



New Parent Information Pack

Written with the support of parents for parents - all the things you need to know when your child starts at Penistone St John's Nursery

June 2021

Welcome to your parent information booklet

This booklet is written with the support of parents for parents of children at Penistone St John's. It's designed as a quick guide to all the things you need to know as your child starts Nursery.

The booklet includes things you need to know before your child starts, as well as information about other key aspects of school life.

You'll find various top tips which are things other parents have found helpful to know and wanted to share. Top tips are easy to spot and look like this:



Thank you for taking the time to read through this, we hope it makes starting at Nursery that much easier.

If you think of anything that's not in this parent booklet and you believe should be, please do let us know so that we can add it for future editions. Please email the school office.

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Home School blurb you need to know:

Primary	The whole school from Nursery to Year 6
Infants	All Early Years and Key Stage 1
EYFS - Foundation Stage 1	Early Years Foundation Stage. Part time children who are below school age (Nursery)
EYFS - Foundation Stage 2	Early Years Foundation Stage. Children starting school full-time (Reception)
KS1	Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
Juniors	All Key Stage 2
KS2	Key Stage 2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6)
SATS	Statutory Assessment Tests which take place in Year 2 and 6
PSC	Phonics Screening Check which takes place in Year 1
Baseline	An assessment for children in Nursery
PPA	Planning, Preparation and Assessment
Inset	Days when school is closed, but staff have training

Money Matters

Free School Meals - (not UIFSM)

This may not seem relevant to a child in Nursery as they do not have school meals, however, now is the time to apply and gain some of the additional benefits. You need to apply via the local authority if you think you may be entitled as the school will then be able to claim additional money for your child (Pupil Premium) to improve their education. This also gives you benefits as they move into school such as one free club per term, free milk and half price school trips. Please visit the website below to find out more information or make a claim.

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/free-school-meals/>

Milk money

Milk is free for your child in Nursery and continues to be free as they enter Reception up until and not including the term when they become 5.

Healthy snacks

In Infants, fruit and/or vegetables are offered free of charge every day.

Dropping off your child at Nursery

For safeguarding reasons, we ask that you do not come into school through any class doors, but walk round to the reception at the school office if you need to pass on a message. If children arrive after 8:45am, then they should enter school through the front entrance and report to reception.

Nursery

Parents and carers should bring children into school through the nursery entrance.

Nursery morning sessions begin at 8:45am-11:45am. Afternoon sessions begin at 12:30pm - 3:30pm. Parents will be welcome to stay with their child for the first 10 minutes of each session, so until 8:55am or 12:40pm

Communication with school

We know how important it is to feel well informed and in touch with the school, so there are lots of ways that school communicate with parents and help you stay up to date.

St John's uses Teachers2Parents and our school website to send texts and e-mails. All letters are e-mailed to parents and a copy is placed on the school website in the virtual office section. All parents' email addresses and mobile numbers are entered onto the system. This reduces the use of paper and it ensures information gets straight to parents as quickly as possible. Please keep your details up to date.

Newsletters

At the end of each half term you will receive a St John's newsletter via email. It showcases events that have happened during the term and tells parents what has been happening in school.

Events' calendar

You will receive a parent partnership calendar at the beginning of the academic year and details of events will also appear on the live calendar on our school website homepage: www.penistonestjohns.co.uk

School website and Twitter



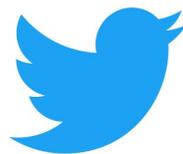
The school website is a fabulous information tool. Have a look here for the school calendar, information on staff and loads more.

www.penistonestjohns.co.uk

There is a Twitter link on the home page. It is particularly interesting as it is updated daily with snippets of school life.

There is no need to sign up to Twitter if you don't want to, simply view the tweets from the school homepage. This is a good place to look during the winter, as school will post tweets and messages updating parents as to the opening or closing of school in bad weather.

Search for our twitter feed @penistonestjohn



Talking to your child's teacher

If you want to contact your child's teacher you have a number of options. If you need to ensure the teacher receives the message on the day then you can:

Give your child a letter to hand to their teacher.

Report to the school office at 8.30am and ask if you can see the teacher quickly before the start of the day.

Catch the teacher at the end of the school day for a quick chat.

Phone the school office and leave a message for the teacher - remember to say if it is urgent and they will call you back when they can.

As you can imagine, the school office is inundated daily with letters and reply slips and so on. Always write your child's name, class and what it is that you are sending in on the envelope so that it will quickly be given to the correct person in the office. Remember, you can recycle old envelopes if you need to use one.

Communication - some frequently asked questions

How will the school let me know if it's closed due to snow?

Whilst the school is determined always to stay open, severe inclement weather such as snow can mean that it isn't safe for pupils to be in school. On these rare occasions the school uses their website, their Twitter feed, Dearne FM, Email and direct texting to all those who have registered mobile numbers.

What should I do if my child is unwell and unable to go to school?

Please phone the school office first thing in the morning to let them know, otherwise school will phone you once the register highlights your child's absence after 9.30am.

Will the school administer medicine to my child?

If a doctor has **prescribed** medicine for your child that has to be taken more than **three** times a day, your child's class teacher will give it to your child at lunchtime. Any medicine being taken three times a day or less, needs to be administered at home. Please ensure that the medicine is clearly labelled with your child's name and you have completed a medicine form. Medicines must be handed to the office team by an adult.

Emergencies and Accidents

All parents are required to complete an emergency contact form, which is kept in the office. It is absolutely essential that this is kept up to date with all contact details. If a child is unwell you will be contacted to arrange care for your child. In the event of an accident requiring hospital treatment, parents will be contacted and asked to accompany their child to hospital. Children who sustain a bump to the head will be given a note to take home to inform parents.

Parent Open Days and Afternoons

Parent Open Days take place in Nursery once a term. During these days, parents are invited into Nursery to experience the learning. These are fabulous opportunities to come in and get an insight into what and how your child learns. The children really do love to be able to show how clever they are and to teach you new things too!



If you are unable to attend an event, feel free to ask someone else to go in your place whether it be a grandparent, uncle or aunt. It really matters to the child that they have a grown up there to look for and show off to!

Concerts

Every year, Nursery puts on a summer concert and a Nativity production that they perform for parents. A video is produced of all the nativity performances and a link sent home to parents to access.



Make sure you have signed the permission form for video and photographs if you want to see your child in the performance.

Christmas

Christmas is celebrated with the Nativities for our Nursery and Reception children. Parents are welcome to attend.

Easter bonnet parade

Our children have an annual Easter bonnet parade the week before the Easter holidays. Parents are asked to help them create their Easter bonnets at home and nursery children will parade around the school for other children to enjoy.

Reading in school

St John's uses the Read Write Inc system to teach our children to read. They experience success from the very beginning. Lively phonic books are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases.

Along with a thought-provoking introduction, prompts for thinking out loud and discussion, children are helped to read with a storyteller's voice.

Nursery children will be learning the picture stories for Set 1 sounds to give them a flying start in Reception.

Final Top Tip!

The school office phone number is 01226 762496 (Option 2 Infants).

Save it on your mobile phone in case you need it in an emergency.