



Welcome to  
**St. John's School**

THE  
BEST  
START  
IN LIFE.

# WELCOME





# WELCOME

## Welcome to Our School

St. John's School is a small, safe and secure International school, located in the center of Cascais.

We follow the **English Early Years Foundation Stage** and **Key Stage One** of the National Curriculum.

Children learn best when they enjoy what they are doing and have fun. This is why we have created a learning environment that allows children to learn in a fun way.

St. John's provides a stimulating and happy childcare atmosphere where your child can safely explore and learn. We listen and work closely with parents so your child's individual needs are met; allowing them to fulfil their potential.

At St. John's School we are very proud of our Teachers & Assistants Education and Care team. Some of our practitioners have been members of staff for over fifteen years; we believe this to be testament to the caring family atmosphere at our school, and to our team's genuine commitment to the care and development of all children.

We recognize that communication between parents and staff is very important. It is our belief that working together ensures the best outcome for your child.

We believe that every child gets the best possible start in life at St. John's School.







## At St. John's we follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage Framework**.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

The **EYFS Framework** explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first.

These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development;
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**.

These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world;
- Expressive arts and design.

**These 7 areas** are used to plan your child's **learning and activities**.

The teachers at St. Johns School support and make sure that the activities are suited to **your child's unique needs**. This curriculum is suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

We hold parents' meetings **termly** to discuss the development and progress of each child individually.

Children in the **EYFS** learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

# YOUNG TODDLERS





# YOUNG TODDLERS

## Young Toddlers

The Young Toddlers at St. John's School are encouraged to have a positive relationship with their teachers, positive relationship with their peers and to develop their self-image.

It is their first contact with the English language in a fun and stimulating way, within an International School environment.

Our little ones are introduced to several themes at St. John's School such as:

- Colours
- Myself
- My family
- Animal sounds
- Stories and songs

\* All of our activities are taught in English.

Many years of knowledge and experience has led to the most effective layout of our classrooms for our little ones, located on the 2nd floor. An abundance of stimulating equipment and resources are available to encourage the overall development of every child.

## Motor Skills

The Physical Development of babies and young children at St. John's are encouraged through the provision of opportunities for them to be active and interactive and to improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement. We provide children tunnels, slopes and low level steps to stimulate and challenge children and we encourage free movement. We provide different arrangements of toys and soft play materials to encourage crawling, tumbling, rolling and climbing.

## Music

Young Toddlers are encouraged to show enthusiasm for music through singing and dancing activities. They have some basic contact with instruments and enjoy singing and movements.

St. John's excellent on-site kitchen gives children healthy and delicious meals that they enjoy, starting with our weaning menu we aim to introduce children to a variety of tastes and textures so that they are confident eaters, willing to try new foods.

Outdoor play is an important part of the daily routine. Young Toddlers, Toddlers & Nursery children play together on the playground. Children enjoy swings, slides, tunnels and a variety of cars & tricycles.



# TODDLERS





## Toddlers

After leaving the Young Toddler class, the children move on to the Toddler class. A wide variety of activities are available to enhance the individual needs of your child and to stimulate and further their abilities, both indoors and out.

The Toddlers at St. John's School learn the English language and Mathematics through several themes.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT	MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT
• Songs, stories and finger play	• Colours
• All about me	• Basic shapes
• My family	• Counting songs
• Seasons of the year	• Matching
• Animals	• Motor Skills
• Vocabulary	

\* All of our activities are taught in English.

## Physical Development

In order to give all Toddlers the best opportunities for effective development and learning in Physical Development we give particular attention to:

- Building children's confidence to take manageable risks in their play;
- Motivating children to be active and help them to develop movement skills through praise, encouragement, games and appropriate guidance;
- Providing equipment and resources that are sufficient, challenging and interesting, that can be used in a variety of ways and to support specific skills.

## Music

Through singing, dancing, and playing instruments the children demonstrate an awareness of musical concepts such as a beat and rhythm. They respond to music through movement and explore different sounds.



# NURSERY





## Nursery

The priority of the Nursery class is to create a secure environment in which your child feels relaxed. Children are encouraged to play and learn in a happy indoor and outdoor environment. A wide range of fun activities develop self-confidence and the joy of learning.

### LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Children at St. John's school learn to speak English through:

- Speaking and listening to adults and peers
- Communicating thoughts and feelings
- Engaging in musical activities
- Stories, songs, games and imaginative play
- Seeing and using familiar words

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children will develop an understanding of mathematics through:

- Saying and using number names
- Counting objects
- Identify and sort colours
- Match and recognize shapes

## PE - Physical Education

Nursery children develop control and coordination and learn to move with confidence and in safety. Children travel around, under, over and through, balancing and climbing equipment, showing awareness of space, themselves and others. A large range of equipment is available and children are taught to handle tools, objects safely and with increasing control.

## Music

At this stage children learn to recognize repeated sounds and sound patterns, as well as match movements to music. Children demonstrate awareness of musical concepts such as rhythm, listening, appraising and recognizing sounds. Children sing simple songs from memory and begin to use simple instruments.

## ICT - Information and Communication Technology

Children learn the basic concepts at this stage, using the mouse and manipulating objects. Children gain hand-eye coordination, begin to draw simple geometric shapes, draw objects with pencil, brush and lines. Children learn to connect dots with letters and numbers as well as matching figures and forms.

Outdoor play is an important part of the daily routine. Young Toddlers, Toddlers & Nursery children play together on the playground. Children enjoy swings, slides, tunnels and a variety of cars & tricycles.



# RECEPTION





## Reception

At the age of 4 years, children move onto the Reception class. Children continue to enjoy carefully structured play activities within the classroom and have plenty of opportunities to explore the unique outdoor environment. All children will read, write and use numbers each day to develop independent writing skills.

### LITERACY

Children will get a foundation in literacy through:

- Communication and language activities such as role play
- Listening exercises
- Learning the letter sounds
- Learning letter formation

### NUMERACY

- Count and recognise numbers
- Describe and recognise 2D shapes, 3D shapes
- Use language such as more or less to compare numbers
- Simple addition and subtraction

## PE - Physical Education

Children can develop to the most of their capabilities in P.E lessons. We provide that our student have the maximum opportunities to move freely in the interior and exterior of the school. Experience different movements such as twisting, sliding and rolling on the floor like a snake. Experience different movements, such as: fast and slow and use materials such as balls, hoops and climbing.

## Music

Reception children are introduced to composing, melodies, rhythm, and performing. Children demonstrate awareness of musical concepts such as listening and appraising, recognizing repeated sounds, sound patterns and matching movements to music.

## ICT - Information and Communication Technology

Children get familiar and enthusiastic about using a range of ICT hardware and software to support their learning. Children learn skills in mouse control and how to work with a keyboard.





# YEAR ONE





## Year One

At St. John's, Year One is the first year of primary school – **Key Stage One**. Mathematics and Literacy are taught in a more structured way and children are introduced to the **English National Curriculum**.

### LITERACY

In Year 1 English, children will consolidate their learning of phonics and should become confident in being able to match each group of letters with the sound it makes. They will be encouraged to read a wide range of stories and listen to poems which they will start to recite by heart.

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|--|--|
| • Children learn to speak confidently        | • Use language to explore their experience           |
| • Sound and name the letters of the alphabet | • Use capital letters, regular spaces and full stops |
| • Begin to read and write independently      | • Read and Spell familiar words                      |

### NUMERACY

During Year 1 your child will get to grips with mathematics in a very hands-on way, investigating, counting, playing number games and using everyday objects to help them solve problems and do simple calculations.

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Children learn to count reliably    | • Understand and use vocabulary of comparing and ordering |
| • Count on and back                   | • Understand the operation of addition and subtraction    |
| • Count in tens from and back to zero | • Learn about shape, measure and data handling            |
| • Read, write and order numbers       |   |

## PE - Physical Education

The Year One class are encouraged to use movement imaginatively, responding to stimuli, including music and performing basic skills. Children learn to be able to change the rhythm, speed, level and direction of their movements, create and perform dances using movement patterns. Children are engaged in simple, competitive games and perform basic skills in travelling, being still, finding space and using it safely.

## Music

Music will always be a constant joy to the children providing a variety of knowledge. Our students play musical instruments and sing a selection of songs. Explore sound and silence and the different effects they can have. Create musical patterns, dance and repeat rhythms. Musical elements such as duration, pitch, tempo, timbre and others are also explored in these lessons.

## ICT - Information and Communication Technology

Year One students have ICT lessons, this subject is taught by a teacher with specific training in the area. Children start to acquire knowledge and skills such as using texts, tables, images and sounds to develop their ideas, select and add information they have retrieved for particular purposes, try things and explore what happens in real and imaginary situations.

Reception & Year One children have direct access to their playground, where they enjoy swings, slides and a climbing rack. In addition to the classrooms, the children benefit from a separate Dining Room located on the 1st floor. It is here that the children enjoy healthy meals from our kitchen prepared by our cook.

# SWIMMING



St. John's School offers swimming lessons in our lovely indoor and heated pool. All children at St. John's school have the option to join the swimming programme.

The programme is all-inclusive that takes the non-swimmer from their first splash to developing confidence and competence in the water. Our learn to swim programme is designed specifically to teach children to swim and be safe around water.

We provide small group lessons for students from Young Toddlers up to Year One level (1 to 5 years old). The programme emphasis on fun, our lessons are carefully planned to develop early year's confidence and to suit each age group.

