



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Old Mill Lane,  
Marnhull, DT10 1JX  
01258 820417

## Foundation Stage Unit

### Staff:

Mrs Ellie Myatt - experienced, fully qualified EYFS teacher

Ms Amber Gould - NVQ3

### Aims

We aim to ensure that each child in our care :

- is in a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment both indoors and outdoors, where each child is treated as an individual.
- is given support, quality care and attention at all times and has a named key person who works with the child's parents/family to help each child develop to their full potential.
- learns through a balance of play with other children in activities of their own choosing and adult directed learning
- grows and develops by building on what he or she already knows, finding out about the world around them and developing a more global perspective
- understands that everyone is different, and learns to value diversity, and promote equality
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### Session Times and Fees

We are open during term time from 8:45am - 3:15pm, Monday to Friday. Fees are £4.00 per hour and are invoiced half termly. Fees must still be paid if children are absent due to illness or holiday. Non payment of fees may result in the loss of your child's place. Children should be collected promptly at the end of a session.

**Free Early learning and Childcare funding can be used for eligible three and four year olds. Claim forms are available termly in the school office or pre-school.**

There is a small optional charge of 50p per session for snack and cookery. Please ask for more details.

## Children's Development and Learning

Our approach is child centred, supported by the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. This is guidance for children's development from birth to the end of reception (five years). Please see Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework available in pre-school

We will ensure that each child is treated as an individual, with encouragement and support to progress at their own pace. This will involve observing each child's strengths and areas of interest, and using these as a basis to take their learning forward. Children will be challenged, stretched and encouraged to be active learners through planned and spontaneous activities, many of them child led. They will learn from the natural world around them playing and exploring outdoors.

Staff will encourage children to become creative and critical thinkers, by supporting children through the thinking process rather than concentrating on an end product. This helps children to become independent, self-reliant and more able to think things through for themselves. Our aim is to provide an environment where children will develop confidence, high self-esteem, good communication skills and a desire to "find out for themselves" as well as having fun and enjoying simply being a child.

## Children's Learning Journeys

All children will have a file where we will keep a record of the progress your child makes, some samples or photographs of their work and our observations. Parents are encouraged to share and contribute to this "Learning Journey"

We recognise that parents are the first and most important educators of their children. We will work with you and any other setting your child attends, exchanging information and knowledge about your child's needs, interests and progress.

## Policies and Procedures

Full copies of all our Policies and Procedures are available on request. Our policies help us to ensure we provide a high quality service, and that each child and their family benefits from joining our setting.

## Inclusion/Special Needs

Our setting has a proactive approach to the inclusion of **all** children and families. We welcome enquiries from families with special requirements and will do our best to fulfil these needs. Children are provided with drinks and snacks with an emphasis on healthy eating and enjoying food. We also try to accommodate children with allergies or specific requirements

## Safeguarding

Children's welfare is paramount and we have procedures in place for protection of children while in our care. Staff are DBS checked and undertake training in child protection and safeguarding. Children are encouraged to be responsible and to risk assess as they play in order to become more self- confident resolve conflicts themselves.

## Clothing/uniform

We can provide protective clothing for the children when they play with sand, water and paint but we often find children find these restrictive. Please put them in old clothes you don't mind getting dirty: our children are often mud spattered, covered in paint or wet and messy! Clothing and shoes that are easy to manage will help them achieve independence. Sun hats/ wellie boots and suitable clothes for outdoor wear are essential. A pre-school sweat-shirt or t-shirt is available to purchase if required, however this is not compulsory.

We want you and your child to enjoy coming to our pre-school and we appreciate any feedback regarding any aspect of our setting. Please contact us at the number above or feel free to email. Thank you.