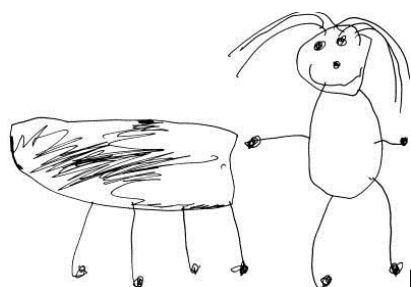


# St Leo's & Southmead School Nursery



## Brochure 2016



Playing in the sand



## ***A big welcome from the Nursery Staff of St Leo's & Southmead Nursery***

### **Who are we:**

*Mrs Elaine Cawley Nursery Teacher*

*Ms Lorraine Sambor Learning Mentor and Teaching Assistant (PM)*

*Miss Emma Ashworth Teaching Assistant (AM)*

*Miss Lorraine Audley Teaching Assistant*

### **Nursery Sessions**

The children attend nursery school for up to five sessions each week. The session times are:

**Morning Session** 8.30am to 11.30am

**Afternoon Session** 12.30pm to 3.30pm

We appreciate that some children have older brothers or sisters at our other school site and parents will not be able to bring their children on time. **Consequently we allow opening time from 8/30 till 9/10 am at the start to accommodate for these commitments.**

## **Well being and Involvement**

We work on the principle that children have to feel safe and happy before they can concentrate and learn to their full potential. We use the Leven's Wellbeing scale to measure the children's well-being and Involvement each half term. If we notice a drop in the children's Wellbeing we will let you know and see if we can help. Please let us know of any changes at home like a new baby or if you are moving house as this can have an effect on their wellbeing whilst at nursery.

## **Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning.**

**To ensure children develop as life long learners we ensure our activities involve the Characterisits of Effective Learning as advised in the EYFS 2012**

**These are skills such as:**

***Problem Solving***

***Critical Thinking***

***Determination***

***Enjoyement and Engagement***

***Engage in Role play with their peers***

***Negotiating and evaluating their play***

## **Key Person**

The children are split into two groups for key worker time, led by a teacher or the teaching assistant who is their key person. Each day your child will be involved in an activity with their key person. This may be on a one to one basis, in pairs or in a small group. As a result the key person will get to know your child well and you can come to them with any questions or concerns. Also they will be able to tell you about the activities your child has been involved in throughout the session.



## **The Curriculum**

The nursery curriculum is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage. It is divided into the three prime areas of:-

***Personal, social and emotional development***

***Communication and language***

***Physical development***

And the four specific areas of:-

***Literacy***

***Mathematics***

***Understanding the world***

***Expressive arts and design***



**The prime areas** are the most essential for your child's healthy development and form the building blocks of their future learning in the specific areas and beyond. Once children are secure in these areas in the appropriate age band they will move onto the specific areas of development. If your child is struggling in the prime areas of learning we will ensure they will get additional help.

All the areas are developed through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult led and child initiated activities both inside and outside of the nursery. The children learn through play and exploration, they have time and are supported to be creative and think critically. The activities are

pitched at the children's levels of development enabling them to learn and succeed at a rate suitable to each individual.

We approach the curriculum through the children's interests, observing their play, having conversations with them about what they are involved with and the sorts of things they would like to learn about. The children have lots of different ideas so different groups of children will be learning about different themes at the same time. Some of the interests we have explored include dinosaurs, water, gardening and Frozen and many more. We will send a newsletter home with each week including ideas of how to help your child learn at home, related to what we are doing in nursery. If your child has any exciting news please tell us so we can let them share it with their friends.

### **Literacy**

We lend books out to the children and encourage them to do so by offering certificates when five have been borrowed. If your child chooses to borrow the same book over and over over again this is a good thing as it means your child is learning the pattern and structure of the story ready to retell it to yourself or us, a first step learning to read! Reading a story with your child before they go to sleep is a great way to ensure they become lovers of literature.

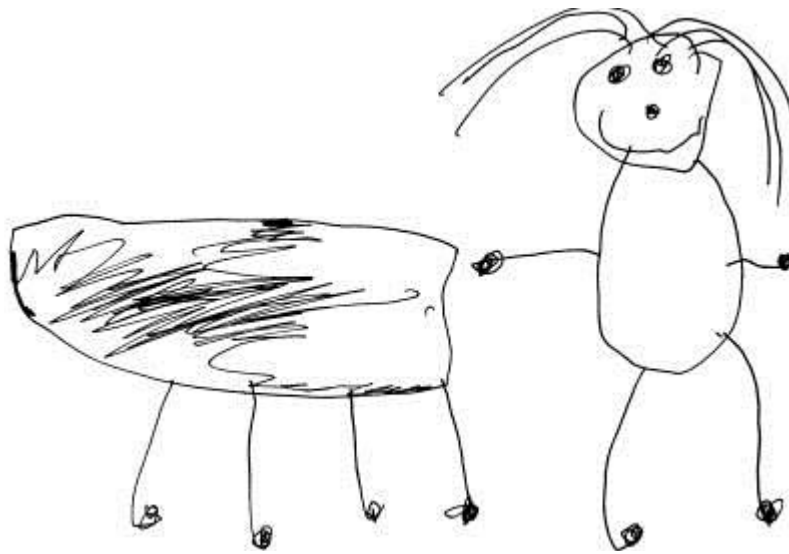
Library is open on Friday and books are then returned the following Thursday. This gives you 7 days with your choice of book.

### **Computers and the Internet**

We use ICT equipment throughout the nursery to support the children's learning. We have computers, interactive whiteboards, programmable toys, I Pads, digital cameras and video. We also have a wealth of software and access to the Internet. At St Leos and Southmead Nursery, we are concerned that the children use the Internet safely. There is restricted access built into the system and the children will always use the Internet with an adult and under the guidance of their key person.

### **The Daily Routine**

Nursery is organised so children have time to be involved in adult directed activities and in their own initiated activities. Children are encouraged to make decisions and solve problems, to initiate, plan, carry out and review their activities. The children become more independent, acquire a desire to explore and learn, and develop skills, which will enable them to become successful students as they grow older. There are several elements within the daily routine



Playing in the sand

### **Daily Self Registration**

Upon arrival children are encouraged with their parents/carers to find their photograph and place it on a registration board . They are also offered the opportunity to make marks and mark to register their attendance at nursery using some lovely pens, pencils and other mark making tools. Please don't worry if your child can't write their name as it is early days. Early mark making including making lines and squiggles are an important stage of development and are the foundations where children can have fun and explore and this is part of the journey to becoming happy and successful writers

### **Daily Key Worker time**

Children and staff come together for gathering time and register. We will discuss the events in the children's lives and nursery life, the children will take part in activities related to the areas of learning including Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Mathematics. We will also look at new activities (Enhancements) on offer in the nursery linked to children's interests as well as talking about our Class Home Bear adventures from the weekend before.

### **Adult Directed Activities**

The children will carry out an activity with their key person. The activities are based on children's ideas and planned so that they will be involved in all areas of the curriculum. Both the indoor and outdoor environments are used for these activities.



### **Child Directed activities**

Staff engage in skilful interactions with children whilst they are playing in the continuous provision both indoors and outside or in the secret garden. Staff know their children's targets and differentiate their questioning and input to the needs of each child. Children learn much more when they are playing.

### **Story Time**

The children come together at the end for story time where they will talk about their day experiences and what's next. We will read and discuss stories, poems and factual books. We may act out stories, use puppets or retell fairy stories with no books at all. The children are picked up by parents and carers at the end of the session at the door leading onto the Nursery Playground. PM children will be collected from the next door just around the corner next to the Reception Class.



## Helping in Nursery

You are more than welcome to help in school – reading with the children; helping with art and craft activities; baking; on the computer; helping with displays; or any other area in which you would like to help. You will be able to see the type of activities your child experiences in nursery and the children enjoy having more adults to play and talk with.



Outside play!!



### **Clothing : Please put your child's name inside their clothing**

Nursery can be a messy place, with sand and water, painting and gluing, going to the toilet and playing in the garden in all weather. The best idea is to send your child in clothes that wash easily, and that they can get in and out of when they go to the toilet. Leaving a change of clothes at nursery is a good idea. The children will need to bring a pair of wellington boots to nursery and keep them in their wellington bags for when they are using the outside area. We request that children do not bring jewellery to school. It is easily lost or broken and it is a hazard during practical activities.

### **Milk and Healthy Snacks**

There is a choice of milk or water to drink at snack time. Milk is free to all nursery children. Please could you let us know which your child would prefer. We give children a variety of fruit and other healthy snack each day. We promote healthy eating and this is part of your child's physical development area of learning. The children do tend to eat fruit, drink water etc when they see other children eating and drinking them. We have a rolling snack and children are allowed to access snack anytime, except tidy up time. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £1.00 each week which covers the cost of snack.

We do teach children how to access the snack and remind them if for example they have been engaged in a lot of exercise. Please let us know if your child has any allergies and we can complete a care plan.

Starting nursery is a big step for children – a new place, new people, many activities and friends to make. At St Leo's and Southmead School Nursery we have an induction programme to help your child settle into school life.

### **Home Visits**

There is an optional home visit before your child starts nursery. This allows your child to get to know nursery staff at home where they feel most comfortable and secure. Two members of staff will come on the home visit, one of who will be your child's key person.

One staff member will chat with you about nursery, your child and can answer any questions you may have.

The other staff member will play with your child. It is nice if your child has their favourite toy out to play with.

Typically a home visits lasts for 20 – 25 minutes.

We believe that the home visit is most beneficial in helping the children to settle into school life more easily. Children often talk about it during their time in school with fondness, and it establishes the link between home and school working together for the children's education and happiness.

## Preliminary Visit

The preliminary visit is your child's first session in nursery. We like an adult to stay for this session to ease the children's introduction to nursery life as this can be a very daunting time, and it gives you a good opportunity to experience the types of activities they will be involved with in nursery.

## Phased Intake

We have found in the past that when the children start nursery by attending five sessions a week it is very tiring for them and children who settled well at first can become upset. So, to ease the children into school life, we recommend they attend for 3 sessions the first week and 4 sessions the next week. After that, if you are happy that your child has settled, they can come for five sessions. If your child has not quite settled then, after discussion with your key person, they can continue to come for three or four sessions per week until they are ready to attend all five sessions. We aim that all the children will be settled by the half term holidays and attending all their sessions. **(if your child has attended Little Treasures Nursery and they are familiar with the environment a phased intake is not required as they are already familiar with the setting and will have had preliminary transition visits with their key worker in the term before starting nursery)**



## Settling Down

However much you have helped your children, they are likely to be very excited and perhaps a little apprehensive on their first day at school. You might be the same, so here are some hints.

Stay calm! Breathe deeply, do whatever you have to do but try to stay as calm as you can.

Get up early to ensure there is not a rush and panic to get to school on time. Make things as normal as possible.

Do not force breakfast or lunch down your child if they are too excited to eat it – they will only feel ill or be sick.

Talk about the day as positively as you can – but be sympathetic to the kinds of emotions your child might be feeling. Explain that you will say goodbye when their teacher is ready to take over and will then go, but will return at the end of the nursery day to collect them.

If possible go to school with someone else your child knows who is starting nursery, but if your child is upset don't make comparisons with the other child.

Try to arrive with just enough time to get the feel of things without having to wait around too long. Don't arrive late if you can avoid it.

Give your child a hug and a kiss just a little before school starts. Don't pick them up for a long cuddle at the last second.

Go home and have a pleasant day. Trust that your child will be having a happy day – they usually do – and give us a ring if you want to double check!

### **There are times throughout the year when your child could become a little unsettled**

After a few weeks, when nursery is no longer a novelty and has become part of their routine. They may be feeling tired and are likely to have picked up a cold from mixing with new friends.

After holidays, especially Christmas and Easter, with lie-ins, presents and treats.

Changes in your home life. Maybe there is a new baby, mum or dad has new working hours, grandparents have come to stay for a few days, or the thought of moving on to primary school.

Remember, as adults we have days when we don't want to get up and follow our normal daily routine. Children feel the same but at this age they can't always find the words to explain their emotions. Unless they are ill, it is better to follow the normal daily routine and if you are worried, then ring nursery to check your child is settled.

### **How do I know how my child is doing in school?**

We have several ways to keep you informed of your child's progress.

#### **Daily Conversations/Daily Diary/Weekly Newsletter**

Every day your child's key person is available at the start and end of each session for an informal chat. Your child will also have a daily diary including a weekly newsletter which is for you to communicate any interests of the child, questions for the key worker or events eg trip to the baths. It is also for the setting to share what your child has been doing at nursery as well as any other key notes.

### **My Learning Journey**

When the children start nursery they will receive a red book that will become their 'My Learning Journey'. Throughout the year we will add samples of the children's work, photographs and written observations made by the staff. The children or you might like to add things from home that are special to their time in nursery – a birthday card, photographs from holiday, copies of certificates, postcards etc.

At the end of the year the children will bring their Book home as a memento of their time in St Leos and Southmead School Nursery.

### **Parents Meetings**

You are invited to come to a parents meeting every term where we have a discussion about what your child has been learning at nursery and at home and what we can do together to help them progress further. This is a great time for you to tell us of any interests they have at home and we can suggest any activities you could do with your child at home to help them in any areas they need to progress with. We ask you to comment on the forms for our records and future planning.

### **Records**

Key persons keep records on their group's progress in all areas of the curriculum. We use this to plan activities that are suitable for the children and their level of development. As the children move to Reception Class you will receive a report on your child's progress.

### **Absences**

It is very important that the children attend nursery regularly – the children will be able to experience the whole curriculum, children learn best when there is continuity, and it is an important step towards primary school.

However there are occasions when the children are not well, in which case, please could you ring school as soon as possible to let us know.

### **Transitions into Reception Class:**

Moving into Reception Class seems a long way off but in a year or so your child will be preparing to go to school. If your child is going to St Leo's and Southmead Reception Class As part of our induction we plan a range of activities to support children through this transition and we also invite the reception teacher to meet the children and they also have planned visits to their new class to explore their new environment.

Finally we hope you and your child enjoy your time at St Leos and Southmead School Nursery. If you have any problems or need to know anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

The Nursery Team

