



Next Steps @ St Johns



Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring

Nursery telephone: 01761 205657

School telephone: 01761 412019

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11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you have had a fantastic summer and are looking forward to starting the new term. We are very excited to be welcoming back all of the children, and hearing about the exciting things they have enjoyed over the holidays.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families that are joining us this year. We are really looking forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and hope that you are feeling positive about starting your child's learning journey with us.

We are a very approachable team, so please do talk to us if you have any questions or queries. We understand that the transition to nursery can be an emotional time, and is a big step for many children and their families. We are here to support you and are keen to ease any worries.

Our theme this term is 'Only One Me', and we will be spending time getting to know one another and learning about how we are all unique.

Some of our new families have raised some questions which we can answer here for everyone's benefit:

- **Does my child need to wear slippers at nursery?** Yes! To maintain a clean and safe environment, we would like the children to bring in a pair of slippers or an alternative indoor shoe (for example 'croc' style) to be kept at the nursery and only worn inside the building. Therefore, the children will also need to have appropriate footwear to be worn outside that can get wet and muddy; this can be wellies if you wish. The indoor slippers must have a hard bottomed sole in order to protect feet, prevent slips and to exit the building in an emergency. Please provide these for your child at your earliest convenience. We would also appreciate them being named or labelled.
- **Can my child bring a comforter to nursery?** Of course! We allow children to bring in items such as soft toys, muslins or 'raggies' which provide comfort. We do ask that other toys are left safely behind at home to prevent loss or damage.
- **Should I provide specific clothing?** We ask that children arrive at nursery wearing clothing that can be played in! This means that your child will likely return home on some occasions with muddy, painty clothes. We ask that all items are name labelled and that you provide spare clothes in their bags for any accidents or spillages. A nursery T-Shirt can be purchased from Norton Sports and Camping should you wish to buy one. These are optional.



- **Will my child have Forest School sessions at nursery?** Yes! We will not begin the sessions in the large woodland space until term 2 (November). We will run forest school style activities on the nursery grounds until then. We will provide you with more information closer to the time of sessions starting.
- **Does my child need a snack?** Yes! Children need to bring a mid-morning snack with them to each session. This can be fruit or vegetable based, and can also include a carbohydrate too. For example; rice cakes, crackers or breadsticks. Please can this be in a named container/sandwich bag separate to their lunch. Please also provide a named water bottle.
- **What shall we pack for lunch?**
We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, the Department for Education's Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance, and the DfE guidance on Food safety. Our policy states that children will be supported to eat safely, appropriately and positively.

Please provide a balanced snack and packed lunch and avoid foods that can cause a risk of choking. For example, grapes, cherry tomatoes and similar round foods must be cut, and stones removed from fruit. Popcorn is not advised for children under five.

Please avoid any nut products, including peanut butter. And no sweets are permitted. We eat our lunch in the school dinner hall. Children bringing a packed lunch are expected to carry it themselves. Please provide a bag-style lunch box with a handle to make this easier for them.

We hope that this has eased some of the questions or concerns that you may have. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team if you are unsure.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Team at Next Steps.

Funded Hours:

If you have not yet returned your parent declaration form to confirm the funded hours you are claiming to use at Next Steps Nursery, please ensure this form is completed in full and returned to the Nursery by the end of next week (18th September) at the latest. Incomplete or late forms may unfortunately affect the claim for funding.
Thank you.

Date for the Diary

Thursday 22nd October: The Nursery will be closed for staff training.



St John's
C of E Primary School

Will your child be starting school in September 2022?

We understand that choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you can make.

We invite you to join us at one of our events for a presentation and tour of the school.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing all the exciting activities and opportunities we offer in our Acorns Reception Class and throughout the school.

OPEN MORNINGS

- Wednesday 30th September, 9.30am
- Friday 16th October, 9.30am
- Wednesday 18th November, 9.30am
- Friday 11th December, 9.30am

OPEN EVENING

- Wednesday 4th November, 6.30pm

To register your interest,
please contact the
school office:
Tel: 01761 412019
E-mail:
office@stjohns.mnsp.org.uk