



Sizer Street

Preston

PR1 7DR

Headteacher: Mrs. A. Howarth

www.englishmartyrs.lancs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01772 556092

Nursery: 01772 258476

Email: head@englishmartyrs.lancs.sch.uk

Wednesday 7th Sept 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to our school family to all our new children and families!

I hope you have all had a good summer break and enjoyed the glorious weather that we had! We have all been busy here in school getting things ready for a new school year, planning work, setting up classrooms, displays, cleaning, polishing, tidying, sorting, changing rooms about and we are all raring to go!

The whole staff team were in school last Thursday and Friday for INSET Training when we updated and agreed policies as a team and also agreed on a few new initiatives for this year ahead, as well as catching up with each other like excited children!

One of our new initiatives is the **English Martyrs' Fabulous 4 Passport**. We believe as a whole school family, adults (staff and Governors) and our children, that learning is not just about Reading, Writing, Maths etc, but also wider experiences ~ climbing a tree, inventions, visiting the park, a museum for example. As a school council, Governing Board and staff team, we have created the Fabulous 4 Passport!

Each year, **every** child will have opportunities and experiences through school that develop, encourage and further knowledge and learning for their own personal development under the 4 categories Growth, Cultural, Creativity and Global. Staff teams are planning these experiences into their curriculums and will be sharing them with you and of course the children. Each experience will be logged in their passport with a stamp and date. Please be assured though, we aim to provide free opportunities and experiences for our children as much as possible. Children will be receiving their passports this week!

Another new initiative and change is The Snug and the way we run it. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hewitson have worked incredibly hard over summer to transform The Snug into a more specific Nurture Room. From this week, The Snug will operate as a Nurture Room each morning as an intervention programme. Attached to this letter is an information sheet about The Snug and Nurture. As a whole school family, staff and Governors, we firmly believe that the foundations of any learning, for anybody, is emotional harmony. This is something which will be of high priority for all this year. Please also check out The Snug section of the school website for pictures and information on The Snug.

I am sure you have all been hit by the fuel crisis, whether it is current or predicted fuel costs of the future, we are here, as always, to support, help and share what we have or know. There are grants and support available through Preston City Council, we also have The Pantry@EM continuing this year and Free School Meals. We will help in any way we can or find someone else who can! Please, do not keep quiet if you need help or support, we are a family here in school!

As always, thank you for your continual support, friendship and care and remember the door is open! Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Kind regards,

Annalisa Howarth
Headteacher



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Welcome to The Snug ~ Nurture Provision at English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School

The Snug, our Nurture room, is run by Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hewitson, our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) Team. It is designed with a home like feel to be a bridge between school and home; a warm and friendly environment where children feel emotionally safe and secure and therefore develop their individual needs further. A place where we give children the opportunity to grow in confidence and be engaged in a small group environment to become more successful learners in their classrooms, the school community and in the wider community.

What is Nurture?

Verb: to care for and protect (someone or something) while they are growing.

Noun: the action or process of nurturing someone or something

Synonyms: encouragement, development, boosting, advancement.

Within The Snug we have small kitchen area where the children can enjoy cookery, baking and a place to prepare snacks for us to share at the table. A comfortable sofa and cushions to share our news, thoughts and games with one another during daily catch up time. A sensory area filled with lights, sounds and many other sensory materials. We also have our own outdoor play and garden area at the front of the Hall where we will be growing flowers and vegetables and fruit which we hope to be able to prepare and eat and share with others.

The Snug is a targeted intervention based on a carefully routine session where there is a balance of learning and teaching, affection and structure within a home-like atmosphere. Children follow a structure and routine that is clear to both staff and children which includes group listening and speaking, learning and games, individual and shared playing and social skills. The group runs on consistency, positive reinforcement and praise. We endeavour to immerse our young people in an accepting and warm environment. This helps to develop positive relationships with both teachers and peers by providing a variety of experiences, opportunities, approaches and resources to address children's needs within a culture of trust while incorporating the six principles of nurture.



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The six principles of nurture

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally. Planned activities within the nurture group are adapted as appropriate for the developmental stage of each child in the nurture group. Staff meet regularly with class teachers to discuss the children's' learning, emotional needs and their progress
2. The classroom offers a safe base. The nurture room provides a bridge between home and school.
3. The development of self-esteem is an important aspect of the nurture group. With a growing self-esteem, children will be more able to face the challenges of everyday life, to solve problems and to tackle new experiences.
4. The development of language skills for communication is vital - Great attention is paid to the use of language with high levels of child/adult interactions, everything is explained and explored.
5. All behaviour is communication - The children learn acceptable ways of communicating their likes, dislikes and feelings giving opportunities to talk about and understand their feelings and to experience and practice the development of positive relationship.
6. We recognise the importance of transition in children's lives. Managing transitions is a key feature of our Nurture Group, preparing the children for day-to-day events and changes to the usual routine.

Parents as partners

Before children attend nurture provision, parents/ carers will be contacted to discuss and permission slip to be signed. We work closely with parents with regular informal meetings taking place to discuss progress, share any concerns and to plan next steps. Special event invitations will be sent out sent for you and your child to join us but we also welcome parent/carers to pop in for coffee and cake.

The Snug also offers specific interventions using principles of ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training including:

Friendships and Relationships

Worry and anxiety workshops

Time to talk

Play skills

Please contact Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hewitson either by popping into school, phoning school on 01772 556092 or by emailing them on thesnug@englishmartyrs.lancs.sch.uk