

Reception Newsletter

Spr 2

Welcome back

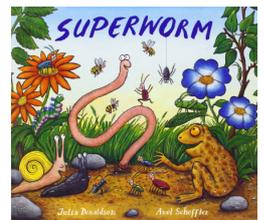
We would like to welcome back all children and families back to Sacred Heart after our half term break. We hope that you have had an enjoyable break. This half term begins on Monday 20th February and ends on Friday 31st March.

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 'Superworm'



This is a story of a worm that always saves the day. He uses his superhero abilities to solve problems for others.

We chose this story as so many of our children are showing an interest in superhero play and as we focus on the children's interests in early years this seemed like the perfect story. We had planned to explore lifecycles in the spring term so this book was ideal as it included mini beasts also!

As part of our whole school topic 'time travelling detectives' we will also be exploring the Cretaceous period. This begins on our first day back with an unexpected visitor to Sacred Heart. Hopefully Superworm will be able to help us to return this creature to the time period that it belongs to!

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 Superworm as our learning focus.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Working as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules

- Bug talk (discussion around mini beasts)

- Discussing likes and dislikes

Say why they like some activities more than others.

- Changes occurring (looking at lifecycles supporting children in observing change)



Communication and Language

- What would your super power be? Exploring what we would like for a super hero talent.

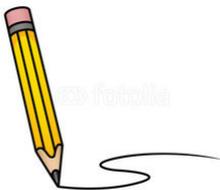
- Mini beast describing
- Building a mini beast home
- Nonsense rhymes



- Understanding humour, e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes.

Physical Development

- Opportunities to practice and develop basic movements and competitive team activities
- 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/ handwriting sessions
- Fine Motor skills activities to strengthen pencil grip and use of one handed tools
- Super competitors (mini sports day sessions in house teams) focus on competition and collaboration



Literacy

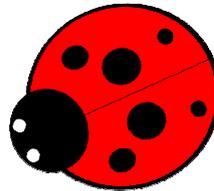
- Daily phonics sessions (RML programme)
- Learning red words
 - Retelling stories through actions, role play, story maps, focused group work and visual resources
 - Supporting children in developing letter formation through phonics and handwriting sessions
 - Daily guided reading sessions to support us with our phonics and early reading skills
 - Letter formation, writing simple captions and sentences



- Guided reading twice weekly
- Super hero writing
- Mini beast log book
- Mini best rhymes/ rhyming words
- Research using computers/ microscopes

Mathematics

- Simple addition by counting on
- Simple subtraction by counting back
- Language of more and fewer
- Ladybird spots for doubling



Understanding the World

- Changes/ Lifecycles
- Making frog spawn jelly
- Mini beast hunt
- Growing a plant game/ mini beast games
- Mini beast talk
- Mini beast bug hotel
- Exploring dinosaur fossils



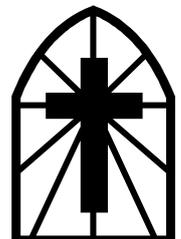
Expressive Arts and Design



- Snail trail pictures
- Mini beast rock animals
- Symmetrical butterfly paintings
- Mini beast clay model
- Dinosaur fossils
- Cotton bud dinosaurs

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 recapping our learning about Lent and learning about Holy Week.

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.

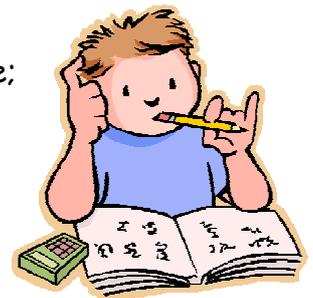
PE Kits and school uniform

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

As the children are becoming more confident in reading we will be sending 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 28th/ Wednesday 1st March - Parent consultation meetings - Thank you for already booking your parent consultation slot. Reminders of times will be sent home in home learning books.

Thank you

Miss While

Reception Class Teacher/ Early Years Coordinator