



Information for parents

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin. "

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Making a new start

Dear Parents and carers,

A very happy new year to you all! We hope you managed to have a relaxed and restful Christmas break with your families and friends. We wish you and your family a blessed 2026.

As the new year brings resolutions, personal goals and renewed focus, this is a perfect time to remind your child of their targets from Parent/Teacher consultations, which took place in November. Please support your child in achieving these goals by encouraging them to develop their learning behaviours. The **8 learning behaviours** we focus on at school are:

Not giving up Being curious Having a go Co-operating Enjoying learning
Improving Using your imagination Concentrating

As mentioned in the **Wednesday Word**, (in reference to the Gospel for Sunday 11th January 2026-**Matthew 3: 13-17 The Baptism of the Lord**):

"January is traditionally the month of beginnings-a time for making a new start. In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast-The Baptism of the Lord.

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted because he wanted to stand alongside the community-to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow.

Jesus, God's beloved Son, came for everyone to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life...

This new year presents an opportunity for us to make a new start. Ask your child if they have made any new starts in 2026. If so, how is it going? It may help your child if you mention any new starts or resolutions which you have made for 2026 and tell them how it's going for you. How does your new start help you or others? As we begin this new year, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God?"

Dear Lord Jesus,

***Please help me to be always ready to make a new start with you and with each other, as we start this
New Year
Amen***

In school, we will also be helping our children to make 'a new start' by encouraging them to make choices that are aligned with our **Sacred Heart Ethos**.

Our Sacred Heart Ethos is structured using the **SACRED** acronym:

S: Service

A: Affection and Appreciation

C: Consideration and Co-operation

R: Reconciliation

E: Endeavour and Enjoyment

D: Dignity

Service	Helping others and the world (Being 'Pilgrims of the Earth'); We are guardians of God's creation. (CST link/s-Stewardship ; Preferential Option for the Poor ; Distributive Justice)
Affection and Appreciation	Showing loving kindness and care; being thankful for each other and the world around us. (CST link/s-Solidarity ; The Common Good)
Consideration and co-operation	Showing thoughtfulness, thinking about the views of others, and working together for the common good in school and the wider world. (CST link-Subsidiarity , Distributive Justice)
Reconciliation	Always being honest, listening to others, reflecting on choices & showing forgiveness and friendship. (CST link/s-Promoting Peace ; Participation)
Endeavour and Enjoyment	Always trying our best and finding joy in all that we do, for both ourselves and others. (CST link/s The Common Good)
Dignity	Recognising that everyone is special and unique-valuing and respecting ourselves and others (CST link/s Human Dignity ; The Common Good)

Teaching and Learning in the Nursery Classes

Spring 1

Early Years Foundation Stage Prime Areas for learning

Language and Communication

I will be listening to stories and non-fiction books about keeping healthy and begin to relate these to my own experiences. I will begin to talk about my experiences one to one and in small groups. I will enjoy joining in when telling familiar stories. With support I will begin to retell these stories through role play and puppets. I will be learning new vocabulary such as naming body parts and fruits and vegetables.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

I will continue to learn about myself as a unique individual and learn about my body parts and my senses. I will continue to develop my ability to share, take turns and begin to understand the needs of others. I will continue to develop my confidence and independence and learn how I can care for myself through healthy eating, dressing and oral hygiene.



Physical Development

I will be developing my independence, I will learn how to hang up my own coat and bag, take myself to the toilet and dress/undress myself. I will begin to develop my control over implements such as scissors, paintbrushes, pencils and blocks. I will explore the outdoor area and learn to use the climbing equipment safely and effectively, developing my coordination and balance. I will develop my physical strength through riding tricycles and pushing and pulling objects.



Religious Education

I will learn about Celebrations and that in church on Sunday we are celebrating together with the priest. I will learn about the gifts in communion and how to receive a blessing. I will learn about the Bible and the stories we are told in church on Sunday. I will learn about giving thanks and appreciate all that is done for me and to help me.



Early Years Foundation Stage Specific Learning Areas

Mathematics

I will continue to learn and join in with a variety of number rhymes. I will begin to develop my concept of number and look for numbers in the environment. I will begin to recognise numerals and begin to count, sometimes matching objects to numerals (0 – 5). I will begin to compare groups of objects, looking for similarities and differences, for example comparing the number of legs, arms, eyes, ears an animal has. I will look at shapes and patterns in the environment. I will begin to build arrangements with 2 and 3 dimensional shapes.



Literacy

I will begin to recognise rhyming words through rhyming games and books. I will begin to learn how to handle books carefully and talk about what I can see. I will begin to communicate by making marks using a variety of media. I will be able to recognise familiar words and signs, such as my own name, familiar signs and words in the Nursery and advertising logos. I will be able to listen to stories with increasing attention and recall events and characters from the story.



Understanding the World

I will be looking at what makes us unique and different from the people in other communities. I will seek to make sense of what I hear, see, touch, smell and feel. I will represent my ideas by using a range of construction materials and recycled modelling. I will be learning about computers; the names of the various components, safety rules and how to control a mouse. I will learn about my body and how to keep healthy.



Expressive Arts and Design

I will begin to access and learn how to replace a range of equipment such as dressing up clothes in the home corner. I will learn to use props to represent my experiences for example, our healthy eating shop in the role-play corner. I will learn about different textures and sounds and capture my experiences using a range of media.



Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term in Nursery we will begin with the well-known stories 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. We will also be learning about Chinese New Year. We will then learn about being healthy which will include my body, my senses, healthy eating and exercise. To support your child's learning please encourage your child to name body parts, fruits and vegetables. You might also visit the shops and involve your child in shopping for fruit and vegetables or cooking soups or making salads. We will focus on one letter sound a week, working through the alphabet. Please encourage your child to say and recognise the letter sound.

Week Beginning	Literacy Focus – Books & Topics	Maths	Phonics (little Wandle) Focus on hearing the sound (not looking at the letter)	Other m moon
Week 1 5/1/26	'The Gingerbread Man' - Story	Show 1, 2, 3 – Subitising & showing value in different contexts	d duck	Feast of Epiphany 6.1.26
Week 2 12/1/26	Healthy Eating Non-fiction & Body Parts/Senses	Show 1, 2, 3 – Subitising & showing value in different contexts	g goat	
Week 3 19/1/26	'We're going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen	Hear and say number names	o octopus	Family Learning 23.1.26
Week 4 26/1/26	'We're going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen	Explore position and routes	c cat	
Week 5 2/2/26	Healthy Eating Non-fiction	Explore own first patterns	k kite	
Week 6 9/2/26	Chinese New Year	Revision	e elephant	Half term: 16 th - 20 st Feb

PE day for nursery is on Fridays.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Thursday.

PE	Nursery will be working on the basic fundamentals of sport, such as spatial awareness and co-ordination through gymnastics and dance. Covering skills to develop strength, flexibility, balance, agility as well as creativity.
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BAGS: Please ensure your child has a bag containing a full set of clothes (pants, socks, T shirt, sweatshirt, trousers) in a plastic bag on their peg so that they can change and be comfortable should they have an 'accident' at school. Backpacks are no longer allowed due to health and safety reasons over storage and will be returned if brought to school.

LIBRARY BOOKS: Share your child's library book with him or her each week; demonstrate how to turn pages carefully, encourage him or her to look at the pages from left to right and to talk about the pictures. Please help us by returning library books each Monday to be changed.

WINTER CLOTHES: All children must come to school with a coat. Most children enjoy spending time outside so please dress appropriately; hats, gloves, scarf. ***All items must be named clearly, in particular your child's coat.***

WATER BOTTLES/fruit – Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school each day, clearly labelled with their name. Fruit can be brought in for morning snack, please cut grapes in half.

Many thanks for your ongoing support. Mrs Williams.

