

Reception Newsletter
Spring 2 - 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back! We hope you have all had a lovely half term holiday and are looking forward to the term ahead.

Our topic for this half term is 'Food.'

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Reception will be taking part in weekly circle time activities and learning about the importance of being healthy. They will recognise the changes that happen to their body when they are active and will learn about healthy living.

Physical Development

Reception will continue to develop their fine and gross motor skills. They will be developing their pencil control through mark making, fine motor and handwriting activities. Handwriting will continue to be sent home weekly. Please complete this with your children, encouraging them to, hold their pencil with a tripod grip and form the letters correctly.

This half-term Reception will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday, with Miss McCrone and on a Thursday with Mrs Davidson and Mr Naughton. This half term pupils will focus on movement and ball skills. They will develop an increasing range of movement patterns, including skipping, hopping and learn how to control objects using a racket. In addition the class will work in pairs to send and receive objects, practise throwing, catching and bouncing a ball individually.

Communication and Language

Reception will take part in pretend play, imagining and recreating roles and experiences throughout our continuous provision and in our 'Supermarket' role-play area. The children will also be reading a range of books related to our topic. Our Power of Reading books this half term are 'The Gigantic Turnip' and 'No Dinner!' The class will be exploring these stories through retelling and re-enacting the story, creating story maps to chart the stages and events along the way and writing speech bubbles for the different characters.

Literacy

Reception has now learnt the initial 44 phonemes and digraphs (letter sounds)! This half term the class will be consolidating these sounds through a range of different games and activities. They will become 'digraph detectives,' trying to

spot and recall digraphs in words when reading and writing. We will also continue to recap and learn tricky words. I have had quite a few parents asking about ideas for supporting their children with their literacy homework and have attached a few ideas at the end of the newsletter.

I have attached a list of the 44 phonemes and digraphs we have learnt and sent home for the sound books. If you are missing any of these sounds please let us know which ones (via email) and we can replace them. The children continue to use these books in Year 1 so it really important they have all the phonemes/digraphs.

Maths

In number we will be:

- Comparing and ordering numbers to twenty and beyond
- Matching numerals and quantity correctly
- Estimating the number of objects and images
- Writing addition and subtraction number sentences

In shape, space and measure activities we will be:

- Learning the value of coins, comparing and ordering them according to value
- Exploring patterns
- Exploring length, height and weight

Understanding the World

Reception will be thinking about where our food comes from. We will be planting and growing different types of fruits and vegetables linking it with our POR story 'The Gigantic Turnip'. The class will use cookery as a chance to explore healthy eating and changes in materials. We will be learning about food from around the world and they will have the opportunity to cook at Wagamama's restaurant. The children will continue to use the iPads to consolidate their learning across the Curriculum.

RE

Reception will be learning about Lent and Easter.

Expressive Arts and Design

In Music we will be exploring the timbre of different instruments as well as how we can use different voices. With food being the class topic this term, we will also be singing songs and rhymes about various groceries and using kitchen utensils to explore the different sounds we can create with them. We will also be focusing on developing the children's awareness of the musical elements when playing them: tempo, dynamics and combining rhythm and pulse together.

In Art, Reception will be creating drawings, paintings and collages based on the topic of food. The class will learn to mix white with primary colours to create

different shades of the same colour. Reception will investigate the art of Giuseppe Arcimboldo who uses vegetables to make collages, floor sculptures and photographs of vegetables to make different pictures.

Home Learning

WEDNESDAY - handwriting home learning

THURSDAY - word lists and book change

Reading books, CVC blending word lists and tricky words will be changed weekly, on a THURSDAY. Please practise reading with your child, up to fifteen minutes per day is plenty! **Please write a comment in their 'Reading Record' so that we can see if they have read their books at home. If there is no comment we will assume the books have not been read and therefore they will not be changed on a Thursday for that week.**

Uniform

It is very important that ALL of your child's clothes and belongings are labelled. Some labels are beginning to fade or fall off so please check all their uniform, especially ties, jumpers/cardigans, coats and hats!

WOW

We are aware that the children also do lots of learning at home, and we would love to hear from you when you see them doing something that makes you feel proud. Each child has been given two WOW slips for you to record and share their learning and achievements outside school. If you see something that makes you think WOW, please write it down and send it into school. Photos can also be sent in or emailed to the class email. If you need more WOW slips please let a member of the Reception team know and we can send more home.

Diary Dates

- **Bicentennial Week** - 25th February - 1st March
- **Mother's Day Worship at St. Mary's School** - Friday 29th March
- **Learning and Progress Meetings (Parents Evening)** - Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th March
- **Break up for the Easter Holidays** - Friday 12th April at 2:30

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Davidson, Miss James and Miss Castle

A few ideas to help support Literacy home learning:

Reading

- Encourage children to look at their letter sounds in a different order or change the order of the book from time to time so they do not become too familiar with which sound comes next.
- Spot the different phonemes and digraphs in words in books, road signs, labels and words around house.
- Tricky words - ARE TRICKY!!! They will take a while to learn and unfortunately they will have to keep practising them.
- Hide tricky words around the house (write them in post its), then ask them to find certain ones and read them as they find them
- Place the tricky words around the room or outside and ask them to run to the one you say. If they wish they could write them on a white board/paper.
- Encourage them to write the tricky word - reception love post it notes!
- You can write sounds, words and tricky in sand, lentils and shaving foam!
- Splat the tricky word - arrange tricky words on the floor, say a tricky word and see if they can splat the corresponding word.
- Play games such as pairs, bingo and snap - these games can help support letter sounds, CVC words and tricky words
- There are also lots more ideas on websites such as Pinterest, Twinkl and Jolly Phonics if you wish to find more games and activities
- Most importantly please keep reading to your child - not just their reading books from school but wonderful, imaginative stories they enjoy! This will really build a love of reading and support them with all areas of Literacy.

Handwriting - Please don't expect it to look perfect straight away!!!!

- Talk through the way the letter is formed before starting and ask do big air writing (they do this in school)
- Encourage them to trace over the letters first with their finger before writing on the sheet.
- Use a variety of different materials/textures to practice the letter formation e.g. sand, salt, lentils and shaving foam!
- Write/mark make in a variety of different ways. E.g. note books, clipboards, post it notes, chalks, writing on big paper on the floor, easels/paper stuck to the wall (particularly good for strengthening arm muscles)
- To strengthen hands and fingers - small construction, play dough, large children's tweezers, threading toys, pegs, playing with small craft and sticker book activities and encouraging them to do their buttons independently.

Sound Book

1. s, a, t, i, p, n
2. c k, e, h, r, m, d
3. g, o, u, l, f, b
4. ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or
5. z, w, ng, v, oo, oo
6. y, x, ch, sh, th, th
7. qu, ou, oi, ue, er, ar