

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 1st November and ends on Friday 16th December. Please note that Monday 31st October 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 teaches 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 'Stick Man.'

This is a story of a stick man who finds himself in some rather tricky situations. All he wants is to be back in his family tree with his family. Will he be able to make it back to his family in time for Christmas.....?

We chose this story as it uses lots of repetitive language which helps the children as they retell stories through actions and also in their mark making and early writing skills. We will be focusing lots about the celebration of Christmas and talking about our experiences of Christmas with our families, this story lends itself for those discussions.

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 Stick Man as our learning focus.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



- Further developing close relationships in our key worker groups
- Exploring and developing our self Care - dressing, snack and independent play.
- Weekly circle time sessions that encourages all children's participation
- Learning about our personal targets and how to achieve them.

- Exploring different feelings (exploring how the characters would feel)
- Recognising how we learn (Characteristics of Effective Learning)
- Recognising how to be a good friend and describing what attributes we need to have to be a good friend.
- Developing upon cooperative learning activities
- Creating a friend stick tree/ family tree
- Taking care of our friend stick man that we have made
- Christmas rehearsals and performance

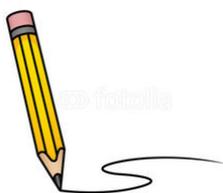
Communication and Language

- Using repetitive language to retell stories
- Responding to others in small groups and whole groups
- Developing learning co-operative learning techniques
- Weekly circle time sessions that encourages all children's participation
- Opportunities for speaking and listening in small and large groups (introduction of talk partners)
- Hot-seating character sessions using characters from Stick Man
- Regular carpet time listening activities
- Discussing family experiences in small groups (past/ future) - linked to Christmas experiences
- Story retelling using story maps and Tfw actions.
- Daily RIC picture activities to develop children's comprehension skills



Physical Development

- Opportunities to practice and develop basic movements and athletics skills
- 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
- Fine Motor skills activities to strengthen pencil grip and use of one handed tools
- Making stick men using a variety of resources
- Developing control and co-ordination in large movements.
- Stick man throwing



Literacy

- Daily phonics sessions (RML programme)
- Beginning to learn red words to read and write
- 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
- Daily guided reading sessions to support us with our phonics and early reading skills
- Letter formation, writing simple words and captions
- Guided reading twice weekly
- Sequencing story events, sequencing events in our lives
- Creating our own stick man dilemma story.
- Writing Christmas lists

Mathematics

- Counting, recognizing and ordering to 10 (extending to 20 HA throughout the half term)
- One more and one less (using a number line to support initially)
- Ordering by length and height
- Positional language—describing own relative position compared to others.



Understanding the World



- Making our own family tree
- Discussing family experiences in small groups (past/ future) - linked to Christmas experiences
- Photographing stick man in his natural environment, editing photos using editing software.

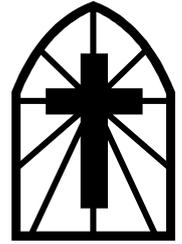
Expressive Arts and Design

- Christmas rehearsals and performance
- Making stick men using a variety of resources
- Making woodland creatures using pinecones and other natural resources. Pets for the stick men
- Christmas craft activities as part of our advent activities
- Bonfire night pictures
- Remembrance poppies observational drawings



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 Advent.



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', a theatrical group who tell us stories from the Bible.

Lunch Times



You can now order your children's school lunches from home. Please speak to the 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.

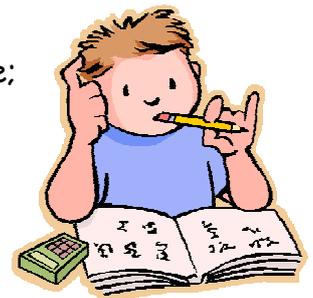
PE Kits and school uniform

Can you please make sure that your child's PE kit is in school at all times. We have a designated PE slot in the hall however we will at times have impromptu PE sessions outdoors and the children will need suitable clothing for this. 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

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. Comprehension (being able to discuss what is happening in pictures) is a key early reading skill as it supports children to not always depend on purely what is written in the text. 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. We are encouraging children to become fluent readers and although we use phonics to help children decode words to read it is important that they begin to read familiar words on sight as they become more confident with reading.

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.interactivelearningdiary.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.



As a whole school we support the local charity Rowcroft Hospice. Throughout the year Reception class will be responsible for raising funds for this worth while charity. The children throughout this fund raising will learn how to become young business entrepreneurs and understand the reasoning behind why we fund raise. If you

would like to find out more about Rowcroft Hospice please visit their website

<http://www.rowcrofthospice.org.uk/>

Important Dates for your diaries!

Tuesday 1st/ Wednesday 2nd Nov - Parent consultation meetings
Thursday 3rd Nov - Individual/ sibling class photographs
Foundation stage nativity - TBC details to follow very shortly

Thank you
Miss While
Reception Class Teacher/ Early Years Coordinator