

# Class R Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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 focuses on getting to know each other. We will look at 'being me', our family and our home.

## PPA

I will have my PPA (planning, preparation and assessment time) every Friday afternoon. During this time the class will be taught by our class teaching assistant – Mrs Harrison.

## 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

- 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

## PE

We will have PE on a Tuesday morning which will be led by Manchester City. The sessions are specifically for early Years and are brilliant for reception children. Children will come to school on Tuesdays dressed in their PE kits. We will begin our sessions on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September!

## Religious Education

Mrs Harrison will teach RE/Music on a Friday afternoon. The first unit of work is Harvest and God.

## Kindness Tree:

Kindness, sharing and being good friends are all important to us at St Mary's, especially in reception. We have a kindness tree in our class where we place children's names when we see them being kind, sharing and being a good friend.

If your child is placed on the kindness tree they will get a little certificate in their book bags so please look out for these!

## Celebration Assembly

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Reception will start to go into whole school celebration assemblies from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. If your child is receiving a certificate in this assembly, you will receive a text message from the school office. It would be wonderful if you could join us to celebrate the children's achievements during that assembly.

### 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!

### 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.

### Water Bottles:

Please send your child into school each day with their 'school water bottle'. The children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Please ensure that you only put water in the bottles. We are a healthy school and juice is not allowed.

### Rewards/behaviour

This year we have a new behaviour policy in place which will be shared with you. 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 behaviour system which encourages fabulous learning behaviours.

The children are split up into Team Point groups. They will either be in Dovestone (Blue), Indians Head (red), Pots and Pans (Green) or Alphin Pike (Yellow), Every child in school is part of one of these Team Point groups. If the children are placed on our 'Recognition wall' for following our SCARF Principles, then they will get a pebble/team point for their team. If a child gets an 'over and above' they will get 5 team points/pebbles for their jar!

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.

### 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!

### Fruit:

The children have access to fruit during the morning in reception class. This is provided free of charge. There is usually a variety of items to choose from and helps promote healthy eating.

### Reading:

At St Mary's we use a phonics system called RWI (Read, Write Inc) and it is very successful. There is a meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm – 5.30pm where we will explain exactly how we teach reading in reception and how you can support your child with their reading journey. During this meeting we will also be asking for parental helpers on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from approx. 9.00am – 9.30am. We usually need approx. 3 parents each morning. If you can help this would be amazing for the children!

### Teddy Bears Picnic

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Don't forget this Sunday (11<sup>th</sup> September) is reception and year 6 teddy bears picnic. It would be lovely to see you all there ☺

### Important dates:

- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September (Teddy Bears Picnic) – 1pm
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September (Reading/Phonics workshop – 4.30pm)
- Friday 23<sup>th</sup> September (Reception/Year 6 buddy assembly – 9.10am) – Please come and join us
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October (parents evening – virtual)
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Finish for half term

### Website:

The school website has a range of information and support. Please take some time to have a look at it and familiarise yourself with the reception class page.

[Greenfield St Mary's C.E \(A\) Primary School Greenfield - Home Page](#)

### Bedtime Book Bag:

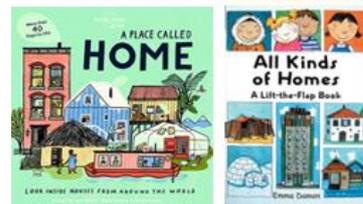
Every Tuesday we will give your child a 'Bedtime reading Book bag'. These are all Brand new for this year. Please look after the bag and all the contents inside. Inside the bags are a reading book for you to read to your child. Reading to children is vital for your child's development. The books have been carefully chosen from 'The Book Trust' and 'Books for Topics'. As well as a lovely book, you will receive a cuddly reading buddy (reading owl) so your child can get cosy in bed with the teddy whilst you read to them. There is also a 'review book' this is for you and your child to use as you wish. You might want to take a photo of your child with the book and stick that in, you may want to write about what you and your child did with the book, if your child enjoyed it etc. Your child may want to draw about the book or a favourite character or part, the possibilities are endless. Please can the Reading Book Bags be returned every Monday so we can get them ready to give to another child the day after. Unfortunately, if you don't return a reading book bag, your child won't be given another one. We hope you and your child enjoy this lovely experience together!

### Mornings:

From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September please say goodbye to the children at the gate and let them come into

class on their own ready to start the day. This helps the children settle much quicker than if parents are in class. Mrs Harrison or I will be at the little reception gate if you need to talk to us. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Some of the books we will be looking at this half term are;



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

We look forward to working with you to ensure your child has the most wonderful reception year!

Kind Regards,  
Mrs Egan and Mrs Harrison