

# Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School



## Welcome to our Nursery Pack

January 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Nursery and Primary School! We are delighted to be able to offer Nursery provision in our school.

The purpose of this booklet is to inform you about the process of starting our Nursery and to give you some useful information. We will provide parents and carers with up to date learning overviews and important dates on our School website, Noticeboard and in your child's daily learning diary.

We welcome you in for visit days that can be arranged at your convenience via our school bursar. All visits are an extremely important part of the induction process to aid a calm and smooth transition where we will be able to learn everything, we need to know to become a partner in your child's learning and development. If you decide to send you child to our setting, we will arrange a parent consultation for you to meet with staff and your child's key worker in order to learn as much as we can about your child. You are your child's first and foremost educator and you know your child better than anyone possibly could. We look forward to working with you and your child!

We look forward to seeing you.  
Yours faithfully,

*Liz Kendall*

Mrs Liz Kendall  
Head teacher



## OUR NURSERY & SCHOOL VISION

*"We want our nursery and school to be a safe, secure and exciting place to learn and grow.*

*A place where children, staff, families and governors work closely together."*



## OUR NURSERY & SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our Catholic school community works with a Christian purpose:

- To promote an enthusiasm for the **enjoyment of learning**
- To provide a **broad and well-balanced curriculum**
- To challenge children **to reach their full potential**
- To learn about **God and his creation**
- To **answer Christ's call through our love for each other**
- To foster in children **independence and a sense of responsibility.**

## OUR AIMS OF THE NURSERY & SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our aims are to work together with parents and parishes to:

- Develop the Christian growth of the children by putting Christ at the centre of school life, so that the school becomes a sharing community, caring and working for everyone.
- Develop an enthusiasm and love for learning by providing an environment which allows pupils to succeed by helping them acquire basic skills at their own level and pace of learning and enabling all children to reach their highest academic standard.
- Provide children with a sound basis for High School and adult life by facilitating a rich, stimulating environment with a caring and industrious atmosphere in which each pupil is made to feel happy and secure in the knowledge that they matter.
- Encourage all our children to develop their talents and achieve their full, true potential in all curriculum areas, developing both creative and physical skills.



# OUR SCHOOL AND NURSERY

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Our Nursery and School address is:

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Nursery & Primary School  
Kellet Road  
Carnforth  
Lancs  
LA5 9LS



NURSERY & SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01524 732289

NURSERY & SCHOOL WEBSITE:

Please visit our school website at [www.olol.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.olol.lancs.sch.uk) to see some of the exciting things that the children have been doing. All the classes have their own pages as well as a Gallery that shows the things that we have been doing as a whole school family. There is also lots of interesting information for you to read!



We are also on Twitter (**OurLadyofLourd4**) and we update this with lots of photographs and information about what we are doing in different classes.



## STAFFING IN EYFS

We are very fortunate to have "outstanding" staff in EYFS and they will be working with both Reception and Nursery. All staff that work with our EYFS children are overseen by the Head Teacher – Mrs Liz Kendall. Please do not hesitate in contacting school with any suggestions or concerns that you may have.



### Key Staff in Nursery



Miss Helen Townson  
EYFS Class teacher



Mrs Sam Entwistle  
EYFS TA



Mrs Annie Atkinson  
Mrs Jo Manning  
Welfare



Mrs Liz Kendall  
Head teacher



Mrs Alison Townley  
Deputy



Mrs Janice Howard  
School Bursar

## OUR SCHOOL DAY

### SESSION TIMES

Our Nursery is open for 38 weeks of the year. The Nursery sessions are split into the morning and afternoon (see table below) and children can book full day sessions which involves an additional cost of £1 for supervision during this time.



<b>Morning session</b>	9.00- 12.00 pm	£12.00
<b>Lunch Cover</b>	12:00pm – 12:30pm	£2
<b>Afternoon Session</b>	12.30- 3.30 pm	£12.00
<b>Full Day</b>	9.00- 3.30pm	£26

Morning sessions run from 9am - 12noon.

Afternoon sessions run from 12.30pm – 3.30 pm and full day sessions are 9am - 3.30pm.

There is some flexibility with the sessions and if you would like your child to stay for a morning session and lunch or have lunch and stay for the afternoon session this is possible. Just ask we are here to help.

Lunch can be provided by school or your child can bring a packed lunch.

**Breakfast club begins at 8.00-8.55am for an additional cost of £3.00.** Please do not hesitate in contacting school for further information - we are always happy to help!

### FEES

At the beginning of each half term, you will be invoiced.

Vouchers are accepted for qualifying 3 year olds and information about this can be found on the Lancashire website:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/childcare](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/childcare)

Please contact our school office for more information.

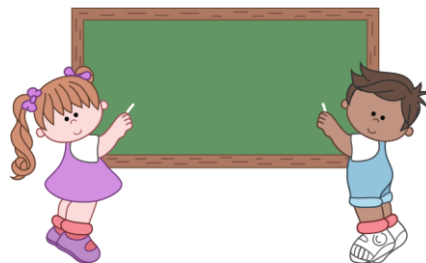


## WHAT DO WE DO?

This is an example of the types of things that may happen in the sessions. There will be times when EYFS have visitors, go on trips and also join the school to do different activities.

### MORNING SESSION:

9am	Self registration and story
9:15am	Finger Gym/Phonics
	EYFS Curriculum Learning through Play
10:30am	Snack & Chat
10.45 am	EYFS curriculum learning through play
11.45am	Tidy up time
12pm	Home time



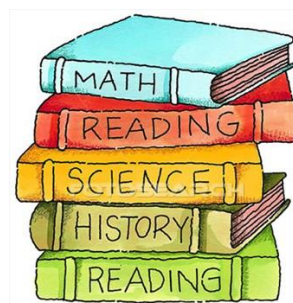
Water available throughout.

### LUNCH TIME (12.00-12.30pm)

You can send your child with a packed lunch or they are welcome to have a school dinner for an additional cost **of £2.20.**

### AFTERNOON SESSION:

12:30pm	Self registration
12.45pm	Planned play and activities (Indoors and outside)
1.15pm	Number Time
	EYFS Curriculum through play
2pm	Snack & Chat
2.15pm	EYFS curriculum learning through play
3pm	Tidy up/story
3.30pm	Home time



Water available throughout

The 'characteristics of learning' are observed and fostered to support your child's development and daily diaries will be sent home. Your child will also have a Learning Journey that records all the work that your child has been doing.

You are always welcome to come into Nursery to have a look at your child's work.



## HOME & SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We are very proud of the links established between our school and home. The partnership between the EYFS staff and parents is crucial in supporting children's learning.

*"There is good engagement with parents who are extremely positive about the support children receive in the Early Years." (Ofsted 2016)*



Informal discussions before and after Nursery are invaluable and are a great way of communicating information about your child.

Every day, your child will come home with a learning diary, which will inform you about the learning which has taken place in Nursery that day. This is for you to respond to and for us to use as a communication tool. We see each other every day, which is a great opportunity to chat about your child's learning, development or any concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have. You can phone school or make an appointment to meet me, your child's key person or any member of staff at your convenience.



Each week the children bring home a Newsletter specifically for EYFS with tasks, news, what we have been doing and what we are going to do! There is also a comment box for parents to complete about what their child has been learning about at home. A simple form will be sent out periodically that can be completed by parents showing their child's interests and hobbies that can built upon in their learning in school.



There are three parents' evenings per year, where we discuss progress and next steps in your child's development, and we can communicate daily in your child's diary. A final EYFS development progress report is given to you at the end of the school year.

Our school website will also contain Nursery information, and this will have important dates and information for you to keep up to date.



## INDUCTION

**You are welcome to visit school any time and to discuss the induction process as we want your child to feel that they are familiar with the Nursery surroundings and to know their key person before starting.**

**You and your child can come to drop in for 'stay and play sessions' and to see the Nursery classroom. This is the time when you can book a 'parent consultation' with staff in the Nursery and we can ask questions to give us as much information about your child's interests, needs and hobbies.**

- To give parents and children the opportunity to become familiar with staff and the Nursery environment
- To consider the individual needs of every child, taking into account previous experience
- To provide a smooth transition between Home, Nursery and School (if the child continues at Our Lady of Lourdes for their primary school education).
- To establish and maintain good communication between home and school
- To provide the child with a confident start to their pre-school experience



## OUR CURRICULUM

We follow the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' Curriculum. This is the same curriculum as we follow in our Reception Class. We use Development Matters to plan for children's learning to ensure we plan for next steps in development.

Our recent Ofsted Inspection summarises EYFS and comments that

"Children make good progress due to a very engaging curriculum. As a result, they are well prepared for the next stage in their education". (Ofsted 2016)

### The EYFS curriculum is based on seven areas of learning :

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

**Communication and Language**

**Physical Development**

**Literacy**

**Mathematics**

**Understanding the World**

**Expressive Arts and Design**



#### PRIME AREAS:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**  
Self -confidence and self- awareness, Managing feelings and behaviour and Making relationships.
- **Physical Development:**  
Moving and Handling and Health and Self Care.
- **Communication and Language:**  
Listening and attention and Speaking and Understanding.

#### SPECIFIC AREAS:

- **Literacy:**  
Reading and Writing.
- **Mathematics:**  
Number and Shape, Space and Measures.
- **Understanding of the world:**  
People and Communities, The World and Technology.
- **Expressive Art & Design:**  
Exploring and using media and materials and Being Imaginative.



## Putting Principles into Practice!

We are 'laying the foundations' for successful and happy learning throughout your child's school life and beyond. We are teaching your child about how to learn, and we want them to know that learning is exciting and fun! Our activities are carefully planned to help your child to develop as a whole person – as someone who will love to learn. We consider the whole child and see them "precious in our eyes".

### A Unique child:

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We embrace your child's unique personalities and welcome difference.

### Positive Relationships:

Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

### Enabling Environments:

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning. Every area in class is an area for our children to explore and develop their skills, testing, using and applying their existing knowledge to find out more.

### Learning and Development:

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

Your child will have a 'learning journey' file to store and track all of these precious moments.

"Learning Journeys tell the story and identify next steps in learning."

(Ofsted 2016)

*To be effective, our early years curriculum is carefully structured. It has*

- provision for the different starting points from which children develop their learning, building on what they can already do following 'development matters';
- relevant and appropriate content that matches the different levels of children's needs;
- planned and purposeful activities that provide opportunities for teaching and learning, both indoors and outdoors;
- opportunities for children to engage in activities planned by adults and also those that they plan or initiate themselves. Children do not make a distinction between 'play' and 'work'. Children need time to become engrossed, work in depth and complete activities.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In Religious Education we learn

- about ourselves
- about respect and respecting others
- awe and wonder of God's world

We listen to music, dance, and eat food from different cultures and use resources in role-play [such as clothes, cooking implements, vegetables, badges, symbols, candles and toys that reflect a variety of cultures.

We invite visitors from a range of different religious and ethnic groups.



## PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:



Successful personal, social and emotional development is critical for very young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning.

It is therefore crucial that we provide the experience and support to enable your child to develop a positive sense of themselves.

At Our Lady of Lourdes Nursery your child will be encouraged to -

- ✓ respect themselves and others
- ✓ learn about other cultures and develop a positive self-image
- ✓ learn about the importance of friendships
- ✓ develop a positive disposition to learn
- ✓ be encouraged to do things for him/herself.



## COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE:

To give all children the best opportunities for effective development and learning in communication and language, we will provide opportunities for children to communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings and build up relationships with adults and each other. Being able to use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events is crucial in developing your child's literacy skills.

## LITERACY:

Children will share and enjoy a wide range of rhymes, music, songs, poetry, stories and non-fiction books.

They will experiment with writing for themselves through mark making, personal writing symbols and conventional script and will be engaged in high quality phonics activities to develop their knowledge and understanding of letters and sounds. Children will learn to read and write simple sentences using skills of segmenting and blending.



## MATHEMATICS:

This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns, estimating, making connections, recognising relationships and working with numbers, shapes, space and measures.

Mathematical understanding will be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers. Every opportunity is seized to use mathematical vocabulary and to solve mathematical problems in real-life situations, where your child can apply their mathematical thinking!



## **UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD:**

In this area children are finding out more and more about the world they live in and the people they encounter. Children acquire a range of skills, knowledge and attitudes related to knowledge and understanding of the world in many ways.

They learn skills necessary to this area of learning by using a range of tools, for example computers, magnifiers, gardening tools, scissors, hole punchers and screwdrivers. They learn by encountering creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments and in real life situations, for example in the shop or in the garden. They will work with a range of materials in their activities, for example wet and dry sand, coloured and clear liquids, compost, gravel and clay.

Your child will be involved in exploration and Investigation activities (Science), Designing and making (DT), ICT, develop a sense of time (History) and place (Geography) and develop an understanding of their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people.



At Our Lady of Lourdes Nursery, we plan for all children to participate in the activities provided. We encourage both boys and girls to use construction equipment, engage in role-play, use ICT and undertake investigation and design tasks equally.

Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities will be provided with access to appropriate resources.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:**

Your child will be given the opportunities for the use of ICT [Information and Communication Technology] to develop skills across all the areas of learning. For example, they will use:

- Ipads
- a paint program to develop mark making,
- video and television to learn about the world
- a digital camera to record and explore their own and each other's work and,
- various voice recording devices.

We also encourage children to show each other how to use ICT equipment.

At Our lady of Lourdes Nursery, we view ICT as an integral part of the whole curriculum, which opens up an exciting adventure through which children can access learning and make sense of the world around them.

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS & DESIGN

Creativity is fundamental to successful learning. Being creative enables children to make connections between one area of learning and another and so extend their understanding. This area of learning includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play.

We will give your child the best opportunity for effective creative development by:

- ✓ creating a wide range of activities that children can respond to by using many senses
- ✓ giving opportunities for children to express their ideas through a wide range of types of representation
- ✓ enabling physical contact with artefacts, materials, spaces and movement
- ✓ providing opportunities for children to experience sound through physical contact with instruments and other sources of sound.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Physical development in the foundation stage is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Physical development has two other important aspects. It helps children gain confidence in what they do and enables them to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active. Effective physical development helps children develop a positive sense of well-being.

Daily Finger and Dough Gym exercises improve pencil grip and control of tools in readiness for mark making which leads to their formation of letters.

Your child will be introduced to appropriate physical challenges, both indoors and outdoors, and given the opportunity to use a wide range of equipment.



## STATEMENT ON PLAY

Play underpins all development and learning for young children. It is through play that they develop intellectually, creatively, physically, socially and emotionally. Through play, in a secure but challenging environment with effective adult support, children can:

- explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world;
- Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills;
- learn how to understand the need for rules;
- take risks and make mistakes;
- think creatively and imaginatively;
- communicate with others as they investigate or solve problems

Sometimes play may be quiet and reflective, sometimes energetic and sometimes conflict may occur as a natural process of what is happening. This conflict enables children to develop vital “negotiating” skills which in turn support their social and emotional development. Through play children are actively learning in the following ways:

- It enables friendships to develop.
- Planned play gives the child access to a wider curriculum.
- It enables the practitioner to understand the child and put them in context.
- It provides the practitioner with an understanding of where the child is at
- It enables purposeful planning for the next step.



## THE ROLE OF THE PRACTITIONER IN PLANNED PLAY

Practitioners may initiate a play situation (e.g. by taking part in role play as a patient in the doctor's surgery) and then withdraw to observe the children extending ideas and discussing roles.

Effective teaching through play will include the following: -

- Planning activities which are challenging but achievable
- Modelling positive behaviours.
- Using language which is rich and using correct grammar.
- Interacting with children and supporting them in a way that positively affects their attitudes to learning.
- Using carefully framed questions.
- Planning the indoor and outdoor environment carefully.
- Assessing the child's development in an activity.
- Informing parents about planned play.

‘Learning through play is supported by children. It is their natural response to the environment around them. When children are manipulating objects, acting out roles or experimenting with different materials they are engaged in learning through play. Play allows children to actively construct, challenge and expand their own understandings through making connections to prior experiences thereby opening the door to new learning. Intentional play based learning enables children to investigate, ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking.’ (CMEC)



## **OUTDOOR PLAY**

### **Whatever the Weather!**

As part of our aim to encourage group interaction and co-operation as well as the development of gross motor skills we have placed huge emphasis on outdoor play and quality outdoor experiences.

This area will be used on a regular basis and developed throughout the year. We



have been very lucky to have our new outdoor area built specifically for EYFS.

Risk assessments are reviewed regularly. Equipment is always checked before use.

We are blessed with such beautiful school grounds, which will be shared with the Nursery and the grounds will help to facilitate and create learning outdoors.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Child Protection Information**

Because of day-to-day contact with children, schools are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. Parents should be aware, therefore, that where it appears to a member of school staff that a child may have been abused, the school is required, as part of the local Child Protection Procedures, to report their concern to the Children's Integrated Services Department immediately.

### **School Photography**

From time to time photographs may be taken of the children in the nursery for display purposes, records of achievement, the school brochure or for publication in the local press. You may wish to see the full school policy on digital photography. If you do not wish your child to have their photograph taken then please inform the school in writing.



### **Collecting Children from Nursery**

We will ask all parents to make sure that we have a current list of people who are able to collect their child from school. We will not let a child leave with anyone if we have not been told. This is to ensure that all children are kept safe, so please make sure that you have completed a current data form with the correct information.

### **Medical Information**

Medical forms will be given to you prior to your child starting Nursery as part of the data forms. All information given will remain confidential and medicines/inhalers etc can be discussed with staff.



### Reporting sickness

If your child is ill and cannot come to Nursery, please let school know by a quick phone call to the school office. If we have not heard from you by 9.30am on the first day of your child's absence, in the interest of the safety of your child we will contact you.

### Water bottles

Research has shown that children who drink plenty of water throughout the day are more able to concentrate. Please send your child to Nursery with a labelled water bottle. We would prefer no juice to be sent in as water is best for hydration.



### CONTACT

Finally, we've tried to make this a helpful booklet to guide you through the EYFS process.

It is possible that we have overlooked something which you think could have been included. If that is the case, please would you help us to get it right for the future – just speak to either Mrs Kendall or any of the staff in EYFS.

We are always happy to help.