

Class R Newsletter

Wednesday 7th September 2020

Dear parents, carers and children,

Welcome to Reception and to the first newsletter of the year. It has been a wonderful start to the term and all the children seem to have settled in very well already. Throughout the year you will receive notes, messages and celebrations of learning via a variety of ways, including emails/text messages through the school office, paper notes in book bags/home communication books and electronically via tapestry (details of which are attached to this letter). This newsletter is a detailed one as it gives you some general background information about the children's curriculum and details of some of the routines for this half term.

Topic work

During the first term our main aim is to settle the children into the routines of school life. We make the children's happiness a priority and endeavour to ensure they feel happy and secure in the environment and with the adults they will be interacting and learning with on a daily basis. We will be placing a significant emphasis on the early learning goals for Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) as they are concerned with forming good relationships, learning to work collaboratively, taking turns and sharing, understanding right and wrong, respecting and abiding by codes of behaviour, and expressing emotions. We place a large focus on PSED early in the term because it is unquestionable that this curriculum area has a profound and underlying effect on all of the children's learning.

Our topic this half term is 'What is your favourite story?' and much of our learning this half term will come through some of these wonderful story books. Have a chat with your child about their favourite stories and try to discuss the characters and plot in the story, talking about why it is their favourite.

English

Reading

- Begin learning the RWI set one sounds
- Hear and say initial sounds in words
- Read and recognise our names
- Reading lots of stories for enjoyment
- Describing characters and setting

Writing

- make marks and give meanings to them
- write the set one sounds as we learn them
- write the initial sound of words
- write our names

Mathematics

Number

- Recognise numerals to 1 to 5
- Counting to 20 in 1's from 0
- Ordering numbers to 5
- Matching numerals to the correct amount of objects
- Writing numerals
- Counting up to 5 objects
- Recognising and using numicon pieces
- Singing maths counting songs

Shape, Space and Measure

- Compare and order objects according to size, height and weight
- Introducing 2D shapes (circle, triangle, square, rectangle and pentagon)
- Introduction of money 1p, 2p, 5p and 10p
- Looking at numbers on a clock
- Recognizing, describing and making patterns

PE

We will not be having PE this half term. More details will follow. Please encourage your child to dress and undress themselves whenever possible.

Religious Education

Mrs Jones will teach RE on a Thursday afternoon. The first unit of work is Harvest and God.

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Dough Disco

Dough disco is an activity used with the children in our class to prepare them for writing. Dough disco involves using playdough to music, copying the specific hand movements of the teacher on the interactive whiteboard focusing on different areas of the fingers and hands.

Manipulating playdough

helps to strengthen hand muscles

and develop control over the fingers.

Snipping playdough sausages helps

develop scissor cutting skills. Ask the children to

show you how we do dough disco in reception

class. Go to YouTube and search dough disco –

Shonette Bason!

Rewards/behaviour

Good behaviour and good learning are encouraged on a daily basis and are rewarded in a number of ways. Children will always receive positive praise and may receive stickers and certificates. In class we have a traffic light behaviour system. The children start each day on green, the aim is to stay there all day, however, if the children aren't following our rules they may need to move their name to yellow. This is a warning stage and there is the opportunity for the children to get back to green! However, if the behaviour doesn't improve the child will be moved to red and will be placed on our school behaviour chart. This is sent to Mrs Hall and you will receive a text message to inform you that unfortunately your child is on the behaviour chart. Mrs Jones and I will endeavour to inform you at the end of the school day if your child has been placed on the behaviour chart.

The children have 'treasure jars' which I hope they have discussed with you? When the children are displaying kind behaviour, following the rules and trying super hard they will get a piece of treasure for their box. When they have filled their pot up they get to choose a prize from the special box!

Every day we will choose a child to receive our SCARF award. SCARF stands for Safe, Caring, Achieving, Respectful, Friendly and these are principles which complement our St. Mary's Golden Ways and help us to encourage brilliant behaviour and a love for learning.

You may also hear the children and staff talking about 'giving 5'. This is our way of encouraging children to be ready for their learning during our whole class 'carpet time'. When we ask the children to give 5 we expect to see their eyes looking, ears listening, mouth quiet, body still and mind awake and ready for learning.

In Reception we are also learning to use our 'thinking thumbs' when we're on the carpet rather than shouting out.

Morning Routines

The children have all been amazing coming into school on their own each morning. Thank you for your support with this. Once the children come into class the first thing they do is to make their name with magnetic letters, trace their name and then have a go at writing it independently. If you can practice this at home with your child this will be beneficial.

School book bags

Book Bags will be used throughout their time at St. Mary's to send letters, children's learning and later reading books home. In order to facilitate this please ensure that your child brings their bag with them every day and puts it in the relevant box in the classroom. Please do not put water bottles in book bags as these are too big to fit in the box, they often spill and ruin the things in the book bag like reading books etc. and the children don't have access to them during the day.

We ask that you check your child's book bag each evening for any notes etc. and empty it on a regular basis. We are working on helping your child to recognise their name, in order to help with this, we ask that you do not put any keyrings on your child's book bag as these help them to recognise their book bag and they aren't looking at the names on each bag. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Uniform

Please make sure that all your children's uniform, PE kit, lunchboxes and bags are very clearly labelled with their name. Please put both first and surnames on everything as this makes it much easier to find missing items around school!

Please, feel free to contact us, via the school office or tapestry, if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Egan and Mrs Jones