



# Reception Advent 1 Newsletter

Welcome to our Advent term in Reception. It was lovely to meet so many of you with your children on our open day and I am very excited to be sharing the beginning of their school journey. During the first couple of weeks, the children will become familiar with the Reception classroom and begin to get used to our classroom routines and what is expected of them whilst they are at school.

## English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

The importance of labelling and writing lists. We will also be focusing on listening to the initial sounds in words and how we say them. There will be modelled writing for the children to practise during these first few weeks.

We will initially be reading "It's Okay to Be Different" and "The Great Big Book of Families". Both books cleverly deliver the important messages of acceptance, understanding and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format. It allows them the opportunity to celebrate their individuality through acceptance of others and self-confidence.

It is also designed to encourage early literacy, enhance emotional development, celebrate multiculturalism, and promote character growth.



Finally, as Autumn approaches, we will be looking into the harvest time and the fruit and vegetables that are available at this time of year. We will read "Pumpkin Soup", it tells the story of Cat, Duck and Squirrel who make pumpkin soup every day, each having their own job to do. It is a funny, rhythmical story about friendship and sharing. We will be writing our own recipe with a list of ingredients to make our own pumpkin soup!

## Maths

In Maths, this half term, we will be using the Power Maths scheme. As Mathematicians, we will be focusing on:

- Classification, this is the sorting and grouping of various objects depending on their specific traits or attributes. For example, a bunch of animals can be grouped based on their colour or type of animal.
- Ordering objects by height or length.
- Investigating and creating repeating patterns.
- Recognise and represent numbers 1-3.

As mathematicians, we will be focusing on our mathematical vocabulary and our critical thinking skills. This will help the children to make links and notice patterns in their previous learning experience. They will also learn to make predictions and test their ideas, allowing for a change of strategy where needed.

## R.E

Our focus for RE this half term will be "Creation and Covenant - Family". The experience of 'family' in society today is varied. Whatever the experience, family remains the first place for growth and development, the basic social unit. We will be considering the following questions:

What does the word 'family' mean to you?  
What people do you associate with 'family'?  
What joys and sorrows do you remember of family life?

For Christians, the pattern and ideal of family life is found in the Scriptures. God is the loving parent of the human family and Jesus was born and lived in a human family.

## Topic

Our topic this term will focus on ourselves and our families. We will initially be reading "You're All Animals", it's the story of a young elephant called Billy Trunk, he has just started at his new school. But he already has a problem - he is completely different from all his classmates. His dad suggests that he looks for a friend on the Internet and he finds the perfect pal. Frank is just like him, or is he? As the children have just started school it's a nice introduction to friendship and belonging. We will also read "The Great Big Book of Families". This will encourage the children to think of what a family, or their family looks like.

This is a fresh, optimistic look through children's eyes at today's wide variety of family life: from homes, food, ways of celebrating, schools, and holidays to getting around, jobs and housework, from extended families, languages and hobbies to pets and family trees.



Finally, we will be looking at our bodies, how do they look, how do we look after our bodies as far as healthy eating and keeping fit. What are our five different senses and why are they important?

Literacy ELG Focus:

Understand the five key concepts about print: • print has meaning • print can have different purposes • we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom • the names of the different parts of a book • page sequencing.

Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy. Write some, or all of their name.

## Forest School/P.E

The children will have P.E on a Tuesday. Please ensure children arrive at school dressed in their P.E kits.

Forest School will be timetabled for each year group during each half term. You will be advised when this will be for your child in advance.

## Phonics

At St Charles School we use the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. Before your child can start to read, s/he needs to learn to:

- Say the sound that is represented by each letter or groups of letters. These are called 'speed sounds'.
- How to blend the sounds together in a word to read it e.g. c-a-t - cat. This is called 'sound-blending'. In Read Write Inc phonics the individual sounds are called 'speed sounds' - because we want your child to read them effortlessly. In Reception your Child will initially learn Set 1 speed sounds by sight. They will also learn how to blend them together to read words e.g., c-a-t - cat.

RWI Set 1 Phonemes (letter sounds);

m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e, l, h, sh, r, j, v, y, w, th, z, ch, qu, x, ng, nk

Our school website provides information on how you can help support your son's / daughter's phonics development at home.

## How can you help?

- Reading is a vital part of a child's education. In school your child is bench marked and given a book accordingly. As your child becomes increasingly confident in their phonic knowledge, they will be given a reading book that reflects their phonetic ability.
- Open communication is very important to our school. If you have any worries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at school either by phone, e-mail or verbally at drop-off/pick-up times. Equally if you would like to share good news and achievements concerning your child, I would love to hear about them too!

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**Mrs Parkinson**