

St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Justin Murray

Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first half of the Autumn Term in Reception. We have been so impressed with how the children have settled into school life already! Thank you so much to those of you that have sent in their 'All About Me' posters. They are amazing and the children are already sharing them with us and their classmates. If you haven't had an opportunity to make one yet, there is still time. It's a great way for the children to get to know each other so please send them in when you can.

Our topic this half term is called 'Marvellous Me'. We focus on ourselves and building relationships with children and adults. We will be learning how to play and work together, taking turns and sharing fairly. We will be exploring our new classroom environment, learning how to select and use resources independently. We think about the special people in our life and why they are important to us. We will learn about friendship, how to make friends and how to be a good friend too. In RE, we will be learning about the Creation Story and why God is important to Christians.

We will also be reciting and exploring traditional nursery rhymes like Incy Wincy Spider and Humpty Dumpty. Linked to these rhymes the children will take part in a variety of fun activities like spider hunts and wall building. Attached to this letter is a topic web which will detail the skills we will be learning through the half term.

The School Day

From Monday 18th September, the children will start full-time. Please come and talk to us if your child is going to continue on a part-time time-table. From Monday, we will line up next to Oliver Class and go into school via the glass corridor at the usual time of 8:50am.

Home time will be at 3:15pm and we exit at the same place through the glass corridor so please wait on the playground for your child to be dismissed.

Lunch

Lunch is from 12.00pm-1.00pm. If your child is to remain part time they are invited to stay for lunch and then go home at around 1.05pm, once they have gathered their belongings.

WOW Board

In the classroom you may have noticed our 'WOW Wall' which at the moment is pretty empty! We are hoping that this board can be used to celebrate the children's achievements at home. We would like to pin up photographs, certificates, pictures/writing/drawings they do at home. Please send in anything that makes the children feel proud of themselves.

Forest School and PE

A reminder Forest School begins on Tuesday 19th September and PE begins on Friday 22nd September. Please can the children come dressed in the appropriate clothing on these days.

Water Bottles

We encourage the children to drink water regularly at school and they have access to their bottles at all times. Their water bottles are stored in a box in the classroom.

Reading and Phonics

We encourage you to share books regularly at home with your children. The children have loved choosing a library book to take home to share with you this week. We will continue to change library books every Monday. Today, your child came home with either a Chatter Pack or Maths game. The Chatter Pack contains a book and an ideas card for parents and the Maths games are to support children's number recognition and counting skills. The children will have the opportunity to change their Chatterpack or Maths game every Friday.

From Monday, the children will take part in daily phonics sessions where they will have letter sounds introduced to them. Once we have learnt a sound, we will send home a copy of this which will be stuck into their Home/School Sound Book. Their Sound Book will be kept in a zippy folder in their book bag. Please share and practise these with your child as they appear. The sheets contain information about how to pronounce the sounds and how to write them. Children will practise blending the sounds into words as they learn them. Once they have learned most single sounds and are starting to blend them, they will start to bring home books which they can attempt to read to you. More information will be given once the children reach this stage.

Reward Points

We use an online reward system which is connected to ClassDojo. Each child has their own little Dojo avatar that is specific to them. Your child will receive Dojo points in class for many reasons. For example, good reading, trying hard, being a good friend etc. Once your child has 50 points, they are given a certificate in our special 'Celebration Assembly'. Having an online system will allow you to regularly see the number of reward points that your child has collected.

Wellies, Waterproofs and a Bag of Spare Clothes

In order to enable the children to use the field in all weather please send a pair of named wellies into school. These will remain at school during the term. They are stored at the back of the classroom in our welly rack. If you have already supplied these - thank you. We would also like the children to have a water proof suit too so that we can go outside whatever the weather. This could be an all in one or separate jacket/trousers. Please ensure these are named and put on your child's peg.

Sometimes during Forest School, the children can get wet. In case this happens, please can you bring in a small bag of clothes (top, trousers and socks) that they can change into. This bag can be stored on your child's peg so that it's there as and when we need it.

Year 6 Buddies

All reception children have been assigned a buddy from Year 6. The children met their Year 6 buddy this week and they have been helping them during playtimes and lunchtimes. Hopefully the children will be able to tell you the name of their buddy!

Parents Consultations

We will be holding parent consultations after October half term. During this meeting, we will talk to you about how your child has settled into school and what the next steps are for their learning. Please look out in the newsletter for more details.

Phonics and Maths Workshop

We will be holding a workshop to tell you a little more about the phonics and maths schemes we use at school. We will also go through what a typical day looks like in our reception class. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have too. We will be holding the workshop on Wednesday 18th October at 2:30pm in Farrant Classroom. We really hope lots of you will be able to attend this valuable meeting.

Tapestry and Newsletters

We will be sending out emails to sign up to Tapestry. Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. It allows us to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. This system allows us to work with parents and carers to share information and record the children's play and learning in and outside the classroom. Please enroll once you receive your notification for it. You will then be able to view the photos and observations that have been uploaded about your child's learning at school.

Every Friday, you will receive a weekly newsletter from Mr Murray. Make sure you spend time reading the letter so that you are aware of what is going on week to week. If you didn't receive a newsletter last week, please check with the office that they have your correct email address.

If you do have any queries, questions or worries please always get in contact with us. You can contact us via ClassDojo or for anything more urgent you can contact the office.

Here's to a happy and fun term ahead!

Kind regards,

Mrs Anderson, Mrs Black and Mrs Mitchell