



Reception Newsletter– Lent 1



HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2023

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We have another exciting half term ahead of us in Reception, filled with fun and lots of new learning opportunities.

Lent 1 2023

Our wonder question and line of enquiry for this half term will be:

I wonder what's through the keyhole?

We will be exploring the themes:-

*Traditional Tales- The Little Red Hen, The Ghanian Goldilocks, and Jack and the Beanstalk.

* Castles

We will also learn about Chinese New Year and the Chinese culture.



RE

Our topics for this half term are 'Celebrating' and 'Gathering'. We will be discussing the different types of celebrations we share with our families and friends, as well as celebrations within the parish community. We also look forward to visiting church and giving the children the opportunity to talk to Father Philipp and hunt for artefacts that are involved in celebrations there. Our key story will be the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple.

Maths

In Maths, we are becoming confident Mathematicians and it has been wonderful to see the children applying their knowledge and skills in other areas. This half term, we will be comparing numbers and looking at the composition of numbers 4 and 5. We will continue to work on our subitising skills by combining 2 groups and seeing how many there are altogether. In addition to this, we will be making pairs, comparing the mass, length and height of objects, as well as using sand, water and rice to explore capacity and learning new vocabulary. We will also explore numbers 6, 7 and 8 and how they can be represented using smaller quantities.

Literacy



* In Phonics, we will be using the sounds covered so far to read and write longer words such as tent (CVCC words) and swim (CCVC words). We will also be focusing on the double consonants for reading and spelling- ll/ff/ss/zz

* Story time sessions have continued to be a huge hit in Reception and we are looking forward to starting our own class voting station to vote for our favourite books.

* This half term we will be looking at various traditional tales and focusing on the characters, settings and plot, exploring the morals, conflicts and resolutions. We are looking forward to retelling the stories using story maps, making our own maps and participating in role play activities.

* We are thrilled and delighted to see the children's enthusiasm to write in the classroom. We have enjoyed reading all their labels, cards, lists, signs and even letters. We are looking forward to having a go at other forms of writing this half term such as writing instructions, story maps and character descriptions. Please continue to encourage your child to write for different purposes using the sounds that they have learnt in Phonics and practise their letter formation. We would love to see the wonderful writing you do at home as well as in class. Please bring these into school where your child will have the opportunity to sit in the 'Author's chair' and share with the rest of the class.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be getting our dancing shoes on this half term by listening to music from other countries and expressing our feelings through movement to music. We will explore and engage in music making using a variety of instruments and dance, performing solo or in groups. We are also looking forward to exploring the artist Paul Klee and making our own abstract representation of Castle in the Sun.

Understanding of the World

To coincide with our topic, we will focus on traditional tales from around the world and explore a world map, locating continents and countries. We will also investigate and explore castles and how they changed over time.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to explore and understand the views and feelings of others and how to talk to others to resolve conflicts. During 'Discovery Time', we will be focussing on key skills such as sharing, empathy, resilience and perseverance, and will also link these to our school values. We will identify and celebrate our strengths and talents, taking pride in our own achievements.

Physical Development

This half term, we will focus on using a range of tools competently, safely, and confidently such as scissors, paintbrushes, knives, forks, play dough tools and pens. We will also build upon on gross motor skills in the outside area and in Gymnastics during PE to develop our overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility. We will focus on the movement skills hopping, skipping and running with increased control.

Communication and Language

We are excited to learn new rhymes, poems and songs this half term. Through a variety of books and discussions, we will be learning new and ambitious vocabulary, and will be encouraging the children to become 'Word Collectors'. We will also focus on offering explanations for why things happen and make predictions about what might happen next, in response to the texts we have heard and read.

Dates for your diary

*Thursday 19th January -wear your PJs to school for our cosy traditional tales story day.

*Monday 6th -Thursday 9th February- Parents' Evenings- further details to follow

*Thursday 9th February- Partake Pied Piper drama session. This is also a non-uniform day – please bring an item to donate to the food bank

*Friday 10th February – INSET day

*13th-17th - February Half Term break

* Monday 20th February return to school

Parent help: Please look out for a Parent Planning sheet in the coming weeks and return to school. We really value your input.

We are collecting Lego/Barbie/Superhero type dolls. Please think of us if you are having a clear out!

Reminders

*Please ensure to sign/comment in the diary when you have heard your child read or have shared a book together. We love reading all the comments about how your child is doing with their reading at home. Please also record home learning activities directly into the red home learning book. We have loved looking at all the wonderful learning your child has been doing at home.



ClassDojo *Please sign up to the Class Dojo invitation using the login details sent out via the letter. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher, please do this through the school office or talk to them at drop off or pick up time, not via Dojo messages. Thank-you 😊