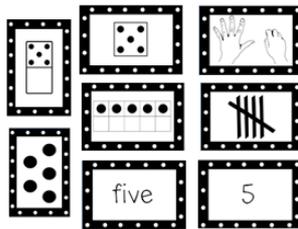




We are so proud of our Reception children. They have settled into school life fabulously and are all very much part of our 'Sacred Heart Family'. They have really impressed us with how they have adapted to their new routines and how they are coping with the long school days. We can already see how much progress the children are making but more importantly how they are all enjoying their time in school. Many thanks to those parents who are engaging with 'Tapestry' our online learning journal. It is lovely to see what the children are doing at home and nice to read your comments on the observations we have done in school. If you are having problems with your login details or accessing Tapestry, please email us via the school office and we will help with logging in.

Maths

Every day we will work with the children as a group on the carpet then small groups working on their mathematical understanding. To support this, we will be using a range of practical resources.



Comparing groups within 5 – we will be comparing two groups of objects and correctly identifying which has more, fewer or whether they have the same amount. We will be using different matching, representing and subitising strategies.

Change within 5 –we will be finding one more and one less than. Building foundations for addition and subtraction.

Time –we will be sequencing activities in our days, ordering the different days and develop a sense of time using our daily routine.



English

We will be looking at texts linked to our topic 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?' We will be reading stories that are set in autumn and explore hibernation and seasonal change. We will also be watching video clips of hedgehogs and writing non-fiction captions to match photographs.



Phonics

We will now be starting 'phase 3' of Letters and Sounds. We will continue to learn two new phonemes (sounds) a week. During our phonics sessions we will be focusing on reading and spelling words using the sounds we have learnt. We will also be continuing to learn the 'Tricky Words' from phase 2 and phase 3. These are words that cannot be sounded out but just have to be learnt. A list of these words can be found on the class page on the website. We will be working on learning to read these words and then spell these words.

RE - Our topic for this term is: **God's Family**

In our RE work we will be talking about who is in our family and why are they special. We will be recalling special family memories to help us with this **we would appreciate if you could post photographs of a special family meal or occasion on Tapestry so we can use this as a discussion point in our lessons.** We will be learning about how we are all part of God's family and how God has given us all gifts. We will end the topic learning about how God gave us his greatest gift Jesus.



Diwali –

As part of our work on learning about other faiths, in St Francis class we focus on celebrations from around the world. The first celebration we will be learning about this year is the Hindu festival of Diwali. Diwali takes place this year on 14th November.



PE – In PE this term we will be learning about:

Jumping and travelling in a range of ways. The children will have PE on a Tuesday and a Thursday led by Mr. Gibson. The sessions may be inside our school hall or outside depending on the nature of the lesson and the weather. Throughout the term the children will also be working on their balance, agility and co-ordination.

The children will be taught in a creative way through **themes and topics**, through a given theme we then cover key skills from all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Through our environment inside and outside we will encourage the children to be independent, curious and learn through exploration and play.

Curriculum- This half term our topic is 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?'



Communication and Language

As a class we will be listening to a range of stories, learning to ask questions about stories or pictures. Expressing our ideas and views on questions asked by the teachers.

Physical Development

The children will be learning the rules and routines needed to ensure that P.E. is safe and fun. They will spend lots of time outside playing on the balancing and climbing equipment. We will be playing games looking at moving like different creatures.

Health and Self Care

We will be spending time talking to the children about the importance of hand hygiene.

The World

We will be going on a walk to the woodland area in our school grounds to explore and observe a natural autumnal environment. We will be investigating what happens to different foods when they are left outside for longer periods of time looking and decay and changes that occur. We will also be sorting different types of animals into different groups such a wild animals or farm animals. Towards the end of the term we will investigate the question 'what comes after autumn?'

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be creating 'diva lamps' linking to our work on Diwali. For this we will be working with and manipulating clay. Then decorating the lamps using a range of resources and colours. We will then move on to looking at land artists and making art using natural woodland materials.

Science: - 'Seasonal Change'

We will be observing changes that take place within the four seasons, we will be looking at how seasonal change affects animals (hibernation and migrations), we will be looking at and describing the weather and length of the day changes of the different seasons.

To help your child at home you could -

Reading

Where possible we would recommend you hear your child read daily. When you have listened to your child read (or discussed what is happening in a story) please write a comment or sign to show that the book has been read. Reading books will be changed twice a week. Please make sure that your child's book is kept in their book bag and **brought to school every day**. The teaching staff will listen to your child read during the week and will need their reading book and reading record to do so.

Sound book

Please can you go through the sound book with your child daily. Encourage your child to make the sound, think of words that start with that sound and practise writing the letter.

Numbers

Play games with your child that involve numbers, counting and using a dice. Encourage your child to find numbers in their environment.



General information

Outdoor clothing

A significant part of the Early Years curriculum is physical development. Children will always have the option of going outside so it is important that they have the appropriate attire.

Every child should have a warm outdoor coat and a pair of wellies that can be left in school. Children should also have a hat, scarf and some warm gloves.

School fruit and milk

We are fortunate that every child is able to have a piece of fruit as their snack in school every day. We do not need you to provide your child with an additional snack.

Your child will receive complimentary milk until their 5th birthday. Please be aware that once they turn 5 they will no longer receive daily milk unless you subscribe through CoolMilk. Please email the office if you need further details.

Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions, concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office

Best Wishes

Mrs C Gilhooly and Mrs S Fisher