

# RECEPTION SPRING TERM FORECAST

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Reception! The children are settled into their routines and friendships and are ready to make the most out of their learning in Reception!

## OUR WEEK

**Miss Napier is here all week ☺**

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

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

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

## **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 the spring term. Our topic for this half term is Fairy Tales. We have a focus on one book a week and base our learning around this book. This topic will give the children the opportunity to explore all areas of the curriculum while engaging in a topic that they are interested in. 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 this term!

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:** Throughout this term we will continue to encourage 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 begin to take steps to be able to solve their own conflicts with other children. Our role play area is a theatre where children can act out all of different fairy tale stories. This is a superb way of learning co-operative play and encourages dialogue between the children.

**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 this term children will only need plimsolls in their PE bag. Also we have our weekly swimming lesson.

**Mathematics:** This term focuses on children recognising and ordering numbers 1-20 and beginning to count reliably with these numbers. Children will also learn to add to numbers together and count to find the total. We will also be exploring the names and properties of 2D shapes as well as exploring the names and properties of 3D shapes. They will learn which is one or two more than a given number. Using quantities and objects, children will learn to add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer.

Here are some of the ways you can help your child at home:

- Pointing out any numerals you see in the environment (on buses, numbers plates, letter boxes or in the supermarket)
- Pointing out any shapes you may see either in books or in the environment around you
- Practicing counting items to 10 and beyond.
- Number formation

**Literacy:** This term will continue to focus on recognising, reading and writing letter sounds as we now move onto learning the phase 3 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.

**Understanding of the World:** 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. Our topic of superheroes also lends us to thinking how we can help to care for our environment. In ICT we will be encouraging independence as the children learn how to load and print using a wide range of programmes.

**Cooking** The children will have the opportunity to cook twice every half term. 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 play-dough.



**Miss Napier** (Class teacher)

Mrs Tyler (Morning Nursery Nurse)

Mrs Coomey & Mrs Mansfield (Afternoon Teaching Assistants)

**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.

**Educational Visits:**

**2nd of May: Zoo Lab educational visit**

**25th of June: Trip to Celtic Harmony**

**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 post on the website 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.