager