


Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Reception Class Newsletter Summer 2018

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 only seems 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 continue 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 the appropriate summer school uniform as listed on the website and 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 in 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 are appreciated. We encourage you and your family 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 every Thursday. We try to encourage the children to choose different books to widen 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 will continue to practise phonics each day and in particular to blend sounds into words. They are also completing their 'Read Write Inc' writing booklets, linked to phonics each day and are becoming adept at composing and writing sentences independently. 

Writing

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 continue 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 weighing, 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 'Sport and Leisure—Teamwork'. Reception class will be focussing on Design and

Technology in particular and will be

making moving 3D pictures. They will also continue to focus on our natural environment during Science—caring for flowers, vegetables and noting changes to animals and plants in our environment.

P.E

P.E lessons are on Tuesdays, with the focus for this half term being ball skills. Hopefully, weather permitting these sessions will take place outdoors. The children will practise throwing and catching, football skills and racket skills. Next half term we will focus on athletics ready for Sports' Day and will take part in dance sessions with our dance teacher Michelle.



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.

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

Parent/Toddler Group dates: 20th April/18th May/22nd June

May Procession on school field (weather permitting): 21st May at 2.15 pm

Half Term: 25th May– 4th June

Teacher Day –school closed: 11th June

Summer Fayre: 7th July

Farewell bubbles on the school field (weather permitting) : 24th July at 3.10 pm.

Additional dates can be found in the school's monthly newsletters.

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

Kind regards

Mrs H Lake



T: 0121 429 2900

Email: enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk