

ÉCOLE SIR WILLIAM OSLER

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Principal: Dominique Ostermann

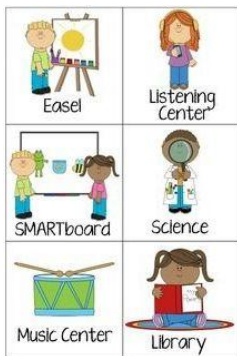


Hello and welcome to nursery at École Sir William Osler!

I just wanted to take some time to introduce myself and to pass on some valuable information as your child enters our nursery program at École Sir William Osler. My name is Awa Mbodje, and I am excited to be your child's teacher this year! I teach the afternoon nursery class in room 10.

École Sir William Osler is a French Milieu school, which means that each child in our school is enrolled in French Immersion. Nursery students will receive full-time instruction in French. We begin speaking to the students in French right from the beginning of the year. With the help of gestures, visual aids, and repetition, the children quickly begin to absorb the language and are soon able to follow directions in French!

Our Routine:



I will meet the children at the front (northeast) door of the school when the bell rings at 12:25 p.m. Parents will have to say their goodbyes at this time, rather than following the children inside; the transition is much easier this way! Having arrived at our classroom, the students will learn independence by removing their outdoor shoes, hanging up their jackets/backpacks and putting on their indoor shoes. We are happy to assist those who need a little extra support at the beginning. Once all children are ready, we continue our half-day with calendar activities, songs, counting, and group games like "Simon Says."

After about 15-20 minutes, the children are invited to explore self-led and adult-led centres. These include a variety of activities where the children can practice fine motor skills, literacy skills, counting/number skills, be creative with art materials, learn with the assistance of technology using



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iPads, class computers and the SMARTBoard, and engage in imaginative play. We at École Sir William Osler believe that children learn through play. We make sure the children receive at least an hour a day to play in the classroom and outside, weather permitting. After about an hour of free play, we work as a group to clean up the classroom together, then we meet again at the carpet. Now it's time for a short French book or two, more singing, or perhaps a visit to the gym for some movement activities. At the end of the afternoon, we begin preparing to go home/daycare/bus! Again, here we encourage independence, and have the children put their items in their backpacks, put their indoor shoes away, and put on their jackets and outdoor shoes.

Daycare students will be picked up at the classroom door by daycare staff. Students who take the bus will be led to their bus by a staff member, and parents who pick up children can meet us at the back southeast door off the hardtop. **Please be sure to check in with the teacher to let us know you are leaving with your child.**

Snack:

Snack will be eaten during Centre Time each day. Nursery students will bring their own snacks. Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack, such as fruits and vegetables. Since there are children who have allergies, more information will be sent home about safe snacks in September. Please label all lunch bags and snack containers.



Please also send your child with a reusable water bottle. We do not like sending children unsupervised to the water fountain. They get thirsty at school! Thank you for your co-operation!

Communication Bags:



On your child's first day of school, you will receive a nylon bag (*le sac de communication*). This bag will remain in the backpack each day. We will send home important notes and information, as well as precious artwork your child does at school. Please check the communication bag each day after school and help your child remember to put it back into their backpack as soon as you've looked through it. Feel free to send me notes this way.



Library:

We visit the library once a week (schedule will be finalized in October.) Your child will be able to pick a book to bring home, and when they return their book the next week, they can take out a new book. If your child has an outstanding book they will be allowed to visit the library, however, they are not able to take out a book until the outstanding one is returned.



Birthdays:

On your child's birthday, you are welcome (but not expected) to bring a snack to share with the class. We will notify you of allergies at the beginning of the school year. If you do send treats for the class, please notify the teacher in advance, and please include a snack that is ready to serve (not a cake that needs to be cut up and served). Thank you so much for your support!



As busy teachers, we are not always able to make sure those invitations get into the right backpacks, and sometimes this process disrupts/upsets the students. We prefer if parents contact other families directly and not send invitations to school. **Let us know if you do not wish to share your contact information with the class.** Thank you again for your co-operation!

Volunteers:

Volunteers are a valuable part of our program; we love having parents and grandparents in our class! We will be ready to invite volunteers once our routines are in place by mid-October. All volunteers must complete and submit the proper paperwork before volunteering in all Winnipeg School Division schools. If you would like to volunteer, let me know and I will be sure to send the paperwork home with your child.



First Week:



On the very first day of school, **Wednesday, September 9**, we will schedule 5-6 families at a time for a half hour “visit” in their new classroom! During the visit, the children will be walked through the different areas of the classroom, and the teacher will have a chance to explain some of the routines and rules of the classroom. They will see where they will put their shoes, backpacks, do some calendar activities, and explore the classroom for a short time. Parents will have a chance to share information with the teacher and ask questions. The next two days will be a gentle entry: half the class will come to school from 12:30-1:30 p.m., the other half from 2:00-3:00 p.m. We feel it will help children ease into the routine if the class size is smaller for the first few days. Parents will not stay in the class during Gentle Entry days. Regular classes begin for all students on **Monday, September 14**, and students will attend from 12:25-3:00 p.m. Bussing will begin on Monday, September 14 as well. THERE WILL BE NO BUSSING FOR NURSERY/KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14. We are looking forward to meeting all our students and their families!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at ambodje@wsd1.org any time.

Mme Awa Mbodje



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