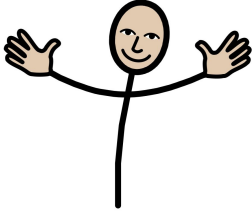




Sunshine Preschool *Newsletter*



St Gerard's September 2026



We hope you had an enjoyable summer! We are very much looking forward to working with you over the coming academic year. The Autumn term is always an exciting time as we welcome new families to Sunshines and see our younger children return as budding preschoolers.

You will receive a copy of our newsletter via email at the beginning of each term to give you a brief outline of the curriculum topics we will be exploring and to keep you up to date with any special events. More information can be found on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page which are regularly updated, and you can subscribe to our [calendar](#) for term dates & special events.

Please check your welcome pack for the time and date of your initial key meeting with your key person. If you cannot make this meeting please email us as soon as possible, as your child can't start without you attending.

TERM DATES

Term starts

Monday 7th Sep 2026

Last day of term

Wednesday 21st Oct
2026

Please note we do not always run to the same dates as local schools. Term dates are detailed in the [Welcome book](#) and on our [calendar](#)

CURRICULUM TOPICS

Each term, via our newsletter, you will receive an overview of our planning, detailing our topic, sound, story and song of the week. Our story of the week ensures that children have multiple opportunities to listen to the same story, helping to embed the story's structure, characters and events which enhances their literacy skills. More information can be found on our [blog](#) about World Book Week. Through learning and repeating our song of the week children experience rhythm and rhyme which supports language development, whilst our sound of the week supports phonetic development and speech sounds.

SETTING CONTACT

St Gerard's mobile
number:
07798 672 609



IMPORTANT DATES

21st Sep: Preschool closed for staff first-aid training
5th - 21st Oct: we will be collecting harvest donations for food-bank



Date	Learning Themes	Story of the week	Song of the week	Special events
7 - 11 Sep	Settling in weeks			
14 - 18 Sep				
21 - 25 Sep	All About Me	Shark in the Park	Heads, shoulders, knees and toes	Return All About Me Bags
28 - 2 Oct	All About Me	Saturday	Roly Poly	
5 - 9 Oct	Harvest	Little Red Hen	Five Little Leaves	Donations for food-bank
12 - 21 Oct	Autumn	Owl Babies/ Where's My Teddy	A wide eyed owl/Teddy Bear Teddy Bear	Collect natural resources

All About Me bags - As we learn more about ourselves through our 'All About Me' topic, children will be decorating and bringing home a small bag which we would like them to fill with a photo of their family and 4 things that are important to them. This could be a favourite book, a special toy, a photo of their pet, or something that represents what you like doing as a family. Children will be given opportunities to share the contents of their bag with their friends as a prompt to talk about themselves and their families.

HARVEST

To celebrate the English festival of Harvest, children are invited to bring in small food items for our Harvest table. All foods will be donated to local food-banks and we will be exploring where our food comes from and what our favourite foods are. Please bring any food donations in during the weeks of 5th - 21st October.

CELEBRATIONS

As we learn more about ourselves and our friends we will also be exploring children's different home cultures, so if your family has any special cultural celebrations that are different to traditional English customs or specific ways of celebrating please let us know so we can include them in our planning.

NATURAL RESOURCES

During our Autumn topic we will be looking at seasonal changes in our world and we will be using lots of natural resources to enhance learning. If you are out and about and find conkers, leaves, fir cones or anything else that you think children would be interested in then please bring them into pre-school for us to use.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Children are welcome to bring in one large cake or small cakes to share with friends at snack time to celebrate a birthday or special occasion.

Please do not send sweets or chocolates as we cannot give these out.



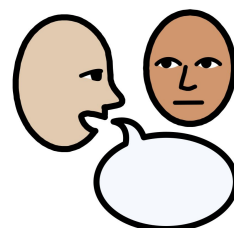
Tapestry: Our online learning journals have now been set up and all parents have been sent a link to their account. Please check you junk mail if you have not received it and log into the account as soon as possible. This will give you access to observations made on your child and enables you to upload photographs and comments yourself. Please note that during the first couple of weeks we will endeavour to post brief observations so you can see what your child has enjoyed at pre-school but normally key persons only update Tapestry once a week during their non-contact time. This is to maximise the time practitioners spend engaging with children and any handover information will be given in person when you collect your child.

PACKED LUNCHES

A reminder to parents that as part of our healthy eating policy we respectfully request that children do not bring chocolate bars or sweets in their lunch box. We also provide drinks at lunchtime so children do not need to bring their own drink with them. If children bring grapes, sausages or tomatoes please make sure they are cut in half lengthways to avoid choking hazards and, as some children have allergies, **please do not send nuts, peanut butter or Nutella in sandwiches**. As we have mid session snacks in the morning and afternoon please do not overfill your child's lunchbox but provide a range of **small amounts of food** which they can choose from.

COLLECTING CHILDREN

You must inform us when dropping off if anyone different is collecting your child. If you forget to inform us you must contact us on the **pre-school mobile number 07798 672 609** because if we have not been informed we will not let your child leave until we have spoken to you. Please do not ring the office number as messages will not be picked up in time. During the first few weeks of term we ask that all parents be punctual in collecting their child so they do not become anxious as other parents arrive.



Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

This is funding paid to support your child at preschool, for parents who are in receipt of certain benefits, and for children who are looked after, or adopted, or an asylum seeker, to enhance the quality of your child's early years experience. You can find out about your eligibility [here](#).

Your child may be eligible for additional funding that can help to cover any extra preschool expenses such as lunch fees and trips etc. If you believe that you may be eligible for EYPP, please contact the Finance team (finance@sunshinepreschool.org.uk).

Arriving and Departing

Reporting an Absence - Please could you ring or text and let us know if your child will not be attending pre-school as it is an Ofsted requirement for us to log this information. Please always ring on the **pre-school mobile number 07798672609** as emails and messages to the office number will not be picked up in time.

Dogs - Please be aware that, as with most schools, we respectfully ask that dogs are not brought to the door when dropping or collecting children.

Toys from home – We ask parents not to let children bring in any toys or items from home unless we have specifically requested it to support curriculum topics. It is easy for toys to be broken or lost at pre-school, so please keep all toys at home.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Please ensure that you are always available on the emergency contact number you have given us. We must **always** be able to get hold of someone in the event of an emergency. If you are not going to be available on the number you have given then please notify us when dropping off your child.

PRE SCHOOL FEES

As detailed in your Welcome book, please remember that pre-school fees need to be paid **during the first week of the month** (unless you are paying by childcare credits). Bills will normally be given on the first day of the month. If you are unable to pay at the beginning of the month you need to speak to Karon on 0117-9774170.

CLOTHING

Outside Play: We use the outdoor environment on a daily basis so please make sure your child **always brings a warm coat with them.**

Labelling Possessions: Please make sure children's clothes and lunchboxes are clearly labelled with their name, especially coats, Sunshine sweaters and polo shirts, to prevent them from getting lost or mixed up with someone else's.

Spare clothes bags: Please make your child's bag contains an adequate supply of clothes (3 full sets of clothes including one pair of spare shoes such as daps) and a carrier bag to wrap wet clothes in. This is for messy play and spills at snack time not just toileting accidents.

WEBSITE

Please remember you can find more information about special events, view our Welcome Book and find a copy of newsletters online at www.sunshinepreschool.org.uk