

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Reception Class Newsletter Summer 2017

Class Teacher: Mrs H Lake

Welcome back after the Easter holidays. I am sure that you are as surprised as I am that the children's final term in Reception has come around already. It seems like five minutes ago that the children arrived for their first day at their new school. Nevertheless, we have a busy term ahead of us, preparing the children for life in Year 1. Hopefully, the suggestions here will help you to continue to support your child through the coming term.

We are continuing to encourage independence and would appreciate the children bringing snack money in a labelled envelope on **Monday morning**. We cannot accept loose money or money after this day. The children should now be taking responsibility for handing this money in and for bringing their own belongings into school. Also please ensure that your child's belongings are all labelled and that your child has the correct named jumper at the end of the day. It would be helpful to return any items that belong to other class members. As the warmer weather is hopefully approaching, children are asked to wear a blue school uniform cap/hat, which can be purchased from the school office. If sun cream is required, please apply it at home in the morning. Sun cream is not allowed at school due to allergies.



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 children will learn about the following units: Easter, People Who Help Us, Prayer and Bible Stories. The children can now confidently prepare and carry out their own prayer services and are able to create their own, personal prayers for this. In addition, they can recite our school prayers independently. Please encourage your child to make the sign of the cross properly when praying at home and to attempt traditional prayers such as the 'Hail Mary' and 'Our Father.' We will be learning these prayers in school too. Thank you for your support with the class prayer bag; your contributions to the prayer life of the school and your family is appreciated. We encourage you to attend Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church with your child, as work in school does reflect the liturgy from Mass, as do the wonderful activities in the Wednesday Word.

English



Your child will continue to bring a book home to read each Monday and Friday. Please ensure that you hear your child read as often as possible and record their efforts in the blue reading diary. If they read a book from home or library book instead, that is fine, but again, do record this, so that your child's reading activity can be closely monitored. You can check your child's understanding of the text by asking questions about what they have read—the questions at the back of the reading books are a big help with this. Continue to learn words from the High Frequency Word booklets and once these are known, practise spelling the words too. To extend this, ask your child to put the words into sentences either written or verbally in order to ensure that they understand the meaning of each word and how words are used.

Your child will bring home a library book each week. Books will be changed each week on Friday. We try to encourage the children to choose different books therefore widening their experience of a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Books must therefore be returned promptly so that they, and others, can choose another book. If you have any outstanding books please return these.

The children are continuing to learn Letters and Sounds each day. The children are now working within Phases three, four and five. They are also completing 'Read Write Inc' writing booklets, linked to phonics each day.



In preparation for life in Year 1 the children are being exposed to writing independently for short periods, with a given focus. They are becoming more confident when working alone, but need to continue sounding out simple sentences and practising using punctuation. Writing at a young age is a tricky skill and the only way for this process to become easier is to practise. Therefore, each day the children are writing and evaluating their writing with an adult—checking spelling, choice of letters in words, content and punctuation.

Thank you for your support during our 'Big Read' sessions. I hope that you found them useful and that any reading issues were addressed as a result. I am thinking of hosting 'Big Maths' sessions this term, but will send out a questionnaire to gather your thoughts about this and to evaluate the previous sessions.

Maths



This term the children will be focussing on solving mathematical problems, using their own ideas whilst choosing which application to use (addition or subtraction). They have also begun to record findings by practising writing numbers as well as the symbols associated with addition and subtraction.

Reception Class will also start learning about sharing, halving and doubling numbers. This will be dealt with practically, using food, toys and natural objects. Again they will record their findings.

This can become a focus at home too, by asking your child to help with practical tasks such as sharing fruit equally, laying the table and sharing cutlery and cups equally, doubling and halving sweets, pennies and counters.

Shape, space and measures units will re-visit weights, measuring and 3D shape.

Each day there will be a 'Magic Maths' session, which will run in the same format as our phonics sessions, but focussing on number, shape and measures. Hopefully this twenty minute segment each day will aid the children's understanding and confidence in mathematics.

Creative Curriculum

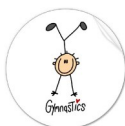


This term the topic is 'Environment'. Reception class will be helping towards our whole school project celebrating the 50 year anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. They will continue to study our school history and environment and changes that have occurred. They will also continue to focus on our natural environment during science—caring for our flowers, vegetables and noting changes to animals and plants in our environment.

Reception Class will be visiting Ash End Farm to support their work on the latter topic. This will take place on 27th June during school hours. More details will follow.

P.E

P.E lessons are on Tuesdays, with the focus for this half term being athletics. We have athletic coaches coming into school each week and will be preparing the children for Sports' day next half term.



Homework



Homework is given on **Fridays** and needs to be completed and returned by **the following Thursday**. Please encourage your child to use a sharp pencil to complete written tasks, not crayon or felt tip and encourage correct pencil grip. Additionally, please ensure it is your child and not yourselves or older siblings completing writing tasks. Your child may, of course, complete more than the required amount. Please also access the Education City website, being mindful to talk to your child about staying safe when using electronic devices.

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 into school 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 re-fill their bottle whenever it is necessary. Please be aware that the school does not have spare bottles in class.

Dates for Your Diary

May Procession on school field (weather permitting): 15th May at 2.15pm

Half Term: 26th May– 5th June

Teacher Day –school closed: 12th June

Reception Class Trip to Ash End Farm: 27th June

Summer Fair: 8th July

Farewell bubbles on the school field (weather permitting) : 21st July.

Additional dates can be found in the school monthly newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do ask.

Kind regards

Mrs H Lake



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