



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Autumn 2017

Class Newsletter

Reception Class

Class Teacher: Mrs Lake



Welcome to Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School. I hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and are ready to embark upon this new chapter as a family with your child. The children have had a positive start and seem to be settling into school life well. Within this newsletter I hope to guide you through this first half term and to give you some tips in order to make the transition into school life easier.

As the children are maturing it is important that they develop their independence. It is helpful if they can recognise their own belongings and can dress and undress with minimal adult intervention. Please ensure that all of your child's uniform and belongings are clearly labelled and that they can recognise and read their name independently.

Please have all monies for school clearly labelled in separate envelopes in your child's book bag, so that each child can independently put them into the class money box. We spend some of our time outdoors in the Early Years and have to dress according to the weather. Rain and wind does not stop the Reception Explorers! Can you therefore provide them with a waterproof coat that they can independently put on as the weather gets colder?

The only bag that is needed in school is your child's school book bag, as it fits into your child's drawer perfectly! This is only to be used for reading books and letters to or from school. It should not be used to carry water bottles, as when they leak school books can be spoilt, which may result in a charge to replace items.

Religious Education



Reception Class follow the programme of work outlined in the Curriculum Strategy for Religious Education, 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. The programme supports the children to develop an appreciation of themselves and the world around them. The children will learn about the following units this half term: Creation and People Who Help Us.

Much of the focus in R.E during the children's Reception year is about developing their understanding and experiences of prayer. Most work is very practical either through discussion, role play and stories. Each week the Class Prayer Bag will be shared. This contains a prayer cloth, candle, Bible stories, prayers, religious artefacts and a class prayer book.

When chosen, pupils are asked to pray at home with their families using the resources provided and they will also be encouraged to write a prayer with an accompanying picture, at home. They will need some support with this to begin with.

Having chosen a Catholic school for your child's education, you will already understand the great importance placed on regular attendance at Mass. This helps each child to become familiar with words and actions used, as well as helping to develop an awareness and understanding of the significance of different parts of the service and a deeper understanding of how our faith is an integral part of daily life. Father Craig, our Parish Priest, regularly visits each class in school and really does welcome all children and their families at Mass during the weekend.

English

Once the class are settled and we have determined each child's starting point, your child will bring a school book home to read each Monday and Friday. Initially, this may be a picture book which will be used to help settle your child into a good reading routine and then they will progress onto simple words/sentences. Please ensure that you choose a quiet, comfortable place to share this book and encourage your child to follow the text with their finger as they read. If on the second time you read they appear to have memorised the text, try closing the book and challenge them to find given words within the book. Additionally, do supplement our scheme with books from home or the library. We do ask that regardless of the reading material, you record their efforts in the blue reading diary each evening so that we can gain a flavour of what has been read. When ready, word lists will be sent home for your child to learn.



Each day the children will take part in a Read Write Inc lesson where they will become familiar with the sound that each letter makes and how to blend sounds to read and write words independently.

On **Thursday 19th October at 2.30 pm** you will be invited to a Reading Workshop. The aim of this is to help you to confidently support your child when reading at home.

Your child will also bring home a library book each week. Books will be changed every **Thursday**. The children will be encouraged to choose different books each week therefore widening their experience of a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. They must therefore return their books promptly so that they, and others, can enjoy them.

Writing

Please encourage your child to make marks and to attempt to trace or write their name, starting with a capital letter and then continuing with lower case letters. Always use lots of positive praise so that these first learning experiences are good ones that they will wish to repeat.

Maths



This term Reception Class will practise counting and recognising numbers to ten and beyond. The children will also be encouraged to solve mathematical problems, many involving simple addition. These activities will always be of a practical nature and ideas for supporting at home will be provided in your child's homework book.

Playing games, such as snakes and ladders, is an ideal way of extending this work as it involves counting and number recognition, as is dominoes.

Shape, Space and Measures work will focus on 2D shapes and their properties as well as, capacity. A large aspect of this work is modelling and encouraging the children to use the correct vocabulary.

Creative Curriculum

Our topic for this half term is 'Community'. Reception Class will be focusing on Geography and will be learning about the school environment and how to find people and places around the school. They will also be thinking about themselves and their amazing bodies. This will involve scientific investigation into their senses, eye and hair colour.

Creative Play

Alongside the Creative Curriculum learning is taken from the needs and interests of the children and so 'class topics' develop. The majority of the work attempted in Reception Class is of a practical, playful nature and very hands on. The children are encouraged to regard their own and the safety of others whilst still taking measured risks (balancing along crates, large water play using pipes etc.) The children know to wear protective clothing when attempting certain activities as uniform is expensive, but accidents do happen and we ask for your understanding.

Children can wear puddle suits and wellingtons provided by school to ensure that the mud kitchen and the other areas of the garden can be accessed all year round. Aprons are also provided for messy art and cooking, but sometimes accidents do happen!

P.E

Each Wednesday Reception Class will have P.E sessions. This half term the children will practise going into the hall and remembering P.E rules. They will do this whilst playing simple games and will learn how to find a 'good space', incorporating other safety rules. Please ensure your child has the correct PE Kit ;



school-navy blue shorts and a plain white T shirt with black school pumps (no laces), placed inside a school pump bag. Please label all items of your child's kit and continue to practise dressing and undressing with independence. This will make your life easier, as well as ours!

Homework



This will be set on **Fridays** and must be completed and returned by **the following Thursday**. Please encourage use of a sharp pencil to complete written tasks and model the correct pencil grip. Homework is an opportunity to see what your child is learning in school. Use homework as a way of finding out a little bit about your child's learning. If your child is willing and able to complete more than the required amount please do, but do not force this as we are trying to embed a love of learning that will last a lifetime. Many of our earlier homework activities will be of a practical nature and we ask that you comment each week on how your child coped with the homework set, as this helps us to set work at an appropriate level. Remember the homework is for the children to complete with appropriate parental support.

Snacks

Fruit is provided free of charge for each child every day. Until your child's fifth birthday they will also be provided with a free carton of milk (unless dietary needs specify otherwise.) This will be distributed at morning play. Toast (20p), milk (20p) and fruit juice (35p) will be available each day after October half term and more information will be sent out nearer the time. The correct money for these snacks should be brought in on **Mondays**.

Please check that you **only** provide plain water in your child's water bottle everyday. Children have free access to the water dispenser throughout the day and can fill up their bottle whenever it is necessary. Please be aware that I do not have spare bottles in class. Please name your child's bottle.

Dates for Your Diary

29th September 2017: 'Welcome Disco' 6.30- 9 pm

4th October 2017 and 9th October 2017: Parents' Evening

5th October 2017: Reception Class's Blessing Service in the school hall at 9.05am for all parents.

12th October 2017: Harvest Service at 9.05am in the school hall. Parents welcome.

19th October 2017: Reading Workshop in Reception Class 2.30 pm

All other dates can be found September's school newsletter and on the school's website:

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to ask me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Lake