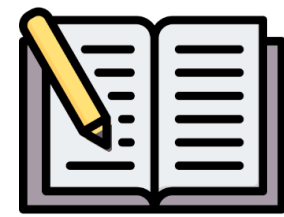




Reception Newsletter– Advent 2



Welcome back!

Welcome back to the final part of the Advent Term. It has been lovely to hear all about your exciting half term break. The children have returned to school eager to learn, discover and explore, and are thrilled to bits with their new outdoor playground.

Advent 2 2023

Our wonder question and line of enquiry for this half term will be: I wonder what makes the world light up? We will be learning all about:



Festivals of Light (Bonfire Night, Diwali and Hanukkah)- people and communities, different cultures, using our senses, safety and why/how we celebrate.



Seasonal changes- changes to the natural world, light sources and observe how animals behave differently as the seasons change.



Christmas – how and why we celebrate and what it means to me and my family.



R.E.

Our topics for this half term are Welcome, Judaism and Birthdays.

We will be focusing on Baptism, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

It has been wonderful to share some of the children's Baptism memories with the class. Thank you for returning the Baptism home learning activity.

Maths

In our maths lessons, we will continue to take a mastery approach and consolidate our understanding of numbers to 5, including representing amounts in various ways, subitising, composition of numbers and one more/less. We will work on our number formation alongside this. In addition, we will be looking at shapes, patterns, night and day, and positional language.

Literacy

*Phonics work is key to developing your child's ability to read and write. We teach phonics each day in school, and you will have noticed over the last few weeks an increase in your child's confidence and ability when reading. Please continue to practise the code (sounds) home and have a go at making words.

* It has been wonderful to see the children having a go at using their phonic knowledge to write labels, shopping lists and cards during their discovery time. This half term is now a good time to encourage them to write for different purposes (shopping lists, Christmas cards, letters etc) using the sounds that they have learnt in phonics.

* We will also continue to develop blending skills for reading and word recognition to improve fluency, as well as promote a love of books and reading through our story time sessions.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be experimenting mixing primary colours and will explore using different materials. They will be encouraged to develop different forms of expression including role play, singing and drama, as well as listen to varied types of music.

Understanding of the World

To coincide with our topic, we will be looking at the seasonal changes that come with Autumn and how to keep safe in the dark. We will discuss the celebrations of different religions and cultures and celebrate many of these in class, including: Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

Physical Development

This half term we will continue to build on our fine motor skills to prepare us for writing. This will include threading, building, cutting and using tweezers as well specific letter formation support. We will also build upon gross motor skills in our beautiful outside area and in P.E. lessons.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue to explore and understand the views of others. During 'Discovery Time', we will be focusing on key skills such as sharing, empathy, resilience and perseverance. Children will learn how to develop their independence in selecting activities, using equipment appropriately, and when organising themselves in the morning. Please continue to encourage your child to be independent by asking them to show you their reading books, getting dressed, putting on and zipping up their coat.

Communication and Language

The children will be encouraged to ask questions to find out more information and to check they understand what has been said to them. We are excited to also be learning new rhymes, poems and songs this half term and using our 'loud and proud' voices to showcase these.

Through a variety of books and discussions, the children will also be learning and using new and ambitious vocabulary and will be encouraged to be our 'Reception Word Collectors'.

Reminders

*Please ensure that your child's reading books and diary are in their folder and brought to school every day.

Please sign/comment in the diary when you have heard them read or have shared a book together. We love reading all the comments about how your child is doing with their reading at home.

* At GSA, we love to 'dress to impress'. Please ensure to send your child to school wearing full school uniform each day – including ties.

*Hats, gloves and a warm coat will need to come to school during the colder months as lots of our learning will still be outside. **Please label all items.**

Dates for your diary

- ***13th November** – Odd socks day for Anti-bullying Week
- ***24th November** – Non-uniform day (bring a bottle for the Christmas fair)
- ***25th November**- Good Shepherd Church Christmas Fair- 10.30-2.30 in the church hall.
- ***3rd December**- Advent Mass in church
- ***7th December**- PTA Christmas disco (more information to follow)



- ***12th December (2pm) and 14th December (10am)** - Reception Christmas Nativity (more information to follow)
- ***20th December**- Trip to the Playhouse theatre to see Hansel and Gretel.
- ***22nd December**- Carol Service in church at 10am
Last day of term

Thank you so much for your continued support. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your wonderful children and are so proud of their efforts so far!

Reception Team x

