

# Reception Newsletter

## Aut 2

### Welcome back

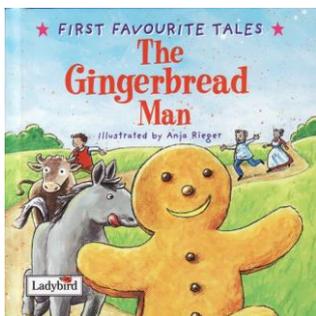
We would like to welcome back all children and families back to Sacred Heart after our half term break. We hope that you have had an enjoyable holiday and that you and your children are ready for a busy term in Reception class. This half term begins on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October and ends on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please note that Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November is a non pupil day.

### Staffing

The staffing in Reception class consists of 4 adults. Miss While the class teacher, Miss Winfield and Miss English 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 'The Gingerbread Man.'



This is a traditional story of an old lady and an old man who bake a gingerbread man. The gingerbread man comes to life and he faces many challenges as he attempts to escape.

We chose this story as it supports children in retelling familiar narratives. The story uses lots of repetitive language which helps the children as they retell stories through actions and also in their 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, locations and repetitive language.

### 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 The Gingerbread Man as our learning focus

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development



- Developing confidence and resilience to work together (developing co-operative learning)
- Tackling feelings, what makes us feel a certain way, linked to the

## Gingerbread Man.

- Rehearsals and Christmas performance
- SEAL theme - getting on and falling out

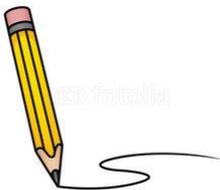
### Communication and Language

- Using repetitive language to retell stories
- Responding to others in small groups and whole groups
- Continued 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 using characters from The Gingerbread Man
- RIC activities to support reading comprehension
- Sharing Christmas experiences/ memories and traditions



### Physical Development

- Opportunities to practice and develop basic movements and dance
- 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
- Designing a ginger bread character
- Writing simple sentences e.g. 'run run as fast as you can.'
- Creating a class recipe for making gingerbread.
- Lists to Santa

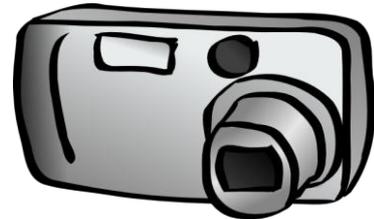
### Mathematics



- Counting amounts up to and beyond 20
- Recognising numbers up to 10 and extending to 20
- Ordering numbers up to 10 and extending to 20
- Exploring measurement through weight
- Sequencing events
- Exploring position
- Counting combined amounts (Early addition)

### Understanding the World

- Talking about past/present events.
- Talking about their own families/themselves
- Exploring our similarities and differences
- Designing a digital Gingerbread Man
- Talking about the changes of materials
- Exploring different forms of technology



### Expressive Arts and Design

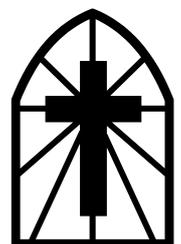
- Combining media to create different effects
- TfW actions for acting out storylines/ narratives
- Making gingerbread puppets
- Making delicious gingerbread men (We hope they won't run away!)



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### 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 Sacraments, Advent and Christmas.



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 Miss While 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.

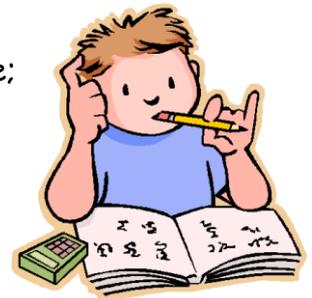
### PE Kits and school uniform

Our PE session is Wednesday afternoon, can you please make sure that your child's PE kit is in school on this day. We also encourage the children to have their name in all of 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 be bringing 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.

## 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.

### Dates to remember:

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** - school photos (individual and sibling photos)

**7<sup>th</sup> November** - Flu immunisations

**20<sup>th</sup> November** - School inset day

**13<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Lunch day

**Please note that we will be handing out letters very shortly regarding our nativity production**

Thank you

Miss While

Reception Class Teacher/ Early Years Coordinator