



St Charles RC
Primary School



Reception
Newsletter
Spring 2024

Welcome

A warm welcome back and a Happy New Year to everyone. We hope that you have had a great Christmas and are all looking forward to the New Year with enthusiasm as we have lots of fun things in store in Reception. We would like to say a massive thank you for the wonderful cards, presents and warm wishes at Christmas – it was very generous and kind.

Outdoor learning:

As the temperature has become much colder lately, the children still have access to the outdoor area, even when it is raining. Please can you remember that, if your child has grown in their regular footwear, you might need to check the size of their wellies also. Please continue to ensure that your child has a pair of correctly fitting wellies within school, labelled with their name. Forest school/outdoor learning wellies should be kept in school throughout the year.

PE:

Lessons take place on **Friday** afternoons. Children come to school in their PE kit. Your child will need a white T-shirt, blue shorts and pumps, during the colder months, they may wear a plain navy blue tracksuit, no logos or stripes. As the weather is so unpredictable, you might want to keep your child's pumps at school on their peg and send them in outdoor shoes to avoid getting wet feet to and from school. As we are also doing Forest school on the same day, we will use our school stock of outdoor over clothes to cover the PE kit your child is wearing. If the weather is cold, please feel free to send your child in navy blue tracksuit bottoms or leggings.

Reception fund

We would greatly appreciate if all parents could contribute to our Reception class fund. Parents are asked to contribute £30 for the full reception year (£5 per term) and return in cash. The money enables us to purchase craft materials, and new expendable resources such as play dough ingredients (which need replacing weekly to keep it fresh), to enhance your child's physical development.

Did you know that we have 27 bones in each hand? The bones in a child's hand do not become fully joined until they start to reach around 9 years old! By providing a child with playdough and other malleable materials to manipulate, we give them the opportunity to strengthen those joints and so, in turn, they become much more dexterous. This means they will develop their fine motor skills to become much stronger. Playdough is only one of many things that we replace on a regular, frequent basis. Many thanks for your support with this, the money is very much appreciated. We will keep you updated with what we have purchased.

Book Bags

Please can we ask for the flat, blue book bags to be brought in every day. We put any letters and information into your child's book bag. We also ask that only one key ring be attached to the book bag. Otherwise they do not fit into the trays and this prevents other children accessing their trays too.

Reading books

Thank you to everyone who has supported their child by bringing their books back every Wednesday. Reading remains crucial in Reception and we ask that you read regularly with your child at home to really foster their love of reading! In school, they will read their individual books, sounds and words with both a teaching assistant and their class teacher. In addition to this, they take part in a daily guided reading session during their Phonics lesson. Please ensure that you do sign their reading diary every time they read their book to you so we can keep track of where they are up to. Please try and read for 15 minutes per day and

send your book back each Wednesday as this will support your child in their reading progress more than in any other way. You will find the words we are working on when you log in to Google Classroom.

Google Classroom

Please log into Google Classroom through the RMunify portal, this is a secure way of accessing the Google Classroom app. (Trying to log on through the Google Classroom app will not work). We use this app to share homework and introduce the children to online learning.



Curriculum

RE Focus: In RE this term, we will be reading lots of stories about Jesus and thinking about His miracles. This will lead us into Lent and learning about what that means to us as Catholics and how that leads us into the Easter celebrations.

Topic: The children have started to think about our new topic for this term, 'What is the best pet for me? This is a topic that the children always seem to enjoy thoroughly and lends itself to a wide variety of links such as, how we look after a pet and what its needs would be, where we find different animals in the wild, animal behaviour (to determine why that animal would make a good pet or not) and many more areas of learning such as maths. We will be learning about tally charts and graphs and linking this to how many pets we have. We always try to listen to our children and follow their interest in the topics to see where they lead us to, this way we can tap into children's enthusiasm for learning new things. So, who knows where this will go?

When we come back after the half term break, we will be changing our focus to 'What is in the egg?' we delve into the fantasy of dragons and compare it with the factual evidence of dinosaurs. Children enjoy exploring and researching what else comes out of an egg. This very aptly takes us up to Easter.

English: In English, we continue to use a number of high-quality texts to support our learning in English and these are based upon our half termly topic. Some of them are old favourites, others are more modern.

Kippers Snowy Day by Mick Inkpen

What Pet should I Get? Dr.Suess.

Dear Zoo Rod Campbell

I want a pet Lauren Child

Duck Angela Royston.

Snail Jens Oleson.

Dragon Loves Penguin Debi Gliori (fiction)

The Kiss that Missed David Melling (fiction fantasy dragon tales)

The Extremely Greedy Dragon Jessica Barrah (fantasy)

Good Night Sleep Tight David Melling (fantasy)

Baby animals Franklin Watts (non-fiction link to topic)

The snail that lost it's shell Katie Chad (fiction link to non-fiction 'Snail' facts)

To name but a few of our shared reading books this term on which we base our writing tasks and use for a wide variety of learning objectives. For instance, **Kippers Snowy Day, Mick Inkpen** is a seasonal book that lends itself to the natural progression of literacy development. From this text, we read and reread for understanding, familiarity and enjoyment. Through the work we do together, children become familiar and well-practised at **describing** and looking at what we read in more depth. We use the text for building our understanding of a story and becoming more well versed in descriptive language.

Reading

The key to the teaching of reading is practice and repetition. The children are continuing to read individual letters by saying the sounds for them and then blending sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter-sound correspondences. We have covered phase 2 now and are heading steadily into phase 3 where we will be learning about digraphs (two letters that make one sound). The first digraphs we start with from phase 3 are consonant digraphs such as sh as in shed and ch as in chop. We will be quickly moving forward into learning the vowel digraphs such as ai as in rain and ee as in green. These are the spellings that provide the children with the ability to write the long vowel sounds in words. Thank you for your continued support at home. Those children who are practising their reading at home regularly will build their confidence quickly. Do not worry if your child memorises the words or uses the pictures to help them, they are strategies that some children adopt naturally to help them become more confident readers.

Writing: The children are now writing every day, both in focus group activities and in their independent, self-initiated activities in the learning environment. You will be starting to see a change in the way they hold their pencils and in their approach to writing. When children are writing at home, please remember to remind them to begin writing on the left and to write from left to right.

Maths: In number work, children have been consolidating their knowledge of shape and extending their shape language. We have been measuring with non-standard units and consolidating our understanding of length and height. Numeral recognition, counting accurately, and understanding and embedding language of number such as more than, less and fewer than, altogether, has led into looking at early addition and subtraction. We are working hard now at becoming confident at early adding and subtracting activities. That is, to count two set of objects to find out how many "altogether. Also, to take some away and counting what is left. A very important part of learning to add and subtract is to explore each number and learn how many ways we can make that number by using number bonds. We will be concentrating on number bonds to 5 and then extending this to number bonds to 10. We will be encouraging children to use tools to help them to add and subtract such as counters, number lines, ten frames and abacus frames. If you do this at home with your children, please do make sure you are using the language, add, and, plus, altogether, take away, subtract and leaves.

I hope this is helpful for you to join in and follow our learning. Please let us know if there is anything you need to know that might not have been covered. We are here to help.

Many thanks for all your support and cooperation.

Mrs. Holt, Mrs Mottram and Mrs Hamer

Spring Diary Dates

January	February	March
<p><u>JANUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE EPIPHANY</u></p> <p><u>Week 1</u> Mon 8th Children return to school Weds 10th Whole School Epiphany Mass (9.15am in school - All welcome) Thurs 11th Y3 Class Assembly (All welcome)</p> <p><u>Week 2</u> Mon 15th – 17th Y5 Robinwood residential Weds 17th Y2 Prayer service (9.05am in class - All welcome) Thurs 18st Y4 Class Assembly (All welcome)</p> <p><u>Week 3</u> Weds 24th Y5 Prayer service (9.05am in class - All welcome) Y4 Library trip Thurs 25th Y6 Class Assembly (All welcome)</p> <p><u>Week 4</u> <u>Story Telling Week</u> Mon 29th Parent Drop in – after school in classrooms Weds 31st Y6 Library trip Fri 2nd Loaves and Fishes charity Cake sale and raffle after assembly</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH OF LOVE</u></p> <p><u>Week 5</u> Weds 7th Y3 Library trip EYFS Chinese New Year Dance workshop with Miss Jade Thurs 8th EYFS Chinese New Year Assembly (All welcome)</p> <p><u>Week 6</u> BOOK WEEK Tues 13th Y3 trip to Chester TBC Weds 14th Whole School Ash Wednesday Mass (9.15am in church - All welcome) Y2 Library trip Thurs 15th Y1 Class Assembly (All welcome) Fri 16th St Valentine's Day Disco pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HALF TERM 16th FEB – 26th FEB</p> <p><u>Week 1</u> Weds 28th Y4 Prayer service (9.05am in class - All welcome) Y1 Library trip Thurs 29th Y5 Class Assembly (All welcome) Friday 1st World Book Day – Ocean themed</p>	<p><u>MARCH IS THE MONTH OF LENT</u></p> <p><u>Week 2</u> Weds 6th Y1 & Y2 Mother's Day Prayer Service (9.05am in class - All welcome) Y5 Library trip Thurs 7th EYFS Mother's Day Celebration followed by morning coffee and cakes (All welcome)</p> <p><u>Week 3</u> Weds 13th Nursery Library trip Thurs 14th Parents evening – in school Fri 15th CAFOD charity cake sale and raffle after assembly</p> <p><u>Week 4</u> Book Fair Weds 20th Y3 Prayer service (9.05am in class - All welcome) Reception Library trip Thurs 21st KS1 Assembly (All welcome)</p> <p><u>Week 5</u> HOLY WEEK Mon 25th Whole School Stations of the Cross Mass (9.15am in church - All welcome) Tues 26th EYFS & KS1 Easter Bonnet parade (9.05am in school – All welcome) EASTER RAFFLE Weds 27th LKS2 Easter show (9.15am in church – All welcome) FINISH at 1.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EASTER HOLIDAYS 27th MAR – 8th APR</p>

Websites

Please look at the following:

Teach your monster to read

<https://www.teachyourmonster.org>

This is a free site if played on a lap top or computer and is only a small one off fee if you download the app on a phone or ipad. It costs £4.99, but is a great tool and lots of fun. Teaching children and providing invaluable practise at phonics, which is in keeping with the way and order it is taught in school.

For those of you who are interested in supporting maths online, try

Doodle maths

https://doodlelearning.com/maths-app?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=1637671120&utm_term=doodle%20maths&utm_content=420148378929&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwvL3ncvggwMVI4hQBh3j5QqUEAAYASAAEgKTYfD BwE

It is an excellent site with small tutorials for the child with clear explanations. There is a small cost with this site but it is worth a go if you are looking for something in this area of learning for your child that they might want to play on a device.

If you liked the Teach your Monster to Read app, they have extended there provision now and do a **maths** programm which is structured in a similar way to the reading app. It is reasonable and a one off payment as is the reading app.

<https://www.teachyourmonster.org/numberskills>