

# Reception Newsletter

## Autumn 1

### Welcome back

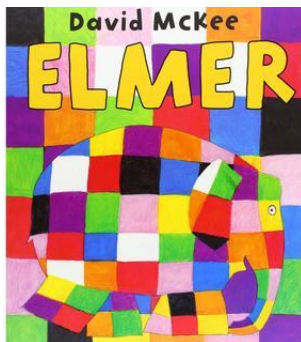
We would like to welcome all children and families back to Sacred Heart from our Nursery class and also welcome seven new children and their families into the Sacred Heart family. We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer holiday and that you and your children are ready for an action packed half term in Reception class. This half term begins on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and ends on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

### Staffing

The staffing in Reception class consists of 4 adults. Miss While the class teacher, Mrs Gaye and Mrs Melrose the classroom teaching assistants and Mrs Burt who will be teaching in Reception class on a Thursday afternoon.

### Our plans for the half term

At Sacred Heart RC Nursery and Primary School we have a whole school learning approach based upon story telling. Every half term we have a focused story which we use to develop children's learning and progression through the 7 areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This story is often referred to as our Talk for Writing story. Our Talk for Writing story for this half term is 'Elmer the Patchwork Elephant.'



This is a colourful story which introduces an elephant who finds it difficult to be different. The story celebrates individuality and is therefore an ideal story to begin our school year.

We chose this story as it supports children in recognising simple colours, animals and celebrates individuality. The story uses lots of simple language which helps the children as they retell stories through actions and also in their early writing. An aspect of Talk for Writing is changing what happens in a story and creating our own version. This story is particularly good for this as it is plentiful with characters.

### Curriculum Coverage

There are 7 areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Below outlines what curriculum coverage we will be doing in this half term using Elmer the Patchwork Elephant as our learning focus.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



- Building close relationships in our key worker groups
- Feeling safe and secure in our new environment
- Working as a class to create our Sacred Agreement (Rules and Expectations)
- Exploring and developing our self Care - dressing, snack and independent play
- Weekly circle time sessions that encourages all children's participation
- Exploring self awareness and self importance
- Learning about our personal targets and how to achieve them.
- Self hygiene washing our hands and recognising the importance of being healthy
- Being safe when using a variety of tools
- Exploring British values
- Celebrating similarities and differences

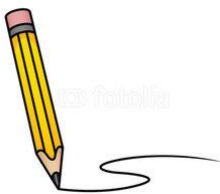
## Communication and Language

- Using repetitive language to retell stories
- Responding to others in small groups and whole groups
- Learning co-operative learning techniques to embed working together
- Weekly circle time sessions that encourages all children's participation
- Opportunities for speaking and listening in small and large groups
- Hot seating character sessions



## Physical Development

- Opportunities to practice and develop basic movements and gymnastics
- Developing children's independence in self care, selecting and choosing resources independently, dressing and undressing and with self hygiene
  - Developing children's physical fine motor skills through a variety of activities that encourages children to use one handed tools.
  - Daily finger gym activities
  - Supporting children in holding their writing tools using the correct grip and pressure
- Developing letter formation through phonics
- Supporting children with letter formation in our weekly handwriting activity
- Encouraging children to think about how exercise affects their bodies
- Safety in the hall - importance of warm ups/ cool downs
- Following instructions
- Using cookery tools safely



## Literacy

- Daily phonics session based on blending and segmenting sounds to read and write simple words.
- Beginning to learn red words to read and write
- Daily phonic sessions based on learning RML set 1 sounds
- Retelling stories through actions, role play, story maps, focused group work and visual resources
- Supporting children in developing letter formation through phonics and handwriting sessions
- Changing stories to create our own.
- Daily guided reading sessions to support us with our phonics and early reading skills
- Letter formation, writing our names and simple words
- Writing labels and captions
- Using sources for information



## Mathematics



- Counting amounts up to and beyond 20
- Counting out from a larger group
- Recognising numbers up to 10 and extending to 20
- Ordering numbers up to 10 and extending to 20
- Exploring more and less
- Ordering events
- Simple shape recognition and properties of shape

## Understanding the World

- Talking about their own families/themselves
- Exploring our similarities and differences between themselves
- Exploring colour/patterns
- Using technology as sources of information
- Using interactive art software programmes



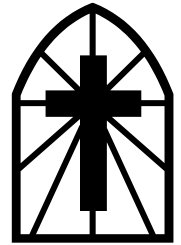
## Expressive Arts and Design

-  Colour hunts/ making a rainbow
  - Umbrella painting
  - Creating digital Elmer elephants
  - Colour mixing
  - Stained glass Elmer elephants
  - Creative collage

- Talk for writing story acting
- Charanga music sessions
- Creating Harvest Festival art work which will be displayed in the church

### **Religious Education**

We learn about different religions and cultures at Sacred Heart celebrating different countries and traditions. We teach the children to be sensitive to the traditions of all religions and understand that we may not celebrate the same things. As part of our Catholic ethos we have a structured outline of Catholic faith that we teach. This half term we will be learning about Creation, Prayers, Saints and Feasts.



We participate in daily prayers and gather on a Monday for our whole school liturgy. On a Wednesday morning we gather with KS1 in a short assembly and on Thursday we gather to watch 'Open the Book'.

### **Lunch Times**



You can now order your children's school lunches from home. Please speak to the school office if you would like to do this. You can order up to 5 weeks worth of school meals at a time. We ask that children are encouraged to use knives and forks at home to support the children to independently feed themselves in the hall. We are including activities to develop children's fine motor skills with activities in the classroom also to support the children.

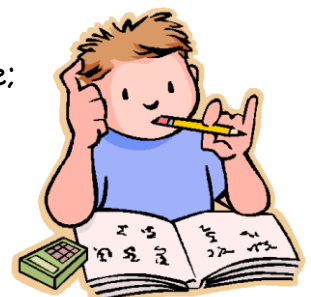
### **PE Kits and school uniform**

Our PE session is Wednesday afternoon however we sometimes take advantage of the empty hall space so could you please leave your child's PE kit in school at all times. PE kits will be sent home at the end of each half term for washing. We also encourage the children to have their name in all their school clothing so that missing clothes can be easily identified.

### **Home Learning**

Home learning will be sent home every Friday. The home learning will usually consist of sounds to practice or red words (these are words that cannot be sounded out and children need to learn to read and write on sight)

It will also consist of another learning task for your child to complete; this will depend on the learning carried out throughout the week and their individual learning targets. The home learning that is sent home will be tailored for your individual child's need.



## Reading Books

Your child will now bring home a reading book in their book bag on a Friday. The reading book will be changed every Friday. We also include a red reading record, parents are encouraged to read with their children on a daily basis and use the red reading record to comment on your child's reading. Initially the books we send home will be picture books; picture books are an excellent way to develop children's interpretation skills children are encouraged to look at the pictures and interpret what they think is happening in the pictures. As the children become more confident in reading we will send home books with words that they are able to read by breaking down the sounds that they see and blending them together.

Please note that in our Early Years setting children are not 'book banded'. Our aim is to encourage our children to challenge themselves with their reading and we aim to provide books for the children to be able to do this. These books may vary in colour throughout the year however it is not an indication of what colour band your child is. As such early readers it is crucial that children take enjoyment from reading and have the skills to read books well focusing ultimately on reading words without sounding them out.

After our induction period we will be beginning weekly story sharing sessions on a Thursday afternoon. Details will shortly be announced.

## Open door policy



At Sacred Heart we have an open-door policy and encourage parents to talk to the staff daily about any concerns, suggestions or achievements that you wish to share. A member of staff will always be available to talk at the beginning of the session and I am available to talk too personally at the end of the day or by booking an appointment.

We strongly encourage parents to communicate with the Reception staff so we can work collaboratively to meet the best needs of your children.

We are always here to support yourself and your children on this exciting journey as they continue their full time education

## Reminders:

Your child's interactive learning diary is now constantly viewable online. To see what your child has been learning about in Reception class please visit

<https://portal.interactivelarningdiary.co.uk/>

Enter your username and password and you will be able to view your child's progress. If you have forgotten or need a new password please speak to myself and I can arrange a new one for you.

New children will be issued with a username and password by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Important dates for your diaries:**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** - Elmer's colour parade open afternoon. We would like to invite you into the classroom to share learning experiences with your children. Session time 2.30-3.15pm

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October** - Autumn 1 term ends

Thank you  
Miss While  
Reception Class Teacher/ Early Years Coordinator