



St Joseph's Pre-School



Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this information will be useful to you and your child to support understanding of our routines and to help develop a sense of belonging to our Pre-School. We use songs and rhymes within the session and ask that you share this information with your child to help them settle when they start session with us.

Developing good listening and attention is an important skill for all children. When we shake the tambourine we say 'Freeze' this means, **STOP** what you are doing, **LOOK UP** and **LISTEN** to instructions. For example, tidy up time, story time or time to line up '**one behind the other**'. You will also find our 'Golden Rules' which give an idea of our expectations.

We invite you to share the new skills that your child is learning on their journey through Pre-School. When an informal chat at drop off / collection is not suitable, please request an appointed time to discuss thoughts/ concerns where all questions will be welcomed. We book settling in chats for new starters and thereafter, a meeting at the end of term, which takes place with your child's Key Person.

Hello Songs when children arrive we sing (supported with signing):

Hello everyone, how are you

Hello everyone, how are you

Hello everyone, how are you

How are you today?

or



Say Hello, (*repeat 3 times*)

Clap your hands, (*repeat 3 times*)

Tap your knees, (*repeat 3 times*)

Say Hello, (*repeat 3 times*)

After the hello song we will often break into small Key Person groups (colour groups) to talk about the day and what exciting things the children can explore within their play environment. We change the focus of learning, weekly which it is often based around the story of the week. Information about planning activities can be found on the school website:

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Curriculum-Overview/EYFS-CURRICULUM-OVERVIEW-v24-25.pdf>

There are also information boards located outside the Pre-School gates.

We recognise how **songs and music help the development of language, thinking and memory**. Motivating children using songs, helps stimulate new connections which **also support maths development**. Below are some familiar songs/ rhymes that we sing in Pre-School.



Open them, Shut them – with actions

This song is used to gain the children's attention when sitting at circle time.

Open them, shut them,
Open them, shut them,
Give a little clap.

Open them, shut them,
Open them, shut them,
Put them in your lap.

Roll them, roll them,
Roll them round like this
Wave them, wave them,
Blow a little kiss.

Open them, shut them,
Open them, shut them, to your shoulders fly
Them like little birdies let them flutter to the sky
Falling, falling, almost to the ground.

Quickly pick them up again
And roll them round and round
Faster, faster, faster, faster
Slower, slower, slower, slower (whisper)
STOP!



Snack Time

Jesus love is very wonderful,
Jesus love is very wonderful,
Jesus love is very wonderful,
Oh wonderful love
So high you can't get over it
So low you can't get under it
So wide you can't get round it
Oh wonderful love.



Lunchtime prayer

Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the world so sweet
Thank you for the birds that sing
Thank you Lord for everything



You can encourage your child to share the rhymes and song that we frequently sing:

- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Incy Wincy Spider
- The Grand Old Duke of York
- Baa Baa Black Sheep
- Humpty Dumpty
- Jack and Jill
- Tommy Thumb
- Old McDonald Had a Farm
- 5 Little Ducks
- 5 Current Buns
- The Wheels On The Bus
- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- It's Raining It's Pouring
- Fire Truck
- I'm A Little Tea Pot
- I Am The Music Man
- 3 Little Men in a Flying Saucer
- 10 Fat Sausages Frying in a Pan
- Sleeping Bunnies
- Dingle Dangle Scarecrow
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat



You can encourage your child to share the games that we frequently play:

- Choose A Partner
- Roll The Ball
- Ring A Ring A Roses
- Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush
- What's The Time Mr Wolf
- Okey, Cokey
- The Farmer Wants A Wife



Tidy Up Time

Tidy up time, tidy up time.
Ring the bell, ring the bell.
Everybody help now, everybody help now.
Toys away, toys away.



Our Golden Rules



We walk in our Pre-School



We look after our toys and help at tidy up time

We use sensible voices



We do good sitting and listening



We share and take turns

We are kind to each other

We play with everyone

We are good helpers

We keep safe



Example of a morning session at Pre-School

8.40am Pre School doors open	Arrival- children organise their belongings; snack pot in the tray and hang their coat. They post their name and then find an activity of interest which are on the tables.
9:10 – 9.30am Carpet time	When children are settled the tambourine sounds; it's time to come together to sing hello and say our morning prayer. We introduce themes, activities and explore children's interests. In large or colour groups- we read the book of the week.
9:30am Snack Time	Children sing to Jesus wash hands and sit together for snack time which is a piece of fruit. They are able to pour themselves a cup of milk or water and then wash their cup and help clean the tables.
9.40am Free Flow Play	Free flow - children are free to explore. They are able to help themselves to a drink of water at any time. Planned activities for learning are supported by key staff.
10.55am –Tidy up time warning!	Tambourine reminder – 5 minutes until tidy up time
11am- Tidy up song	
11.05am- Book Time	Soft music plays to indicate independent book time.
11:15 Maths	Large or small group maths focused activities.
11:30 Preparing for Lunch / going home	Lunch time prayer. Children are encouraged to be independent; to collect their belongings/put their coats on.
11.40am	Morning only children are dismissed and children staying for lunch go to the main school hall. Children arrive if they are booked for lunch club and afternoon session.

Example of an afternoon session at Pre-School

12.10pm	Afternoon children arrive. Children who have stayed for lunch club from the morning session are dismissed.
12:15pm – Carpet time	The tambourine sounds for children to come together to sing hello to the children who have joined us for the afternoon. We introduce themes, activities and explore children's interests. In large or colour groups- we read the book of the week.
12.20 Free Flow Play	Free flow - children are free to explore. They are able to help themselves to a drink of water at any time. Planned activities for learning are supported by key staff.
2:25pm - Tidy up time warning!	Tambourine reminder - 5 minutes until tidy up time.
2:30pm	Tidy up time
2.35pm- Book Time	The music indicates that it's book time/ phonics.
2.45pm- Group Time	Story time / literacy/ singing / movement / ring games
3pm	Preparing to go home. Children are encouraged to be independent; to collect their belongings/put their coats on.
3.10pm	Children are dismissed from the class room door.