



Dear parents

Education and learning are the most important ingredients to becoming all that you can be. How open you are to learning will help determine your path in life. Education does not just happen at school. Education and learning are happening continuously. They happen any time your mind is open to learning.

The children at Little Saints walk through the doors in the morning with their minds ready to learn. It is heartwarming to see how they have settled and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the environment and discovering interesting "precious spaces" in which to play. I would like to welcome all our new families to our school and may Little Saints be the start of a magical journey for your child at St Mary's.

At Little Saints, as part of the implementation of the Reggio approach, the image of the child is fundamental. Children are seen as researchers, active constructors of

knowledge, as well as social beings that are capable, curious and creative. It forms part of the essence of a child's identity. More about the Reggio approach will be shared with you during a workshop on Saturday 24 February - please diarise this date.

All co-curricular activities, that are offered privately in the afternoons for Little Saints children have begun. Please refer to the St Mary's App for the timetable. I would advise however, that you allow your child time to settle properly at school before arranging any co-curricular activity. Please consider their time carefully before you fill their days so that they are not rushed from one activity to another. Children of this age need plenty of unstructured, unhurried time in which they can play, investigate the world around them and develop their own understanding. Their childhood is precious and arranging a full schedule of activities every day means less and less time for play. Friedrich Froebel, considered the father of Kindergarten, believed that, "Play is the serious business of childhood".

Finally, there is much written about the importance of play-based learning. Please take a few moments to click on the link below. The article attached explains the role of play in a child's journey towards adulthood. It is a very interesting read:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/give-childhood-back-to-children-if-we-want-our-offspring-to-have-happy-productive-and-moral-lives-we-must-allow-more-time-for-play-not-less-are-you-listening-gove-9054433.html>

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."

Albert Einstein

Kind regards

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HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: LITTLE SAINTS

