



Pre-school news

7th September 2026

Welcome Back!!

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to you all for the new school term. The staff and I are very happy to be back and are looking forward to another exciting and enjoyable term together.

This term, we are thrilled to welcome sixteen new children and their families to our pre-school family. We are really looking forward to getting to know each of them and their families, and we are already busy planning lots of fun, exciting and engaging activities for the children to enjoy over the coming weeks.

A very special welcome to our new starters: Liliana, Rosa, Zane, Logan, Rory, Blanka, Leo, Lottie-Lou, Charlotte, Joseph, Arney, Athena, Lilah-Rae, Elias, Edward and Kyrrie.

A huge welcome to you all! The staff and I hope that you and your families settle in quickly and enjoy your time with us. We look forward to creating lots of happy memories and sharing many wonderful experiences together throughout the term.

Newsletters and communication

Other than face-to-face communication at drop-off and collection times, most of our communication with parents and carers is sent through our text messaging service. It is therefore important that you are receiving our messages so that you do not miss any important information or updates.

For this newsletter, we are providing the information both by text and in paper form to ensure that everyone receives it. Going forward, all newsletters will be sent via our text messaging service. If you are not currently receiving our texts, please speak to me so that we can make sure your contact details are correct and that you are added to the service. Our website is another useful source of information, where you can also find copies of our newsletters: www.stcharlescatholicpreschool.co.uk.

All of our policies can also be found on our website: www.stcharlescatholicpreschool.co.uk/policies

We understand that some parents and carers may have limited access to the internet. If this applies to you, please speak to me if you have any questions or require any information.

If you have a message or question that you need to pass on to a member of staff, we kindly ask that you use **Tapestry** to communicate with us. This helps us to ensure that messages are received and responded to appropriately. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Tapestry

We hope you are all enjoying looking through your child's online Learning Journey. Thank you to everyone who has been taking the time to contribute. Your comments, photographs and updates are greatly appreciated.

Tapestry is a wonderful way for us to keep communication open between parents, carers and practitioners. It also gives us a valuable insight into your child's life outside of preschool, including the things they enjoy doing and the experiences they have with their families.

If you have not yet registered your Tapestry account, please ensure that you do so as soon as possible. We would also ask that you take a few moments to complete the '**About Me**' section for your child, as this helps us to get to know them even better.

We will also be using Tapestry to share our 'Task of the Week', so keep an eye on your account for these! Finally, we would like to remind everyone that **photographs must NOT be downloaded or taken from Tapestry and shared on social media**. This is extremely important, as not all parents and carers have given permission for photographs of their children to be shared on social media. We really appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us to respect everyone's privacy.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions to your child's Learning Journey.

Invoices

Invoices can be found on Tapestry, with all the bank details you need clearly shown on your invoice. Alternatively, payments can be made by cash or childcare vouchers. We kindly ask that all invoices are paid on time. If you are experiencing any difficulties with making a payment, please come and speak to me as soon as possible so that we can discuss this with you. As a charity, we rely on the income we receive from fees to cover our running costs and day-to-day expenses. Your prompt payments help us to continue providing the best possible care, experiences and opportunities for all of our children.

School Drive

A friendly reminder, particularly for our new parents, that the school drive and church car park must not be used by parents or visitors, as these areas are for school staff only. This is to help ensure the safety of all our children. Please park sensibly on Bosworth Road, taking care not to park on the yellow zig-zag lines. The park car park is also available for parking. Please make sure that any friends or relatives who collect your child on your behalf are also aware of these arrangements. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us to keep our children safe.



Parent and Committee Meeting

I'm not sure how many of you are aware, but we are, and always have been, a committee-run pre-school. We rely heavily on parents and carers volunteering some of their time to help with fundraising and the running of the pre-school. Every half term, the committee meets to discuss fundraising ideas, the general running of the pre-school and our financial position. It is important to understand that the committee is registered with Ofsted, rather than myself. This means that without a committee in place, unfortunately, the pre-school would have to close. I'm sure you will all agree that this would be absolutely devastating after all the hard work and dedication that has gone into our pre-school over the years. Being part of the committee really does not have to be a huge commitment, especially when there are several people sharing the responsibility. I currently take care of most of the day-to-day duties alongside managing the pre-school, but for our larger events — such as the Christmas party, Sports Day and Graduation — the committee plays an important role in organising and running these.

With a few people involved, the workload is very manageable — many hands make light work! 😊

We Need a New Chairperson!

Our current chairperson, Alex Ryan, has very kindly been our chairperson for the past five years, but sadly she is now hanging up her title. We are therefore looking for someone who would be willing to step into the role of Chairperson. Please don't be put off by the title! It is a lovely opportunity to be involved in your child's pre-school, work alongside a great team and help make sure the pre-school continues to thrive. I will be in touch shortly with the details of the next committee meeting, including the time and location, once these have been arranged. I completely understand that life is very busy for all of us, but if possible, I would really appreciate you finding the time to attend our meetings and support your child's pre-school. You do not have to join the committee to attend. All ideas, suggestions and help are very gratefully received, and the meetings are a lovely way to meet other parents and become more involved. They are normally very relaxed and informal and can be quite an enjoyable social occasion too! So please do consider becoming part of our fantastic team and helping to make sure your little ones have a wonderful year at pre-school. We would especially love to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking on the role of Chairperson. Thank you for your continued support. It really does make a difference.

No Jewellery Policy

Please be aware that we have a strict 'NO JEWELLERY' policy at pre-school.

This policy is primarily in place to help ensure the safety of all children. Jewellery can pose a risk during play and physical activities, and we want to minimise the possibility of accidents or injuries. We are also

aware that jewellery can be valuable or have sentimental value. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that jewellery will not be lost, broken or damaged while your child is at pre-school.

We therefore kindly ask that children do not wear jewellery to pre-school. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in helping us keep your children safe.

Birth Certificates

For those of you who have not already done so, could we please ask that you provide us with a copy of your child's birth certificate as soon as possible.

Suncream and sun hats

The weather can be very unpredictable at the moment, with rain one minute and sunshine the next! For this reason, every child **MUST** have a bottle of suncream and a sun hat kept at pre-school. Please ensure that both items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Suncream should be applied before your child arrives at pre-school. We will re-apply suncream at lunchtime if necessary. If you have not yet provided us with a bottle of suncream and/or a sun hat, please do so ASAP. Thank you for your co-operation and support in helping us keep your little ones safe and comfortable whatever the weather.



Blue Bags

Please ensure that your child has a couple of pairs of spare clothes in their blue bag. We have lots of wet and messy play at pre-school, so it is important that they have a change of clothes available if needed. For those children who are going into their second year, please check that their spare clothes still fit, as we know how quickly little ones grow! Please also keep an eye out for a slip in your child's book bag letting you know when their spare clothes need replacing.

All-in-one suits are also really useful, particularly during wet or muddy play. They help to keep the children dry and mean we don't have to change them quite so often.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING, LUNCH BOXES AND JUICE BEAKERS ARE LABELLED CLEARLY WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME

This is taken from our prospectus:

Our curriculum is a collection of core experiences that our children experience every day. A balance of child-led and adult-led activities. We provide an environment that enables every child to follow their own interests and become independent learners. We absolutely believe that children should lead their own learning, they learn far more when they are interested and excited about something. By thinking carefully about children's interests and giving them the resources and confidence to pursue them in a well-structured environment, children are able to take ownership of their explorations, engage in positive 'deep' learning experiences and master new skills. By basing our curriculum around core experiences, we believe that all children, whatever their ability, background or ethnicity, can access the curriculum and thrive. Praise and encouragement are essential to give children the confidence to believe in themselves, we ensure that children always have a positive day. We want our children to be kind and caring, independent and resilient and to have good language skills. We want them to have all that grounded, underpinning knowledge they need to be able to take risks and make thoughtful decisions about what they are doing, so when they go into the big, wide world they can make risk-benefit decisions and think about the impact of what they do.



We are a free-flow setting, children can choose to play outside or inside and move between the two throughout the day. We ensure our environment is rich in both areas and let the children take ownership of our environment, listening to what they want and taking note of how they are playing and investigating and acting accordingly.

Your child will be encouraged to explore and investigate. THEY WILL GET DIRTY! Please do not send them in any clothes that are precious to you. We are big believers that if a child goes home mucky then they have had a good time!

Please ensure you dress your child appropriately for all weathers as we go out all year round.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing"

Uniform

Uniform is not compulsory other than the book bag. I have some book bags in stock for anyone who has not got one yet. If anyone would like to order any uniform please go to

<https://pupilsschoolwear.co.uk/find-your-school/primary-infant-nursery-schools-n-z/st-charles-catholic-pre-school/>

Absence

Can I please stress how very important it is that you inform us if your child is going to be absent from pre-school for any reason.

Please let us know before your child's session by:

- Calling: 01530 515284
- Emailing: stcharlesrcpreschool@btconnect.com
- Posting an observation on Tapestry
- Texting me: 07894 659833

For children accessing funded places, it is particularly important that your child attends the sessions that we are claiming funding for. If your child needs to be absent, it is extremely important that you inform us in advance, either in person, by email or by letter, explaining the reason for the absence. This is a requirement of the government funding arrangements, and absences that cannot be accounted for may result in your child's funding being withdrawn. It is also very important that children are dropped off and collected on time. We completely understand that some parents have other children to take to school and, in these circumstances, it is absolutely fine for your child to arrive late at pre-school.

However, please make sure that this has been discussed and arranged with myself or a member of staff beforehand, so that we are aware and can make the necessary arrangements. Likewise, if you know that you are going to be delayed for any other reason, please let us know as soon as possible. Arriving late without prior notice can be unsettling for children who are still getting used to pre-school and can also be disruptive to the session that is already underway. Punctuality is also important as late arrivals or collections may affect funding requirements. We really appreciate your understanding and recognise that managing school runs and pre-school can be challenging for busy families. As long as late arrival has been arranged in advance, there is absolutely no problem.

Lunches

For those children bringing a packed lunch, please ensure that lunches are healthy and balanced and do not contain items such as fizzy drinks or sweets. We will send your child's lunch box home with them, including any empty packets and leftover food. This is so that you can see exactly what your child has eaten and, if necessary, adjust the amount or type of food you are sending with them. During the morning session, we will offer the children a piece of fruit, along with the option of milk or water. Water is also available to the children throughout the session. We appreciate that some children do not like plain water, so if your child prefers juice, you are more than welcome to send a beaker with juice for them. Please ensure that all bottles and beakers are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Opening hours

A quick reminder that our opening times are as follows:

All Day Session: 8.50am - 3.20pm

Morning Session: 8.50am - 11.50am

Afternoon Session: 11.50am - 3.20pm

Children will be asked to queue outside the gate and wait to be welcomed in before their session starts.

There will be boxes outside the gate for you to leave your child's lunch box, book bag and beaker.

If your child is attending the morning session, they will be let out at 11.50am. At the same time, children arriving for the afternoon session will be welcomed in. It is therefore important that everyone arrives and collects on time, as we can only have a certain number of children on site at any one time. We understand that some parents have older children to collect from school at the end of the day. If this applies to you, please arrange to collect your pre-school child at 3.00pm, before doing your school run. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. It helps us to keep arrivals and collections running smoothly and ensures that the children have a calm and enjoyable start and finish to their sessions.

Birthdays

We have 4 birthdays for September and October. So happy birthday to Sierra, Louie, Hunter and Ada!! We hope you have a great day!



Kind Regards,

Theresa Miller
Pre-school Manager