

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2017

Class Newsletter

Reception Class

Class Teacher: Mrs Lake

Happy New Year!


2017

I hope that you have had a happy and holy break and are ready for another busy term. The children have returned to school very positively and it has been noted how much older they all appear.

Below are a few suggestions that I hope you will find helpful when continuing to support your child this term.

As the children are maturing it is important that they continue to develop their independence. Please have all monies for school clearly labelled in envelopes in your child's book bag, so that each child can independently put them into the class money box **on Monday mornings**. Also, as we are now in the season of winter, please enable your child to independently fasten their own coat and provide a named hat, a scarf and gloves. We spend some of our time outdoors in Early Years and have to dress according to the weather. Rain and wind does not stop the Reception explorers.

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 continue to develop an appreciation of themselves and the world around them.

The children will learn about the following units: Baptism, People Who Help Us, Lent and Holy Week.

Much of the focus in R.E during the children's Reception year is about developing an understanding and experiences of prayer life. Most work is very practical either through discussion, role play and stories. For example, this term the children are being encouraged to develop their own prayer services, incorporating our school virtues of being **grateful and generous**.

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. If chosen, pupils are asked to write a prayer with an accompanying picture, at home.

Father Craig visits each class in school. We would like to encourage families to attend the 11 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church each Sunday. Regular attendance at Mass will help 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.

English

Your child will continue to bring a school book home to read each Monday and Friday. 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, to alleviate the latter. We do ask that regardless of the reading material, record their efforts in the blue reading diary each evening so that we can gain a flavour of what has been read. Continue to learn words from the High Frequency Words booklets.

I am hoping to start a 'Big Read' session each Thursday, which would enable parents to come into school and read with their child and see how we approach reading in our group sessions. There is a form attached to show your interest, please return this ASAP.



Your child will bring home a library book each week. Books will be changed each week on Fridays. We are trying to encourage the children 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 choose another book.

We are continuing working each day with Letters and Sounds. Children are now working within Phases Two or Three and so are practising reading and writing letter sounds and diagraphs (two letters making one sound e.g.

sh, ee, ai).

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If your child finds blending in reading difficult, practise recognising and saying the sound each letter of the alphabet makes, which should help them.

Please encourage your child to write independently and to try sounding out words. If they find recalling the shape of the letter they wish to write tricky, please use the sound cards provided during our phonics meeting or an alphabet book.

Maths



This term Reception Class will continue to practise counting and recognising numbers to twenty and beyond. The children will also be encouraged to solve mathematical problems, many involving subtraction and addition. The children are encouraged to record their findings and so we will focus on correct number formation during handwriting sessions.

Playing games, such as snakes and ladders, is an ideal way of extending addition work as it involves adding on (counting on). Dominoes is also a good game, it can be used in the conventional manner or as a way of making sums using the numbers on individual domino pieces.

The children have already been exposed to 3D shapes and so will be asked to name and describe them, alongside work on measures including weighing (heavy/light).

Creative Curriculum

This term our topic is: **Water**. Reception Class's main focus for this term will be Art. They will be exploring how water can be used within art to create watery pictures. The children will use water paints and explore how they are different to poster paints. The children will find out about differing painting methods and decide which they think makes the perfect watery picture. At the end of term Reception Class will share their art during our school sharing session.

Creative Play

Alongside the Creative Curriculum learning is taken from the needs and interests of the children and so 'class topics' develop. This year we have already used Paddington, Rama and Sita and Christmas as a basis for learning—taken from the children's interests. At the moment they are very keen to explore dinosaurs and ice. We will investigate solids and liquids through melting ice and jelly. The majority of the work we attempt in Reception Class is of a practical, playful nature and very hands on. We always encourage the children to regard their own and others safety 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. We are aware that uniform is quite expensive, but accidents do happen and we ask for your understanding.

P.E

Each Tuesday Gymnastics lessons will take place. The children will be using the large apparatus. Again a big focus of this work will be developing listening skills and following instructions to ensure safety. Multi skills lessons will focus on throwing and catching skills. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school—navy blue shorts and a plain white T shirt and black school pumps (no laces). Please name all items of your child's kit and continue to practise dressing and undressing. This will make your life easier, as well as ours!

Homework

This will continue to be set on a **Friday** and needs to be completed and returned by **the following Thursday**. Please encourage your child to use a sharp pencil to complete written tasks and encourage 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 our learning. If your child is willing and able to complete more than the required amount please do so.



Snacks

Fruit continues to be provided free of charge for each child every day. This will be distributed at morning play. Toast (20p), milk (20p) and fruit juice (30p) are also available each day. The money for these snacks should be brought in on **Mondays**.

Please check you only provide plain water in your child's water bottle. 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 we do not have spare bottles in class.

Dates for Your Diary

Half Term— 17.2.17—24.2.17

Parent's Evening 8.3.17 and 14.3.17

Reception Class Mothers' Day Assembly 23.3.16 (9.05 am)

Easter Break - 07.4.17– 21.4.17

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do come and see me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Lake



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