

Reception Newsletter– Pentecost 1



Welcome back to another busy and exciting term in Reception. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break with your friends and families.

The children have made fantastic progress so far, and they continue to amaze us each day as we begin to prepare them for Year 1, in their learning and in developing their independence and resilience.



RE

Our topic for this half term will be 'Good News'.

We will talk about the good news we like to share with each other, as well as the Good News of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

In addition to this, we will also look at and explore another faith / religion: - Hinduism

Literacy

*We will continue to learn new sounds such as sh/ch/tch/th and will look for these when reading and use these more independently when writing new words. We will also learn different spellings for the /ae/ sound, e.g., ai (rain), ay (play), ea (steak), a-e (take).

*We are looking forward to sharing a range of fiction and non-fiction books and exploring a wide range of vocabulary. Our key texts this half term will focus on Mae Jemison and Chris Hadfield, two incredible astronauts who chased their dreams!



*We are looking forward to having a go at other forms of writing this half term such as writing speech bubbles, recounts, cards, lists, postcards and posters. Our focus will also be on developing independence when writing, using finger spaces, a full stop at the end of a sentence, conjunctions and some upper-case letters. Please continue to encourage your child to write for different purposes using the sounds that they have learnt in Phonics and to practise their letter formation.

Pentecost 1 2024

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

I wonder what is beyond the clouds?

We are looking forward to exploring and learning all about space, rockets and famous astronauts.

Maths

This half term, we will continue to develop independent learning, problem solving, reasoning and fluency. We will be focusing on:

*Building numbers and counting patterns beyond 10.

*Combining two groups to find out how many altogether.

*Spatial awareness linked to shapes and positional language.

*Adding more by counting on and using our knowledge of composition of numbers.

*Taking away and subtraction facts up to 5.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be learning a range of songs and rhymes related to 'Space' and will have a go at inventing, adapting and recounting narratives and stories with our friends. This half term, we will explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture and form. We are also looking forward to exploring the artwork of Van Gogh and will produce our own interpretation of his 'Starry Night' painting. In addition to this, we will continue to share own creations, explaining the process we have used.





Understanding of the World

This half term, we are particularly looking forward to learning all about the astronauts: - Mae Jemison and Chris Hadfield and exploring how rockets have changed over time. To coincide with the topic, we will be exploring gravity and forces through fun science experiments. We will also have opportunities to use a range of ICT equipment such as Bee-Bots, iPads and a CD player in our learning and play.



Communication and Language

We will continue to develop our skills and knowledge in becoming confident communicators by listening attentively and thinking of relevant questions to ask our peers, adults and visitors to gain further information. We will focus on using talk in many different ways, not only in imaginative play, but also to organise and clarify thinking, express ideas and feelings, and to work out problems and explain how things work and why they might happen.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Through play and circle time sessions, we will talk about our own feelings and the feelings of other people and begin to regulate our behaviour accordingly. We will refer to our school values of showing mercy and respect, and we will also make links to the British Values. When faced with new challenges, we will continue to encourage resilience and perseverance in order to 'achieve our best'. Children will also be supported in taking the appropriate steps to resolve conflicts with other children by finding a compromise.



Physical Development

In P.E., we will be focusing on multi-skills where we will be working on coordination and refining a range of ball skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting and aiming. We also look forward to having an extra P.E. session with Mr Connolly on a Monday! We will continue to develop our fine motor skills through using scissors to cut small shapes and various materials with control, using thinner paintbrushes and split pins, drawing with increased accuracy and using a range a cutlery with independence.

Reminders

*Please continue to share home learning and special achievements on the 'WOW' slips provided and send them back into school via your child's reading folder. provided, and send them back into school via your child's reading folder. Your child will then have the opportunity to share their own 'Wow' moments with the rest of the class and they may also be displayed on our 'Reach for the Stars' wall display.

*When the warmer weather arrives, please ensure your child has a named sunhat or cap in their bag for when they are outside. We also ask that on hotter, sunnier days a high factor sun cream is applied before school to ensure your child stays protected for the whole day.

*Please ensure **all** items of clothing, including hats/caps are named. Thank you!

Dates for your diary

- * 6th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)
- * 9th May - Ascension Day Mass in school – 9.30am
- * 17th May – Mental Health Day and PTA film night (more information to follow)
- * 24th May- Aspirations Day and last day of the half term

- * 17th June- Class photographs
- * 9th July – Reception's Sports Day – 9.15am
- * July- Reception school trip to Twycross Zoo (exact date and further details to follow)