



Nursery Newsletter 1

September 2026



Hello everyone!

Welcome to Nursery, we are so excited that you are joining Sudbury Squirrel Class. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child this year, especially if you are one of our new starters!

Settling in...

This half term will be focusing on your child having a smooth transition into life at St John's. We want your child to feel happy and safe as soon as possible! We will encourage your child to explore the provision independently, confidently and to start building relationships with staff and other children. We want to get to know your child personally and adapted our provision to best suit their needs. We will be working hard to establish our key routines, so your child knows what to expect and when. Starting school is such a huge milestone and we will be there to support you and your child, every step of the way!

We know your child's first few weeks can be daunting, as well as exciting. We will keep you informed of how your child settles in. It is our priority that they feel safe and happy. Keep checking Class Dojo for any photographs of your child getting busy in the nursery. If you are unable to use Class Dojo, please let a member of the Nursery team know as soon as possible.

Our EYFS Team...



Hello, I am Mrs Richardson, I am the Early Years Lead. I teach every day in Reception.



Hello, I am Mrs Gallen, I am the Nursery Teacher. You will see me every day.



Hello, I am Mrs Cresswell, I will be working in Nursery Wednesday to Friday.



Hello, I am Mrs May, I will be working in Nursery Monday and Tuesday.

Toileting and Clothing...

We are really pleased that so many children are able to use the toilet independently, but we also understand that some children may struggle with this or have the occasional accident. We do have school spare clothes, but some children prefer to be changed back into their own clothes if they have an accident or get messy. You can provide us with a named bag of spare clothes, clearly labelled, to help with any accidents.

If you're struggling with toilet training, you may find these websites helpful:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/toilet-teaching.html#:~:text=Establish%20a%20routine,he%20or%20she%20wants%20to.>
<https://www.eric.org.uk/guide-to-potty-training>

General notices...

- Please bring your child on time for their sessions each day and try to be prompt for collection too.
 - **Morning times:**
Gates open: 8:45am until 8:50am, if the gate is locked, please go to the main office.
Collection time: 11:40am until 11:45am.
 - **Afternoon times:**
Gate opens: 12:15pm until 12:20pm, if the gate is locked, please go to the main office.
Collection time: 3:10pm until 3:15pm. Please be ready for the gate opening at 3:10pm.

We understand that life does not always go to plan, so please ring the school office if you are running late. If you are late, your child will be taken to the school office ready for collection.

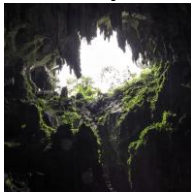
Water bottles, spare clothes and slipper

- Please make sure your child comes to nursery with a named drinks bottle, ideally containing water. Your child will also need to bring a bag with a pack of wet wipes, a full set of **named** dry clothes, including socks, pants, trousers and a top, especially if they are only just starting toilet training.
- Nursery children can also bring their own **named** slippers to wear inside.
- Please make sure your child has a suitable coat and wellies for outdoor play (wellies can be left at school for rainy days).
- If your child is unwell and will not be attending Nursery, please let the school office know. If your child has sickness and diarrhoea, they will be unable to come to Nursery for 48 hours after the last episode.

PROJECT

This half term we have a main project 'Lets Explore' and a companion project 'Build it Up'.

Lets Explore



This project teaches children about the environments that they share with others, including their homes, school and places in the local community.

Build it Up



This mini project teaches children about structures and materials and gives them the opportunity to work in groups to create collaborative structures.

Phonics

In Nursery we focus on Phase 1 Phonics. What is Phase 1 Phonics?

This is the first stage of the phonics teaching programme. At this stage, it is primarily to develop your child's speaking and listening skills. It also encourages children to listen attentively; enhance their vocabulary; speak confidently to adults and other children; discriminate phonemes; reproduce sounds they hear and much more.

The seven aspects to Phase 1 Phonics:

Aspect 1 – Environmental sounds

Aspect 2 – Instrumental sounds

Aspect 3 – Body percussion

Aspect 4 – Rhythm and rhyme

Aspect 5 – Alliteration

Aspect 6 – Voice sound

Aspect 7 – Oral blending and segmenting





This term our 'Pathway to Write' unit is based around the book 'The Gingerbread Man'. We will be hunting for him, cooking a gingerbread man, creating our own gingerbread man and finding his missing buttons and much more!

We are learning to:

- Join in with songs and rhymes, copying sounds, rhythms, tunes and tempo.
- Sing songs and say rhymes independently, for example, singing whilst playing.
- Enjoy sharing books with an adult.
- Paying attention and respond to the pictures or the words.
- Enjoy drawing freely.



Maths

In Nursery, we follow the 'Master the Curriculum' scheme as it is designed to help the children towards maths mastery and have fun whilst doing so. This term we will be learning about colours, matching and sorting, your child should be able to:

- ❖ Say 1 number for each item in order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- ❖ Shows awareness of shape similarities and differences between objects.
- ❖ Make comparisons between objects related to size
- ❖ Compare sizes using gestures and language: 'bigger/little/small'

Pack lunches...

If your child is staying for their lunch, please check the packaging as we have nut allergies in the school. We would appreciate you thinking about portion size as the children only have 30 minutes before the afternoon session begins, we would recommend that you only pack 5 or less items. Here are a few suggestions for you:

- Two squares of a sandwich
- A yogurt
- Fruit ready to eat
- A small pot of vegetables washed and ready to eat
- A small pot of pasta
- A small wrap cut in half, with the filling that your child likes

Try to avoid unhealthy foods such as chocolate bars, biscuits and crisps. The website below gives you a few alternative healthier ideas.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Nursery website...

Please remember to check the nursery website to see what your child has been learning and find any letters that have been sent out – follow the link or scan the QR code. <https://www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/nursery/>. We update this weekly.

Don't forget to sign up for the school weekly email, which can be found on the 'Contact Us' part of the website.



- Thursday 15th October – Whole school photo (more information to follow)
- Wednesday 21st October - Stay and Play
- Thursday 22nd October – School closes at 3:30pm
- Friday 23rd October – INSET day
- Monday 2nd November – Children return to school

And finally.... Please remember, our door is always open. Any problems or concerns, please do not hesitate to book a time to come and talk to us!

Mrs Gallen