

Reception Newsletter
Autumn 1 - 2017

Dear All,

At the beginning of every half term a class newsletter will be available on the school website. It will include information about the learning your child will undertake, important diary dates and ways in which you might be able to get involved if you wish to.

Our topics for this half term are:

'STARTING SCHOOL' and 'NURSERY RHYMES'

PSED

Our main focus for this half term is to settle the children into the School environment. The class will be learning each other's names and begin to make friends by playing lots of 'getting to know you' circle time games. They will be thinking about their feelings and the feelings of others. As a class we are learning the routines and expectations at St. Mary's. Together we will talk about our 'Rights and Responsibilities' and create a 'Reception Class Charter', which will be displayed in class.

Physical Development

The class will be developing both their fine and gross motor skills through their time in Reception. To develop their fine motor skills the children will be participating in activities such as 'Write Dance' and 'Dough Disco.' These activities improve the strength in their upper body, hands and fingers. They will be encouraged to use a tripod grip when mark making and writing. Please encourage your child to make marks, paint, draw and write at home. They will receive a name writing pack and weekly handwriting sheets to help consolidate what they have been learning at home.

PE

Reception will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday, with Mr Ellis and on a Thursday with Miss Cairns. This half term pupils will focus on movement. They will develop a range of movement patterns and respond to perform these on command. In addition they will practice moving through agility ladders, collecting and moving objects.

Communication and Language

Within Communication and Language the focus will be on listening, understanding and speaking. Throughout the year the class will be taking part in lots of speaking and listening activities and introduced to a range of books, stories and rhymes.

Through our 'Nursery Rhymes' topic we will be introducing a different traditional rhyme every week. These rhymes will be used as a starting point to inspire a love of rhythm and rhyme and the ideas and stories they contain. Each rhyme has its own character, individual setting and events that the class will explore. The class role-play area will be a Home Corner, with added enhancements for the weekly Nursery Rhyme e.g. a grand father clock and mice for Hickory Dickory Dock. This will encourage the children to use language imaginatively and perform the weekly rhyme.

Literacy

At St. Mary's we follow the **Jolly Phonics Synthetic Program**, which uses a multisensory approach to teach phonics. This half term we will begin by playing lots of sound games to introduce the phonics scheme. The class will be learning four letter sounds (phonemes) per week. Your child will be bringing home 'sound books' with the four sounds covered in class each week. Please practise recognising, saying, hearing and writing the sound of the letter at home. If you would like more information on how phonics is taught in Reception please attend the 'supporting your child to read at home' workshop on Friday 29th September at 2:45. This is an extremely useful workshop!

Maths

In our number work we will be:

- Counting, ordering, recognising and writing numerals from 0-20.
- Counting accurately with one-to-one correspondence
- Counting along a number track
- Learning about addition and subtraction and begin to understand number sentence

In our shape, space and measure work we will be:

- Recognising and name 2D shapes
- Sequencing daily events and naming days of the week
- Recognising and recreating repeating patterns
- Using positional language

Understanding the World

The class will be getting to know each other and learning about new people and places within the school. The children have been put in 'Family Groups', which will go with them throughout the school.

RE

Our weekly RE sessions will focus on 'Who made this wonderful world - Creation.' The class will learn about the Bible and what Christians believe about creation. They will be encouraged to think about the natural world and share the gifts of creation. Through this we will also learn about Harvest Festival and prepare for the Harvest Service on Friday 7th October at St. Mary's Church (9:45am). All parents/carers are welcome to attend.

Expressive Arts and Design

In addition to our class based activities the class will also be have discrete music and art lessons with a specialist teacher every Tuesday.

Music - Mrs Le Prevost

In Reception we will be developing musical understanding and participation through a range of activities to link in with their topic about nursery rhymes, including playing musical games, listening and moving to a range of music and playing musical instruments. They will be introduced to the concept of pitch by using their hands and body in action songs they know, as well as new songs that we will learn.

Art - Mrs Forsyth

In Reception this term we will be focusing on developing our drawing skills. We will be and looking at family portraits from the past and using these to create our own drawings. We will experiment with different materials to create our drawings, using a combination of soft pencils and pastels (soft and oil-based). **To inspire our work we**

would like children to bring in a photograph of friends, family and pets. Please send their photographs by Tuesday 19th September.

Reception Routines and Information

Arriving and Collecting

To help them settle into their school day it is important that your child/children arrive on time (**8:55am**). Please wait in the Reception playground by the large white shelters, so all the children can line up together and wave goodbye to parents/carers before entering the classroom. If it is raining heavily at the beginning of school, a teacher will direct children into the classroom any time after 8:45. It is very important children are collected on time (**3:15pm**). We dismiss Reception children from the gate by the white shelters in the YR playground. If you are late children will be waiting in the school office. This can be very distressing so please make sure you are on time. **Please let us know if somebody else is collecting your child via the PACT email.**

PACT Emails - this is a communication email between school and home.

This year PACT books have been replaced with PACT emails. This is a way of communicating with the Reception team on a daily basis. PACT emails will be checked once a day and all messages need to be sent by 9:00am. A letter will be sent home with more information regarding the new system.

Home Learning

Daily - 'Sound Books'

Weekly - Handwriting will be sent home on Wednesday and needs to be handed back into school on Tuesday (this will begin to be sent home on 27th September)

Class Toy - 'Rosie Rabbit'

Each week a different child is chosen to take home the class toy 'Rosie'. The children are expected to look after her and make a note in her diary about what they did over the weekend. We encourage photos, pictures, post cards etc. as this helps the children when sharing with the class. Please return on Monday morning so your child can share with the class.

Uniform

Uniform can be ordered from the school website. It is very important that ALL of your child's clothes and belongings are **LABELLED!** This year the Reception uniform has changed slightly; all children can wear the school polo t-shirt as part of their winter uniform. This has replaced the shirt and tie. We also spend a lot of time outside - **Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!**

PE

PE will take place twice a week on a Tuesday and Thursday morning

- **Tuesday** - ALL children to arrive in school in their PE kit and can stay in their PE kit all day.
- **Thursday** - ALL children to arrive in their uniform with their PE kit in their PE bag.

Cookery

Children take part in cookery lessons throughout the half term. We ask for a donation of £40 for the whole school year in order to cover costs. It would be enormously helpful if money could be handed into the office in a clearly labelled envelope.

Open Day for Parents

We would like to invite Reception parents/carers into school to share the children's learning over the half term. This will take place on Friday 20th October at 2:45pm. Your child will have the opportunity to share their learning journey and show you around the Reception classroom. As we have limited space, we ask that no more than two people per child attend. I do appreciate that not everyone will be able to attend and will endeavour to vary the days and times of these sessions throughout the year. If you cannot attend please let us know and we can arrange a separate time for you to view your children's learning journey and the classroom.

Parent Volunteers

Parent support is vital and if you are interested in listening to readers, helping with cooking or joining us on trips please sign up via the office. All parent volunteers **MUST** be DBS checked by the school and attend a brief induction meeting before volunteering on trips and supporting learning in school. Please obtain a form from the office and we recommend you do this at the beginning of term to ensure all relevant paperwork is completed in time.

Dairy Dates:

Monday 25th September - Volunteer Induction at 2:00-3:00pm

OR

Tuesday 26th September - Volunteer Induction at 5:30-6:30pm

Friday 6th October - Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church (9:45am)

Monday 9th October - Supporting your child to read at home workshop - 1:30-3:00pm

OR

Tuesday 10th October - Supporting your child to read at home workshop - 6:00-7:30pm

Friday 13th October - DT Day

Friday 20th - Open afternoon for parents in YR at 2:45pm

Friday 20th October - Last day of the half term (finish at 3:15)

We are looking forward to working together this year,

Miss Cairns (Reception Teacher)

Mrs Hawkins (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Coyle (Learning Support Assistant).