



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2018 Reception Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mrs H Lake

Dear Parents

Happy New Year!

2018

I hope that you have had a happy and peaceful 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 **Curious and Active**. You can find out more at our class Inspire workshop on **Tuesday 16th January**.

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

Father Craig visits school regularly. We encourage families to attend Mass at the weekend as it supports and 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 their faith is an integral part of their daily lives.

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. 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 as soon as possible.



Your child will bring home a library book each week. Books will be changed each week on **Thursdays**. We 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.

Reception Class is continuing to work each day with **Read Write Inc**. Children are now practising reading and writing letter sounds and diagraphs (two letters making one sound e.g.sh, ee, ai). They are also practising writing sentences containing these sounds, including simple punctuation.

Please encourage your child to write independently whenever possible and to 'have-a-go' at sounding out words. Remain positive if they find this tricky, as learning to write is a slow, repetitive process.

picture, at home **T: 0121 429 2900** **Email: enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk**

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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.

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

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 the school topic is: **Leaders**. Reception Class's main focus for this term will be **History**. They will be gaining an understanding of the terms 'past' and 'present' by investigating toys, making timelines of a life span and through a study of schools in the past/present. We are hoping to celebrate the ending of this topic with a 'Grandparents' Day'. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

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. They will investigate solids and liquids through melting ice and jelly. The majority of the work attempted in Reception Class is of a practical, playful nature and very hands on. The children are always encouraged 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 that 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.

Please check all the dates in the school monthly newsletters so that you keep up to date with all school events.

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Lake

