



Skylark Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021



Welcome to Skylark Class! We hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for the busy term ahead. This term your children will be getting to know their new class and making lots of new friends. They will also get to know all the new routines, explore their new school and meet the people that are going to be helping them with their learning. We adopt a topic-based approach to learning. The Reception day is divided into teacher led activities as well as child-initiated learning, where the children are able to make their own choices and develop their learning through their own interests. Learning through play is a vital part of our school day.

Phonics and Reading Schemes

Phonics

The Department for Education and Skills Primary National Strategy's "Letters and Sounds" systematic phonics programme is followed at St Peter's starting at the Foundation Stage and throughout Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2. We also use resources from the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme to support us in providing a multi-sensory approach to the learning of phonics.

Reading Schemes

Our early reading books are all colour banded. Every colour band includes books from a range of reading schemes including Floppy Phonics, Songbirds, Oxford Reading Tree, Rigby Star Phonics and Collins Pathways.

Each week your child will bring home 2 home reader books to enjoy. Your child will be given a colour band to choose their home reading book from which will help to ensure that the book they select is at the right reading level for them.

Library

Once the children have settled into school, they will have a library session each week. They may borrow 1 book from the library which can be kept at home for the week to share with you. Please ensure this book is returned the following week.



Important times

We have a P.E. slot each week. Please ensure your child's P.E kit is always kept in school and **all** clothes are labelled. They will be sent home at the end of each half term. Children with long hair **MUST** tie it back for P.E.



Snack Time

We have a snack area in the classroom where the children are encouraged to have one piece of school fruit every day. You are also welcome to send your child with a piece of fruit or vegetable (clearly labelled) for an extra snack at playtime if you wish. Please ensure your child brings in a named, clear water bottle to school every day. Please do not send in bottles of juice.



Credits

We use a credit system across the school. When a child has done something extra special that we are proud of in their learning and/or behaviour they will receive a credit. If they receive 6 or more credits in a week, they will be rewarded with a certificate in achievement assembly. The team with the highest number of credits at the end of each half term will win an extra playtime.

Coats

Please make sure your child has a warm/waterproof coat in school EVERYDAY, as lots of our important learning opportunities take place outside. We have wood chipped areas, water trays, mud and sand pits in our outside area, so please provide some wellington boots. We can then go outside in ALL weathers and get messy in our outdoor classroom!

Superstar Learner

Every Friday we chose two superstar learners. Your child will receive a certificate to keep and a trophy to look after for the following week to celebrate their achievement!



Busy Bees

In line with our Behaviour Policy, each week the children will focus on one of the Busy Bees:

- Be tidy
- Be hardworking
- Be friendly and polite
- Be caring
- Be able to listen
- Be honest and trustworthy

If they have been able to follow the Busy Bee, they will have a Bee stamp placed in their communication book each Friday.

Things to collect

Please could you send in a recent photograph of your child, as well as a baby and toddler one. We would like to use them to make our own personal timelines and display them in our classroom, if possible. We will also be learning about Baptism in class and it would be lovely if you have any pictures of your child's christening to send in as well. Thank you. ☺

Achievement Assembly

On Fridays the children's school achievements are celebrated in Assembly. Children can also bring in out of school certificates and trophies to share.



You are more than welcome to catch any of the Skylark staff at the beginning or end of the day if you would like to ask us or tell us something. We try to look at the blue communication books everyday so you can also leave us a little message in there for us to reply to. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us if you have a concern, no matter how small!

Many thanks, Mrs Winter & Mrs Thomson



The Curriculum Autumn Term



We begin the year with the topic, 'Getting to Know You'. We will be learning all about our families, where we live, our senses and how we are all special in the eyes of God. We will hopefully have a visit from the school Nurse who will teach us ways to stay healthy.

After the half term break, we will learn about different festivals and celebrations within our own society as well as other cultures. We will begin by discussing celebrations that we have been to, birthday parties, weddings and christenings. We will look at the story behind Bonfire Night, the importance of Remembrance Sunday as well as looking at how Hindu's celebrate Diwali.

We will end our term learning about the first Christmas and why it is an important time for Christians. We will retell the first Christmas and learn about how Christmas is celebrated. We will have lots of fun making Christmas card, crafts and singing carols.

There are seven areas of learning development (plus RE) that shape our curriculum. Below includes our main learning intentions and experiences for the Autumn Term:

Communication and Language

- Initiate conversations with adults and peers about own life experiences.
- Use imaginative talk and retell familiar stories in role play, small world play, puppet play.
- Develop language skills through structured and unstructured discussions linked to books, topics, routines, events etc.
- Choose to look at books alone and with others, discuss pictures and predict what might happen next.
- Join in stories, rhymes and songs.
- Play games and interact with other pupils and adults.
- Listen and maintain concentration for set periods of time.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Work hard to settle into reception by making new friends, developing our confidence and thinking about our class rules.
- Establish simple routines of the day and develop tidy up time routines.
- Take turns to use limited equipment e.g. bikes, computers.
- Circle time - talk, listen, ask questions, contribute own feelings and ideas.
- Work in pairs and small groups during classroom activities.
- Enjoying responsibility of carrying out small tasks.
- Developing confidence to ask adults and peers for help.

Physical Development

- Explore a range of climbing, balancing and sliding apparatus, wheeled toys, hoops, bats and balls etc.
- Join in PE lessons that focus on travelling skills; experimenting with ways of moving and negotiating space.
- Use simple tools, such as scissors, to effect changes to materials.
- Handles tools, objects, construction and malleable material safely and with increasing control.
- To show a preference for a dominant hand and hold a pencil effectively to form recognisable letters in his/her name.
- Get dressed and undressed independently for P.E.
- Adopt healthy and hygienic routines throughout the school day.

Literacy

- Listen and join in with Nursery rhymes and rhyming texts; continuing a rhyming string.
- Hear and say the initial sound in words.
- Segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together and knows which letters represents some of them.
- Begins to read simple words.
- Handles books independently and carefully.
- Enjoys an increasing range of books, listening with increasing attention and recall.
- Describes main story settings, events and principal characters.
- Gives meaning to marks as they draw and write using a wide variety of media (sand, water, paint, chalk, gloop)
- Recognise and practise writing own name.
- Form letters in their name correctly using pens, paints, sand, foam.

Mathematics

- Matching and sorting objects
- Making comparisons
- Exploring patterns
- Identify representations of 1,2 and 3
- 2D shapes and their properties
- Positional language
- Counting on and back with numbers to 5
- Finding one more and one less than 5
- Simple addition and Subtraction
- Time
- Estimates how many objects they can see and checks by counting.
- Recognise names of 2D shapes and use these to make pictures and patterns.

Understanding the World

- Talk about past and present events and celebrations in their own lives and in the lives of family members- birthdays, Christenings etc.
- Look at baby and toddler photographs and make a timeline. Discuss changes as we grow older, talking about similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- Talk about babies and what they can and can't do and what they need when they are young e.g. bottle, cot and explain why. Find out about caring for babies- Wash, dress and undress baby dolls.
- Talk about their immediate environment and notice similarities and differences- Tour of the school, All about 'My house', find out about different types of homes now and in the past.
- Use computers, iPad, programmable toys and listening stations competently and with care

Expressive Arts and Design

- Begins to build a repertoire of songs and dances relating to body parts, houses and homes.
- Explore using body parts, including voices, to make sounds.
- Clap syllables in names to make into patterns over a steady beat.
- Explore different ways of making sounds with musical instruments.
- Explore tools for painting; brushes, rollers, sponges, rags and fingers, use these tools to print patterns.
- Name colours and experiment with them.
- Constructs with a purpose in mind - building model houses using a variety of resources.
- Creates simple representations of events, people and objects using a variety of media- paint, pastels, crayons, chalk- my house, family and self-portraits using mirrors.
- Learn about artists- look at some famous self-portraits and interpret their style.

Religious Education

- Talk about the fact that everyone is unique - things which make us all special in God's eyes.
- Talk about what belonging means name and some of the groups to which we belong.
- Talk about baptism and how it helps us to belong to the family of the Church.
- Tell the story of the baptism of Jesus
- Talk about the special Harvest festival and give thanks for food we enjoy.
- Can talk about the birthday celebration and know that Jesus' special birthday is called Christmas Day.
- Tell the story of the nativity.

If you would like to find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and ways you can support your child, here are some very useful websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/development-matters--2>

<https://www.birhtto5matters.org.uk/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/reception-at-primary-school/what-to-expect-in-reception-age-4-5/>