



Nursery Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our returning families and a very warm welcome to the new families who have recently joined us. We hope you all had a lovely summer break and we have enjoyed hearing all about the children's adventures over the holidays and we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead. The children have settled quickly and are spending more time outdoors in our garden.

Dates for your diaries

Half-Term - **Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October 2026**

Autumn Term 2 - **Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2026**

**Children in Need:
Wear your favourite
PJ's
to nursery!**

- **Friday 13th November 2026**

**Save The Children
Christmas Jumper/
Festive colours Day**

- **Thursday 10th December 2026**

Please remember....

Please ensure that your child has a puddle suit and welly boots as we learn outside every day. (Please be aware that some of the best learning can be very messy ☺)

As the weather starts to get cooler, we ask that you send your child to nursery with a warm coat, gloves and hat.

Please ensure that **ALL** items of clothing are named.

Main gate

Please note that we will be closing the main gates promptly at 9:00am. This is for safeguarding reasons to ensure that the gates are not open longer than necessary and to enable the children to access the outdoor area earlier to enhance their learning. If you do



not have other children to drop off at school, please ask that you arrive by no later than 9:00am to drop off your child. If you have other siblings to drop off at school and the gate is closed when you arrive, your child will need to come into the nursery via the office door. Please ring the bell when you get here and Jo will see your child into nursery.

Appointments:

We kindly ask if your child has an appointment in the morning (and they attend a full day at nursery) that you bring them into nursery with their packed lunch at 11:45am ready for the afternoon session. If they have an afternoon visit or appointment (and attend a full day at nursery), we request that they are collected at 11:45am. If your child only attends a half-day session and their visit/appointment falls within that session, we kindly request that they do not attend nursery that day.

However, we ask if you are unable to arrive at nursery by 9:30am that you bring your child in at 11:45am with their lunch ready for the afternoon session (if they attend a full day).

Drop off and pick up times will only be as follows:

8:45am
11:45am
2:15pm
2:45pm

This ensures minimal disruption to the session, so staff can ensure that everyone is kept safe. We thank you for your support and cooperation with this request.

A polite reminder

Please may we ask for you to ensure the children are collected in a timely manner at the end of each session as late pick up's have a direct impact on our ratio's.

Session times are as follows:

Morning session: 08:45am – 11:45am

Afternoon session: 11:45am – 2:15pm or 2:45pm

Absence from nursery:

A gentle reminder that if your child is going to be absent from nursery to please call or email by the office by 9:30am to inform us as we have a duty of care to the children. If your child has an upset stomach, they will not be able to return to the nursery until 48 hours have passed from the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea. **Children who have had a high temperature or cough are unable to return to the nursery for 3 full clear days from the last day that they had a temperature or continuous cough.**



Medication:

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics, please do not send your child to nursery until 48 hours have passed from their first dose. If your child requires medication to be administered or kept at the nursery, it must be given to us in the original packaging complete with a prescription label bearing the child's name and dosage instructions. You will be asked to complete a medication form before staff can administer any medicine.

Children's Bags:

Please would you ensure that you send your child to nursery each day with a named bag containing ONLY the following:

- Spare clothes
- Nappies/Wipes (if applicable)

To keep all children safe, we operate a bag checking policy each morning and afternoon. We ask that you do not leave any toys, food/sweets, creams, suncream or other medication in your child's bag. Please hand medication, creams and other such items to a member of staff on the door where they will be kept safe out of children's reach.

Snack

As a charity we rely on your kind donations of fruit and vegetables for the children's snack time each week. We would be very grateful if you could provide donations of fruit, vegetables and breadsticks if you are able. As you know this is an essential part of a healthy diet and the children really enjoy eating the fruit and vegetables that you provide.

If your child requires a dairy or gluten free diet, please would you provide a snack for them with their name on, and we will ensure that this is given to them.

Lunch Boxes:

Thank you for your continued support in our campaign for healthy eating. Please can we ask that all parents avoid putting nuts or any items of food that contain nuts in their child's lunch box e.g., Nuts as such Nakd, Trek or Graze bars, peanut butter sandwiches.

Due to the severity of the problem, and to safeguard the children's wellbeing, it is important that we do not allow these items in the nursery setting.

Just a gentle reminder that in line with Government guidance and our Healthy Eating policy we do not allow sweet treats in lunchboxes at nursery. Plain biscuits and cakes are acceptable on an occasional basis but please do not include items such as iced cakes, party rings, Angel cakes or similar or anything containing chocolate. These can be enjoyed as treats at home.

Please do not include popcorn in your child's lunchbox as this can pose a choking



hazard. Please refer to the board for other items we cannot allow in the nursery due to them being a choking hazard.

Water bottles:

In line with recommended guidelines, children's water bottles are kept in a crate and are freely accessible throughout the day so that children can independently access their drinks whenever they need. As all children have access to this shared area, it is essential that bottles contain water only. If a bottle contains juice or flavoured water and is accidentally picked up by another child, there is a risk they could consume something unsuitable, including ingredients they may be allergic or intolerant to.

Please would you send your children to Nursery with a **named EMPTY** water bottle every day. Staff will fill these bottles with water at nursery. This ensures that we can fully manage and monitor what children are drinking and eliminate any potential risks. Children may bring a carton of Juice in their lunchbox to enjoy at lunchtime.

Dogs

NO dogs (except Guide dogs) are to be brought into the nursery setting inside or outside.

Parking

We respectfully ask that parents do not park in the disabled parking bay outside the nursery unless you require them. Please be mindful that there are parents and users of the Rugby/football club next door who do need to use them.

Donation Request

We would be very grateful for donations of the following items:

- ❖ Large bottles of bubbles
- ❖ Flour
- ❖ Cornflour
- ❖ Paper (plain and coloured)
- ❖ Tissues
- ❖ Biodegradable Wet Wipes
- ❖ Seeds (Seasonal)

What we have been up to.....

Building friendships and engaging in group circle times for turn taking and sharing. The children have been enjoying playing in the garden and looking at autumnal changes. Our new potting shed has been erected in our allotment area where the children will enjoy planting seeds and learning about how to care for plants to help them grow.



Coat and Footwear Exchange

There is a hanging rail on the decking for the Coat and Footwear Exchange. Donations are welcome. Please help yourself.

Book Shed

The Book Shed on the decking is open, please help yourself to a book and return for someone else to enjoy once you are finished.

Facebook

We have a Facebook page; please search for St Mary's Nursery to access it.

Nursery website

Please click on the link below and take a look where you will find lots of useful information about the nursery as well as our policies and term dates.

We will update the website with important dates so we encourage you to visit the website regularly to keep up to date with important news and events.

<https://www.stmarysnurserycamberley.co.uk/>