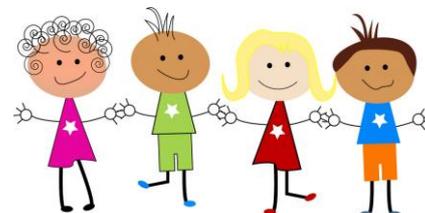


RECEPTION CLASS TERMLY FORECAST

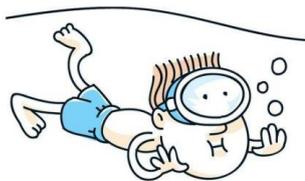
Autumn 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Reception! The children are already settling well into their new routines and making new friends. Starting school is a very precious time for them (and you!) but I am sure all the children will have thoroughly enjoyable learning experiences in my class.



OUR WEEK



Wednesday: Book bags must be sent into school (book bags will be returned on Friday afternoons)

Wednesday : PE (bags stay in school and are sent home when necessary)

Thursday: Swimming day (the children swim in the afternoon)

Our topic and Curriculum

This newsletter aims to give you some useful information about general routines at school and an overview of the work we will be doing over this first term. Our topic for the first part of the Autumn term is 'All About Me' and we will touch upon 'People Who Help Us'. This topic will give the children the opportunity to get to know each other and their new environment. We aim to foster a love of learning for all the children. The best way for this is through the children's own interests; therefore our learning may encompass many different topics throughout the term.

Play is an important part of our curriculum. Well-planned, challenging and enjoyable play is a key way through which children learn in the Foundation Stage. Our learning takes place both inside the classroom and in our outdoor area throughout the year, so hats, gloves and scarves are required in winter!

There are 7 areas of learning in the Foundation Stage and throughout the course of the year the children will be assessed in each of these. We will observe them playing and interacting with each other, take notes, record which numbers or letters they are able to recognise, take photographs of things they have created and keep pieces of work they have completed in a special book.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: The beginning of the school year is an important time for learning routines, making new friends and adapting to a new environment. Throughout this term we will be helping the children to become more independent so they are able to attend to their own needs e.g. getting changed for swimming, finding a resource in the classroom, eating their lunch. We will have a focus on good manners, kind and caring behaviour, sharing and fairness. Also, we will be encouraging the children to reaffirm old friendships and make new ones as they carry out activities with one another. Our role play area will reflect different environments e.g. a vet's surgery or a superhero den. I am sure the children will enjoy playing together in this area which is a superb way of learning co-operative play and encourages dialogue between the children.



In R.E. we will be finding out about the Christian faith focusing on 'our local Church' and getting to know Father Paul our school chaplain and parish priest of St John's Church. Also we will be enjoying stories from the Old Testament.

Physical Development: This area of learning will be covered everyday through using the resources in our outdoor classroom as we hopefully enjoy some sunny weather. It is important for the children to have an

element of free play in their outdoor time; however we will also be playing small group games. In our PE sessions we will be playing whole class and group games focusing on: moving safely in a space and responding to commands. We will also be using apparatus to improve the children's balancing skills and exploring different ways of moving their bodies. For the Autumn term children will only need plimsolls in their PE bag. Also we have our weekly swimming lesson with Mr Staite.

Literacy: The main focus for this term will be recognising, reading and writing letter sounds. In class we are following two phonics programmes called 'Jolly Phonics' and 'Ruth Miskin'. Through stories, pictures and actions, these programmes help the children learn letters as sounds first, before they learn the letter names. Also we will be following the DfE programme 'Letters and Sounds' which helps build skills such: hearing rhyme, alliteration, sounds in our environment and blending letter sounds. All programmes are very effective ways of developing reading and spelling skills. In addition, I will send home phonics activities in book bags as 'at home tasks'. By helping your child to learn the letter sounds and actions, you will be providing a great support during the early stages of learning to read and write. The children will also be bringing home two library books in book bags on Friday's. **Please use the reading diaries to record any comments about library or reading books.**



Communication and language: There will be lots of opportunities for children to work in small groups where they are encouraged to take turns speaking and listening to each other.

Mathematics: Our focus for this term will be recognising, forming & using numerals 0-10 and beyond. Children will be representing numbers using fingers, pictures and objects. They will also be studying shapes within the environment and creating simple patterns. In addition to this the children will be learning new number songs and rhymes.

Understanding of the World: Our topic 'People Who Help Us' will provide children with lots of opportunities to learn about the wider world of work. Over the next few weeks we will be exploring the roles of school staff, fire-fighters, doctors, nurses, dentists and vets. Hopefully, we will have a few visitors from the community who will talk to the children about their work.

During our cooking sessions the children will be learning about food hygiene, healthy eating and finding out about 'how things change' as we follow each recipe.

Expressive Arts and Design: This is a part of the curriculum that is never-ending and often overlaps many different subjects. Each day there are opportunities for the children to paint, draw, chalk, cut out and model make. These are times for self-expression and exploration of different materials. On Thursday afternoons Mrs Geldart our specialist art teacher will be working in the classroom. She will be busy teaching different art techniques and working with the children on some wonderful art projects. The children will also participate in music and movement session or a music making session, so they can learn about simple elements of music and have a variety of different opportunities to sing and dance. Areas of focus will be: moving rhythmically, repeating simple and complex percussion patterns, exploring sounds of different instruments and joining in with ring games. Children usually love to sing, so we will be continuing to build up a varied and interesting repertoire of songs.

Cooking

The children will have the opportunity to cook at least once per half term in the school kitchen or in class. The bakes this term may include apple crumble and gingerbread. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £7.50 to cover the cost of cooking and other materials that we will need in Reception such as ingredients for playdough.



Our Class mascot

Mr Softy, our class monkey, will be sent home every day. If your child is lucky enough to get to take him, please look after him and return him safely on the following day. We ask you, if possible, to take photos of your child's adventures with Mr Softy and fill in an A4 sheet with your child about their time with him. These experiences can then be shared with the rest of the class. You may want to take the monkey shopping with you, to your child's dance lesson or to the park. If you are unable to print the photos please email them to monwukwe@stjohnsn11.barnet.sch.uk

Request for Resources

We are always in need of.....

Empty cardboard boxes e.g. cereal & tissue boxes (no wet food containers please)

Kitchen paper tubes (for hygienic reasons we cannot accept toilet roll tubes)

Lids of plastic milk bottles (thoroughly washed and dried please)

Empty yoghurt pots (thoroughly washed and dried please)

Any spare string or wool

Outdated pasta/ pulses/ rice

Old unused diaries

Parent Helpers

If you are available to help on a regular basis in Reception please speak to either Miss Onwukwe or Mrs Tyler. In particular we would welcome parent helpers for library book changing and trips.

Keeping you informed

For both school staff and parents communication is essential; I will keep you updated through, letters and notices on the board in the cloakroom area and on some occasions through text messages. Each week I will send home a 'How to Help at Home' letter with information and home based tasks. In addition we have regular whole school newsletters. At St John's we have an 'open door' policy, so if you have any questions please ask.



Once again, a very big welcome to the Reception class, I trust all the children will have a very happy and exciting year as they continue on their learning journey at St John's.

Miss Onwukwe (Class teacher)

Mrs Tyler (Morning Nursery Nurse)

Mrs Coomey & Mrs Mansfield (Afternoon Teaching Assistants)