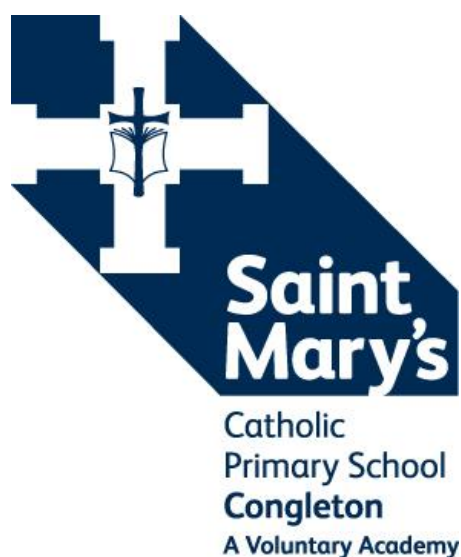


**SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
CONGLETON**

NURSERY INFORMATION BOOKLET 2025 - 2026



*“Saint Mary’s Catholic Primary School is a Christ centred learning community,
where all are safe, valued and loved.”*

Dear Parents and Carers

My name is Miss Lankester and I will be your child's class teacher this year. I am really looking forward to working with your child and family during the following year and being a part of their early steps in education. Nursery is an exciting time of new beginnings, making friends and learning lots of new and interesting things each and every day. Our days will be filled with lots of stimulating, playful experiences and opportunities for learning and growing.

We operate an open-door policy so if you have any questions, feedback or comments, please feel free to speak to me at the beginning or end of the nursery session.

Miss Lankester

Administration and change of sessions

Nursery administration is undertaken by the school office during term time. If you have any queries in relation to invoicing, changes, funding, or applications for places, please contact the school office on 01260 274690 or email admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk

Unfortunately, requests for ad hoc changes are very difficult to accommodate and can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances. Such requests should be made in writing by emailing the Headteacher:

admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk

Our daily routine

8.35am - 8.45am - Independent learning and self-registration

8:45am – 8:55am: Registration

9:00am - 10am: Small group phonics / free-flow provision

10:00am - 10:15am: Story time

10:15am - 10:30am: Snack time

10:30am – 10:45am: Maths

10:45am – 11:30am: Free-flow provision

11:40am - 12:10am: Lunchtime

12:10pm - 12:20pm - Registration

12:20pm - 1:30pm – Outdoor provision time

1:30pm - 2pm: Literacy / Understanding the World

2pm – 2:15pm: Snack

2:15pm - 2:45pm – Indoor provision time

2:45pm – 3pm – Dough Disco

3pm - 3:10pm - Home time routine and story

It is vitally important to arrive and collect your child on time; we really want them to make the most of their time with us. It also helps them to learn the necessity for good timekeeping, which is so important throughout their time at school. If someone other than yourself, or the regular person who collects your child, is picking up your child at the end of the session, then you must phone the school or let a member of staff know.

What to bring each day

Filled water bottle

Healthy snack

Spare clothes

Suitable clothing (i.e., hats and scarves in cold weather)

Curriculum and Topics

Our nursery follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is the government framework for children aged 0 - 5. It gives all professionals a set of common principles and commitments to deliver quality early education and childcare experiences to all children.

We are flexible with the topics we teach, reflecting and following the children's interests. We use quality texts in Nursery to engage the children in their learning and ensure they receive a wide range of learning experiences.

Phonics and Early Reading

Early phonics teaching in Nursery and at the start of Reception focuses on developing children's listening skills. In Phase 1 phonics, children are taught about:

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Body percussion (e.g. clapping and stamping)
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending and segmenting (e.g. hearing that d-o-g makes 'dog')

Typical activities for teaching Phase 1 phonics include 'listening' walks, playing and identifying instruments, action songs, learning rhymes and playing games like I Spy. This phase is intended to develop children's listening, vocabulary and speaking skills.

Toys

Please do not bring toys from home into Nursery. Treasures can easily be lost or misplaced which can be very upsetting for the children. Occasionally, teachers may ask for items from home to be brought in to support learning.

School Food Policy

The school has a “School Food Policy” in line with DfE requirements and a copy of the policy can be found on the school website.

In packed lunches, as an unhealthy choice, crisps (and similar snacks) may only be eaten twice a week at school, in line with deep fried items on our hot school meal menu. To monitor this, crisps will only be allowed on Wednesdays and Fridays. Sweets, chocolate bars and chewing gum are not permitted in school. We are a nut-free school, so please ensure no items containing nuts are brought into school.

During each session, we set aside time for children to have a drink and a snack. We provide milk or water for the children to drink, and fruit or vegetables e.g. apples and carrots in the afternoon.

Toast is available and is charged at 30p per day, this is paid via Arbor accounts half termly in advance. If your child does not have toast, please send a healthy snack for morning break. We sometimes have additional treat options on Friday – you will be notified of this via Arbor.

Clothing

To prepare for school life, we ask that children wear PE kit for Nursery. This comprises of a navy T shirt, navy shorts, navy sweatshirt and navy joggers. Blue These can be plain or with the school logo on the T shirt and sweatshirt, which are available from DP Sportswear, Bromley Road, Congleton:

<https://www.dpsportswear.co.uk/shop/Saint-Marys-Catholic-Primary-School-c174415038>

Blue and white checked school uniform dresses can also be worn in the summer term. Please ensure all clothing is labelled.

As children play often play outside and can get messy in activities such as painting, please ensure that they always have suitable warm and waterproof outdoor clothing and footwear. We ask that all children bring a puddle suit and a pair of wellies to keep at Nursery.