

RECEPTION AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Reception! This term the children will be settling 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 our class!

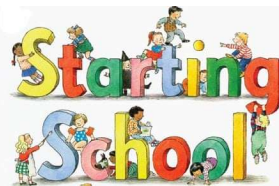
OUR WEEK

Tuesday: PE - wear black trainers

Thursday: Book bags to be sent into school - These will be returned on Fridays
Please note book bags do not need to come into school on any others days

Our topic and Curriculum

This newsletter aims to give you some useful information about general routines at school and an overview of the work the children will be completing over the year.



The theme for the Autumn term will be 'All about us' and 'Big Feelings, Helping Hands'. The children will be exploring and learning all about themselves, their families, feelings and people who help us. As the children settle in they will be learning how to be a good friend. We are also going to celebrate how we are all different and learn about the things that make us special.

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.

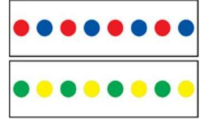
Play is an important part of our curriculum. Well-planned, challenging and enjoyable play is a key way through which children learn in the Foundation Stage. Our learning takes place both inside the classroom and in our outdoor area throughout the year.

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, 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.

Physical Development: The children will have the opportunity to access a variety of resources in our outdoor classroom to help develop their gross motor skills. During the children's weekly PE sessions they will be playing group games focusing on: moving safely in a space and responding to commands. They will also be exploring different ways of moving their bodies, balancing and movements to strengthen their core.

Mathematics: This term the children will be learning to sort objects into sets based on attributes such as shape, colour or size.



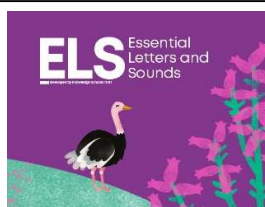
Once children can confidently sort they will learn that sets can be compared and ordered. They will come to understand that when making comparisons a set can have more, fewer or the same number of items as another set. Children will learn to use language such as big, little, large and small to describe classroom objects. They will also learn to copy, create and continue simple repeating patterns. The children will first be learning to represent and compare 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. They will come to know how we can add in different ways to make these numbers. Lastly, we will explore size, positional language and shapes.



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

- point 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.
- encouraging children to count in the correct order, adding in any numbers they may miss.
- practise counting items by touching each object as they count.
- learn to count things that cannot be moved such as claps and jumps

Literacy: At St John's we follow the phonics scheme 'Essential Letters and Sounds'. The children will participate in a daily phonics sessions which will focus on recognising, reading and writing letter sounds and words. The scheme has proved very effective at developing reading and spelling skills.



In addition, I will post words weekly of the sounds and tricky words we have been doing to practice at home.



The children will also be bringing home two library books and one reading book in their book bags on Fridays. **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.

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 Thursdays Miss Kat will be teaching different art techniques and working with the children on some wonderful art activities.

The children will also participate in music and movement session (Born to Move) 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 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.

Half Term: 26 - 30 October 2026

Inset Day: 2 November 2026

School Holiday: 21 December 2026 - 4 January 2027

Understanding of the World: In ICT we will be encouraging independence as the children learn how to use a wide range of programmes on our chrome books. We will learn about all of the people that make up the community of our Reception class. We will also strengthen the positive impressions children have of their own cultures and faiths, and those of others in their community, by sharing and celebrating a range of practices and special events. The children will learn about our world as we explore the changes we experience during the seasons of Autumn and Winter.

In R.E. we will be focusing on What Made The Wonderful World and Why is Christmas special for Christians?.

Cooking The children will have the opportunity to cook every half term. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 to cover the cost of cooking and other materials that we will need in Reception such as ingredients for playdough. This can be handed to a member of staff in an envelope with your child's name on it.



Educational Visits:

Wednesday - 16th December: Aliens Love Panta Claus at the ArtsDepot for the morning.

In order for educational visits we do require parents to help. The ratio is dependent on the type of trip we go on.

Keeping you informed For both school staff and parents communication is essential; we will keep you updated through, letters, text messages, emails and Google Classroom. Each week we post on the google classroom a 'What's Happening' letter with information and an insight to what the children have been learning throughout the week.



Miss Swanson (Class teacher)

Mrs Tyler (Nursery Nurse)

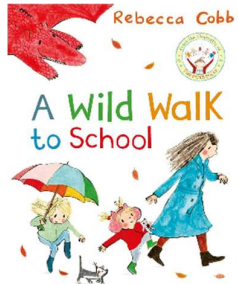
Miss Kat (Nursery Nurse)

Lisa covers Mrs Tyler on Tuesday mornings

Miss Lucky covers Mrs Tyler on Tuesday afternoons and Miss Swanson every Thursday for planning time.

Miss Lume covers Mrs Tyler on Wednesday afternoons

Autumn 1 Books



Vocabulary

Gulf - a deep wide crack or opening

Tread - To walk or step carefully on a surface

Explorer - Someone who travels through unfamiliar areas to learn about them.



Vocabulary

Sneaky - moving or acting in a quiet way so no one notices you

Mission - An important assignment or specific task to carry out

Daunted - Feeling slightly frightened, worried or overwhelmed by a big task

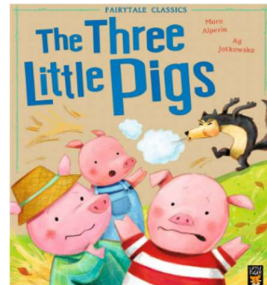


Vocabulary

Disguised - Having what you really look like hidden so people think you are someone else

Fooled - Tricked into believing something that wasn't true

Leapt - To have done a big, energetic jump



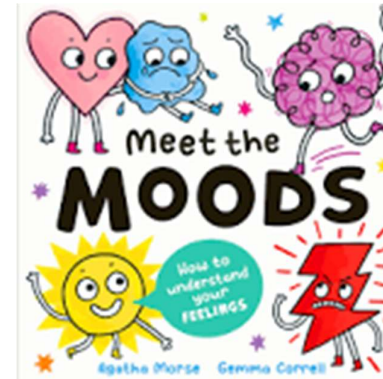
Vocabulary

Huff - To take in a deep breath before blowing

Puff - To blow air out strongly from the mouth

Straw - Dried, yellow stalks of grain plants left over after grain is harvested

Autumn 2 Books



Vocabulary

Mood - A general feeling or emotional state that lasts for a while

Reassure - To say or do something to make someone feel less worried or frightened

Confident - Feeling sure of your own abilities or being certain something will happen the way you want



Vocabulary

Lantern - A light source enclosed in a transparent protective case to shield the flame or bulb from wind and rain

Forest - A large part of land covered by a dense community of trees, underbrush and other living organisms.

Parade - Where people, marching bands or decorated vehicles move together down a street to celebrate a holiday or honour an achievement