

Reception Newsletter

Sum 1

Welcome back

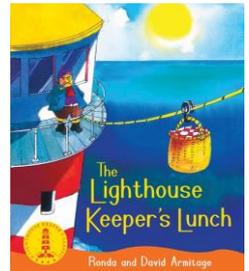
We would like to welcome back all children and families back to Sacred Heart after our Easter break. We hope that you have had an enjoyable break. This half term begins on Tuesday 18th April and ends on Thursday 25th May.

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 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'



This is a story of a lighthouse keeper who tries to enjoy his picnic but unfortunately his lunch keeps getting stolen.

We chose this story as this half term we are focusing on our local environment. We wanted a seaside story to explore life living by the sea. The story also lends itself to instruction writing. We will be focusing on writing instructions and lists this half term.

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 Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch as our learning focus.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



- Challenging ourselves to beat our individual targets
 - Creating inventions, discussing ideas, selecting the resources needed
 - Weekly circle time sessions that encourages all children's participation
 - Recognising our own areas for improvement
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- Recognising how we learn (Characteristics of Effective Learning)
 - Developing upon cooperative learning activities

- Continuing our charity fundraising by hosting a pirate fun day.

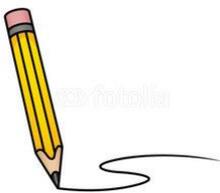
Communication and Language

- Discussing our experiences of going to the seaside, sharing knowledge of our local area.
- Responding to how and why questions about the story, developing comprehension of the story.
- Developing ideas and solutions to problems and finding the most effective methods of problem solving.
- Weekly circle time sessions that encourages all children's participation
- Opportunities for speaking and listening in small and large groups
- Creating our own inventions, give reasoning to our ideas
- Regular carpet time listening activities
- 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 gymnastic movements and athletic 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 developing letter size and writing on lines.
- Developing letter formation through phonics/ handwriting sessions
- Fine Motor skills activities to strengthen pencil grip and use of one handed tools
- Using gymnastics wall - the importance of remaining safe when using equipment



Literacy

- Daily phonics sessions (RML programme)
- Learning red words
- Focus on reading with speed and on sight
- 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
- Sequencing story events, sequencing events in our lives
- Writing a picnic list/ instructions for basket invention
- local area writing/ research

Mathematics

- Counting, recognizing and ordering to 20
- Counting back
- Money (purchasing items in the beach shop)
- Time language linked to story



Understanding the World



- Exploring our local environment
- Using media to photograph and edit photographs
- Experiences of the seaside
- Designing inventions
- Sea creature learning
- Exploring electrical circuits (lighthouses)

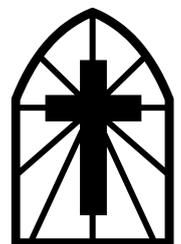
Expressive Arts and Design

- Weaving - making paper napkins
- Whole school local area project
- Creating Paignton town (junk modelling)
- Making lighthouses
- Texture pictures (sand, water colours)



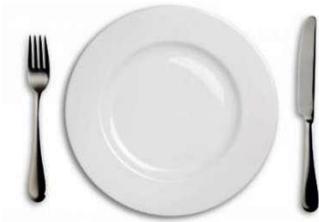
Religious Education

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 exploring the Easter story and Pentecost.



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 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

You may have noticed that your child has been moved into a different coloured book band on their home reading book. You may feel that your child needs a more challenging book for them to read however we are focusing on the children being able to read with better fluency and understanding. We are encouraging the children to become more confident with their reading and preparing the children for Year 1 where it is expected that children, by the end of year 1, can read 90 words per minute.

We are supporting children by reading words on sight, without having to sound out to read words. You might find that your child is still at that stage where they need to sound out words however we would now encourage the children to be sounding words out in their head rather than out loud.

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/>

Look out for our pirate fun day this half term... date to be confirmed, all profits from this day will be going to Rowcroft Hospice

Important Dates for your diaries!

Wednesday 26th April - Class Photo - Tempest

Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday

Wednesday 24th May - The Lighthouse Keeper's Picnic open afternoon

Pirate fun day - date to be confirmed (children to come to school dressed as pirates!)

Thank you

Miss While

Reception Class Teacher/ Early Years Coordinator