

# St Bridget's School Nursery



# Nursery 2021-22



## St. Bridget's Nursery Class

St. Bridget's Nursery is a happy, vibrant and special part of our school where children have the opportunity to grow and develop through a curriculum based on both indoor and outdoor learning. Our Nursery has its own entrance at the side of the school across the front playground, with lockers for all children, toilets and changing facilities. There is a secure fenced outdoor area with a large canopy and play equipment for children to access continuously throughout the day. We welcome our Nursery children as part of our whole school community, where they interact with children in the school, are involved in whole school events and included in dinnertime with the Infants.

We have a fully qualified teacher, with many years of 'Early Years' experience, as well as a Senior Teaching Assistant and two other full time teaching assistants. Our staff ensure each child's individual needs are met in a nurturing and caring environment.



## **General Information**

Our contact details are:

St Bridget's Catholic Primary School  
St Bridget's Lane  
Egremont  
Cumbria  
CA22 2BD

**Telephone:** 01946 820320

**Email:** [admin@st-bridgets-pri.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-bridgets-pri.cumbria.sch.uk)

**School website:** <http://www.st-bridgets-pri.cumbria.sch.uk>

**Facebook:** [St. Bridget's Catholic Primary School](#)

**Head teacher:** Mrs Suzanne Smith

**Chair of Governors:** Mr Paul Farran

## Welcome from the Headteacher

We are a warm, welcoming school where every child is at the heart of everything we do. We aim to nurture and nourish all children with the learning and skills they need to develop into kind, caring and compassionate people of the future.

We pride ourselves on our strong ethos and values, such as love, respect and honesty, which underpin everything we do. All staff at St. Bridget's are highly experienced and, lucky for us, have worked in our school for many years. They understand the different complexities and needs of our children and adapt accordingly so every child is loved and valued.

The behaviour in our school is exemplary and children are taught to understand how to show respect to others and compassion to those more vulnerable.

A strong partnership between home and school is an invaluable union which we hope to forge throughout your child's time at our school. We offer many opportunities for parents to come into school to get involved.

We offer not only an education for your child but other exciting opportunities for them to build life skills.

We also provide wraparound care to allow for times when parents need to drop their child/ren off at school early or need them to stay after school. Breakfast club runs from 7.00am and afterschool club is available until 5pm.

We value feedback from our parents and always strive to solve any problems as soon as possible.

I look forward to us growing together with your child in creating a happy, stimulating and memorable time at St. Bridget's.

Suzanne Smith

Headteacher

## Meet the Staff



Mrs Palmer  
Nursery Teacher



Miss Stephenson  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Smith  
Headteacher



Mrs Parr  
Business Administrator



Miss Foxwell  
Apprentice Teaching Assistant

## Admissions

We welcome children from the age of 2 years up until they are ready to move to Reception class.

## Fees

A significant number of two year olds are now eligible for free childcare. Your family must meet one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit, provided the annual gross income is no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- If the child is looked after by the Local Authority

If you think you might be eligible for free childcare we can help you apply for this or you can apply online at [www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)

### For children aged 3 and 4 years old:

All children are currently entitled to 15 hours of free childcare per week from the first term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

For some children this may increase to 30 hours. Parents can apply for this entitlement if:

- They are working in paid employment, are self-employed or have a zero hour contract and earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Living Wage rate and that either parent does not exceed an income of more than £100,000 per annum.

Parents can find out more information and apply for up to 30 hours free childcare, as well as tax free childcare (for working families with children under 12 years and under 17 years, if disabled) online at: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Further information regarding all matters in relation to childcare and the providers available in Cumbria can be sought through Cumbria County Council's Children Family Information Service Tel: 03457 125 737 Email: [childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk)

### **For those who are not eligible for free childcare, our fees are as follows:**

Morning session: £12

Afternoon session: £12

Lunchtime session, including hot meal: £3

## Sessions

Children who have funded places will have fixed sessions, either a morning or afternoon or a combination of both. This is to ensure that they receive their full entitlement and we will negotiate this with you.

Parents who are paying for sessions can book a regular place in Nursery. All fees are payable in full when booking and must be booked by lunchtime on the Friday of the week before. If fees are not paid your child may risk losing their place. If a child is booked onto a session and is absent you will still be charged for the session as we have to plan adult:child ratios for the week ahead.

We are flexible for those who might need to book extra paid sessions, due to work commitments or for other reasons. It is important we are given as much notice as possible to ensure that a place is available.

Many employers now offer childcare vouchers which is a means of tax relief against childcare fees. These vouchers are provided through agencies and you will need to provide our registration details to the agency that your employer uses. If you are paying fees using nursery vouchers we will agree a payment plan with you

## Learning at Home

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages. As a primary care provider you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

To facilitate this we use Class Dojo to communicate with parents. Here you can see pictures of what the children have been doing each week, receive the Nursery weekly newsletter and message the class teacher directly. A weekly homework task is also set on there on a Friday. Parents can then send photos of the children completing the task at home. We encourage you to discuss and complete the tasks set together. Tasks will relate to work being carried out in school, giving your child opportunities to further practise their speaking and listening skills, phonics and mathematics.

To support this, we also produce a 'Learning Journey Book' within the classroom that records your child's learning and achievements during school. The children are familiar with these books and they represent both child-initiated activities and directed tasks. These are always available for you to look through. We also encourage you to contribute to these by making small observations at home. These can be recorded on our 'WOW cards' which will be sent out to parents. When your child brings it back into class we will celebrate his/her achievements with the rest of the class. This includes things such as if you have heard your child counting to 10, if they can write their name, have achieved a sports medal or reward or they can ride their bike.

We provide many other opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their children's education. These include:

- Educational Visits where parent-helpers are invited
- Sports events
- Regular newsletters and text messages
- Class web pages and Facebook page updated regularly with news, topic webs and photos

Most importantly our family ethos is central to our school and as such, we operate an 'Open-Door Policy' where parents are encouraged to meet with staff to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity. Mrs Palmer is usually available at 8:45am and 3:15pm, to answer any questions when the door is open.



Phone calls to the school office are most welcome, where Mrs Parr will offer assistance, or will arrange an appointment with members of staff, if requested.

## **Preparing Your Child for School**

It will make starting school much easier and happier if they are independent and can do many things for themselves.

### **What should he/she be able to do?**

Can he/she ...

Age 3+

- Dress and undress themselves?
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there?
- Tidy up after himself/herself?
- Recognise their name? Please tell your child's teacher if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed himself/herself?
- Share toys and equipment?
- Handle a pencil?
- Sing some nursery rhymes?
- Practise counting to 10?
- Listen well and follow simple instructions?

Age 2

- Beginning to have a go at dressing and undressing themselves such as putting on their shoes or wellies?
- Going to the toilet with adult support?
- Feed himself/herself?
- Sharing with others with support?
- Join in with nursery rhymes?
- Starting to tidy things away?
- Can listen for a short time to an adult and be focussed?

## How can I help my child prepare for school?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes longer for them to get ready.
- Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress free time to get ready for school.
- Never threaten them with school!! Be positive. Show it to them as an enjoyable experience.

## What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws, etc.
- Get them used to: pencils, crayons, felt pens, chinks, paints, play dough, scissors.
- Share stories, books and rhymes. Read to them.
- Count everything and share things out.
- Use lots of one-to-one correspondence – cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for each person.
- Talk to them all the time. Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for. Talk about what they see when they are out and about. Watch people work and discuss what they are doing.



## The Nursery day

A typical morning Nursery session is timetable as below. This would be the same for the afternoon session too. The afternoon session starts at 12:15pm until 3:15pm.

8:45 a.m.                      Settling in class, self registration and choosing a job in the areas.

9:00 a.m.                      Weather and days of the week songs

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.            Maths or Literacy and Phonics class session

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.        Free-flow activities, adult and child focussed tasks  
(From 10:30- Outdoor provision is available too)

11:30 – 11:40 a.m.        Topic class session

11:40 – 11:45 p.m.        Story and song time

11:45 Noon                    Home time and Lunch



## **Morning and Afternoon Procedures**

Children are brought into school via the Nursery class playground, which is across the front playground and through the outdoor fenced area. Children and their parents are invited into the classroom from 8:45 and make sure their child is settled. However, we do ask that you please leave by 8:55am to enable us to start our activities promptly. This is the time the door will be closed. The afternoon session will start at 12:15pm.

## **Collecting your child**

At the end of the day you are able to access the Nursery class fenced playground to collect your child. The children will be handed over at the classroom door by a member of staff. It is vital that you inform us if someone different is collecting your child. If we are unsure, we will keep hold of your child until we are able to contact you. If your child finishes at the end of the morning session or comes in at the start of the afternoon session they will come into Nursery through the front entrance.

### **First Day at School**

- Arrive on time.
- Leave cheerfully.
- Don't linger about looking through windows (first day tears are nothing to worry about!).

## School Dinners and Snack time

Mrs Nicholson prepares hot meals for us every day in our school kitchen. A menu is sent to parents each week and a copy is displayed on the kitchen noticeboard in the hall.

Nursery children are welcome to stay for lunch at a cost of £3 each day, including a hot meal from 11:45 until 12:15.

OUR SCHOOL IS A NUT-FREE AND KIWI-FREE ZONE. We have children in school who have nut and kiwi allergies. We ask you, please, never to send any nuts/nut products or kiwis into school.

Children also have the option of fruit during free choice provision. We do encourage children to try a range of healthy foods as part of the curriculum so please be sure to let us know if your child has an allergy to any foodstuffs.

Children are encouraged to bring in a bottle of water with their name on it. **As we have to meet food standards for schools this must be WATER and NOT juice or flavoured water.**

The bottles are kept in the classroom and the children have access to them at all times.

The bottle will be returned to you each day for washing and refilling. All children will be provided with a drink at lunchtime as part of the Universal Free School Meal Offer.

## Key Person

During the week when your child is at school we have a dedicated Key Person time. This is when your child is free to share anything they want to about home or school in a circle time. The Key Person for your child will be either the Teacher or a Teaching Assistant in the Nursery class. This will be a time when children can share any worries or concerns and feel safe to do so in the session. They will also be made aware that they can ask an adult for help or comfort. This time is also a time to share any good news they have with the adult and their peers.

## Learning through play in the Early Years Foundation Stage

### **Session times:**

Morning – 8:45am to 11:45am

Afternoon session – 12:15pm to 3:15pm

Lunch session – 11:45am to 12:15pm

At St Bridget's, whilst children are involved in self-directed learning, they move freely between indoor and outdoor areas using the resources which best meet their needs. The aim of both indoor and outdoor play is to provide a stimulating environment for children's learning in all areas of the Early Years curriculum.

Outdoor play is essential for all aspects of a child's development. As with indoor learning, the outdoor classroom can provide children with experiences which enable them to develop in the seven learning areas.



The provision and planning for indoor and outdoor play, must reflect the range of experiences and develop interests of the children. The adults in the learning environment are actively involved with children in their games and activities, where appropriate, and are not solely in a supervisory role.

Our Nursery room is where the Nursery are taught. We have a carpet area where the children access whole class teaching and focussed group work. We also have continuous provision areas for the children to access in free choice time. The areas include: a writing area, a creative area, a water or sand area, a fine motor area, a role play area, a construction area, a malleable area, a reading area, and a reflection area. The areas are all planned for individually each week. We plan exciting and engaging activities for the children to do.

## The EYFS Curriculum

In Nursery our children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS). Learning is planned against the 'Early Years Outcomes'. Within the 'Early Years Outcomes' there are three prime areas of learning and four specific areas. This framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting, the activities and opportunities we provide; as well as how we assess your child's development. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards by the end of the Reception year.

### Prime areas

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

### Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design



### Characteristics of Learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creative and thinking critically



## School Uniform

Our school uniform for Nursery consists of-

A school jumper/cardigan

A white Polo shirt

A tartan skirt/tartan pinafore/grey skirt/grey trousers

Black shoes

These are available from three suppliers- Tesco, Border Embroideries and Identity. Extra information on uniform can be found on the school website.

As our learning environment is both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you make sure your child is equipped for these areas at all times of year. Please ensure their clothing is practical and suitable for the seasonal changes. Waterproof jackets and winter clothing for cold weather; sun hat and protective clothing in the summer months. We ask that sun cream is applied before the children get to school so that they are ready for the day.

**Please make sure that all items of clothing are very clearly marked with your child's name.**

## Things to Bring to School

- Wellies – we play out in all weathers!
- Suitable coats – nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet.
- Spare clothes – just in case we have an accident.
- Hats, scarves and gloves.
- Sun hats.
- Water bottles.
- Book bags and Homework books – these are checked regularly.

The children all have their own lockers to keep their belongings in. We also have a box for book bags.



## **Illness and Absence**

If your child is unwell and absent from school, please phone as soon as possible after 8.30 am on the first day of absence to let us know and to keep us up to date with progress if the illness runs over more than one day. Children who have infectious conditions should not come to school until a doctor has certified them fit and those with sickness or diarrhoea bugs should not return to school until 48 hours after the last 'incident'.

In the event of your child being unwell at school, we will contact you so that you can take him/her home, so please make sure that we always have up to date telephone numbers for you and for any emergency contact you choose to nominate.

Head lice: Please be aware that ALL schools have problems with head lice from time to time, so if your child succumbs, it is no reflection on you or your child's cleanliness. If nits are spotted, we will telephone you to give you the opportunity to collect your child and commence immediate treatment. This is all done very discretely and the children will be completely unaware of any problem.

If your child has medical needs, you will be asked to complete a Health Care Plan to give us the information we require to provide the best possible care.

In school, we can administer prescribed medication such as antibiotics – where the dose is four times a day – and inhalers. You will need to complete a form each time medicines are brought into school and this should be handed to an adult, along with the medicine. Please do not put medicines in your child's bag.

Please be aware that we do not administer medicine such as Calpol or Ibuprofen. If your child requires these, then please consider whether he/she really is fit enough to be in school.

Government legislation now prevents Headteachers from authorising holidays in term time. If you have a specific reason that requires your child to be absent, other than illness, please address requests for leave to the Headteacher.

## **Toilet training**

We are aware that some of our younger children may not be toilet trained when they start in our Nursery. We do ask that they come into Nursery with pull ups on as this helps with the toilet training process and routine. We also ask that parents/carers provide a bag for their child with spare pull ups in and wipes. They can also be kept in the child's locker. Following the same routines at home such as putting your child on the toilet and using pull ups so your child has the motion of pulling them down and up is always a good idea. This makes it the same routine as Nursery. We also use reward charts and stickers and staff are always on hand for any help or guidance you need.

## **Extra Support**

We recognise that children have diverse learning styles and needs. We plan opportunities to build on and extend children's knowledge, experiences, interest and skills. We use a wide range of teaching strategies based on children's learning needs and provide a safe and supportive learning environment.

Some children may be identified as having special educational needs. These children need extra help if they are able to develop their full potential and gain full access to the early years' curriculum. If this is the case you will be supported by our school SENCo.

If you have any other questions that are not covered in this prospectus you are welcome to come into school and speak to a member of staff.

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus

Please have a look at our website for any other information.

<http://www.st-bridgets-pri.cumbria.sch.uk/>

**We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child.  
We hope you and your family enjoy your time in St Bridget's Foundation Stage.**