



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School

The Green

Chipping Norton

Oxfordshire

OX7 5DH

## **Consultation for the set up of a Nursery at St. Mary's CE Primary School**

St Mary's CE Primary School is setting up a Nursery provision, with 30 places, for 2-4 year olds and this consultation sets out the proposal to implement this plan. To establish the Nursery, it is necessary for the school to change the age range, which the school caters for (from 4-11-year olds to 2-11 year olds).

This is an exciting opportunity that would enable the school to provide Early Education places to children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old, prior to their entry to school. The purpose of this consultation is to provide information about our proposal and seek the views of our families and the wider community.

### **Proposal**

The proposed Nursery provision will be based in the existing EYFS unit, sharing the entrance, making the transition to school even more seamless. There is ample space for up to approx. 30 children, including a large and secure outdoor area. The current facilities lend themselves to support the requirements of a Nursery, with only some refurbishment required. The Nursery children will have access to the school's resources and facilities including the library, the Orchard (SEND facility), Forest School and pond area, playing spaces and the hall.

The curriculum, planning, provision and pupils' progress will be overseen and line-managed by the school's Senior Leadership Team.

It is proposed that St Mary's Nursery would open in September 2025 (term time only).

### **Reasons for Opening Nursery Provision**

St Mary's CE Primary School is a one-form entry primary school located on The Green, Chipping Norton. In its last Ofsted inspection in 2024, St Mary's retained its 'Good' Ofsted grading. The Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team believe that the addition of a nursery class will benefit the children and families within our local community through the provision of high-quality affordable childcare and quality education for children from 2/3 years to 11 years, enabling families to use their Government Funded Early Education childcare entitlement at one setting.

St Mary's Primary School wishes to contribute to and support the Government's scheme to support more parents and family members returning to work after their parental leave ends. In addition, the benefits to the school, the children and the local community include:

- To provide children with the best possible start in their education, creating strong links with the school's foundation stage. We would offer high quality, teacher led provision.
- A more comprehensive transition from Nursery to EYFS to support a smoother start to school life for our EYFS children who currently join us from several different nurseries.
- Early identification of vulnerable families so that early help and support can be implemented more quickly.
- Early identification of SEND needs which can subsequently be addressed earlier and appropriate support put in place.
- A continuity of provision which reflects our vision and ethos.
- To better ensure a full cohort of 30 children in our EYFS year, supporting the school financially, which in turn benefits the whole school community.
- Respond to expressions of interest in a Nursery from current and prospective families.
- Provide a flexible pre-school provision and continuity from 2/3 to 11 years for our families.
- Optimise the use of our facilities and capitalise on our expert knowledge of the early years' foundation stage provision.
- Provide employment opportunities and continuing professional development for current staff.

## **We welcome your support**

- This is an opportunity for parents, carers, staff, the local community and other people who have an interest in the school to respond to the outlined options and ask questions on the proposal to establish the nursery. The consultation period starts on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and will end 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024. You can state whether you support the proposal or not by completing the consultation questionnaire online by clicking on the link below:
- <https://forms.gle/LRXAUNmi5fgxxzBw5>
- If you have any other questions regarding this proposal, please contact the Headteacher Christine McQueen on 01608 642673 or email [office.3858@st-marys-chipping.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3858@st-marys-chipping.oxon.sch.uk)

## **What happens next?**

The final decision as to whether this proposal is approved for implementation will be made by the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of the Department for Education.