



Curriculum Newsletter for Bluebell class– Reception Children Half Term 1 2023-2024

We offer you a very warm welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. Your child has joined our class and whilst this term can be quite demanding with new routines and challenges we are already blown away by how well the children have settled into school life. We have many interesting and exciting things planned for the children, some of which are detailed below.



The curriculum in Early Years is divided up into seven areas of learning; communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. The children will also be taught R.E. This half term will begin by introducing the children into the routines we have at school, morning routines, breaks and lunchtimes and making sure the children know our expectations for their behaviour including sitting still, listening and sharing.

Over the term we will be helping the children to develop key skills in all areas of the curriculum. We will be doing this through a mixture of whole class teaching, adult led activities, adult supported activities when the children are playing and through observing and questioning the children when they are initiating their own play. We cannot wait to get to know your children properly and look forward to working with your family to support your child.

Maths

Every day we will work with the children in small groups working on their number skills and using a range of practical resources to support the deepening of their understanding.



Numbers to 5-

The children will be taught to count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number, we will be working on our reasoning skills by answering 'how' and 'why' questions.

English

We will be starting off our work looking at books about starting school and focussing on 'Harry and the Dinosaurs go to school.' We will be reading these books,



sequencing the story and predicting what might happen next at parts of the book. The rest of the stories we will focus on this half term are based around the themes of making friends and being kind.

Phonics

We will begin our phonics teaching using our scheme of work called 'Bug Club Phonics'. The children will learn how to write the letters of the initial sounds we learn, learn to segment the sounds in order to have a go at writing words and learn to blend the sounds in order to start reading words independently.

RE - Our topic for this term is:

God's World

The children will be taught the whole school morning prayer, grace before meals and afternoon prayers. They will learn how to make the sign of the cross and what this means.

R.E. work will focus on knowing about God's world, what is special in it, how we can care for God's world and what makes the children special and individual.



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

Focusing on basic movement and the fundamental skill of travelling.

The children will be doing PE led by Mr Gibson. The sessions may be inside our school hall or outside depending on the nature of the lesson and the weather. For our children in Reception our PE day this half term will be on a **Tuesday** so we ask that the children come into school dressed in their PE kits. We also ask that they come in their PE kits on a **Friday** as they will be playing some outside games with Mrs Gilhooly and focusing on their gross motor development.

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.

Curriculum- This half term our topic is 'Me and My Community'

Personal, Social, Emotional Development – We will be encouraging the children to play cooperatively, taking turns with others. Through discussions and circle time sessions we will be encouraging the children to show sensitivity to others' feelings and form positive relationships. We will be talking about what is special about them as an individual and what makes us all unique.

Expressive Arts and Design: We will be exploring different colours, mixing colours and talking about how different colours make us feel. We will be exploring what happens when we mix colours and learning about the three primary colours.

Communication and Language

As a class we will be working on taking turns, listening to other children and to adults. We will support the children to learn how to put their hand up and ask a question.

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.

Health and Self Care

We will be spending time talking to the children about the importance of hand hygiene. We will also be introducing the children to a range of safety measures we implement in the different areas of our classroom.

Understanding the World-

We will be spending some time looking at people who work in our local area and linking this to people who help us in our community.

To support our topic work can we kindly ask for a recent family photograph to be uploaded to Tapestry. Also can we ask on the week commencing 2nd October that the children please bring in one small item that is special to them. This could be a photograph, a toy or a teddy. Please can I ask that this is something small enough to fit in their book bag and if possible something that they would be confident talking about in front of the class.



Homework

In reception we are very fortunate to have the use of the online assessment tool 'Tapestry'. Tapestry is an interactive and effective tool for recording learning and tracking progress. We use Tapestry to track learning from child led activities and play whilst using a number of other ways to record progress in class



From time to time children will have **home learning challenges set for their homework**. This requires you posting something on to their Tapestry account about what they have done at home. Please let me know if you are having trouble accessing your child's account we encourage all parents to view their child's journal regularly, make comments and upload any fun activities you've completed together at home.

Reading

Over the next couple of weeks each child will be given a reading book to take home along with a reading record. When you have listened to your child read (or discussed what is happening in a story as the initial books often just have pictures) 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. Your child will also be given a sound book where we will stick the sounds we have learnt as and when we have covered them. For those unfamiliar with phonics, I highly recommend 'Mr Thorne does phonics' on YouTube for learning the pronunciation of the sounds your child is learning.

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. When the weather becomes colder, children should also have a hat, scarf and some warm gloves.



Rewards in the classroom –

We have many rewards set up in our classroom and we always aim to motivate the children through positivity and praise. We talk lots about being a 'bucket filler' and talk about how we can make someone feel happy by doing kind things 'and filling their bucket'. Alongside this we talk about how 'we can take from someone's bucket' by our actions. The children in class all have their own little bucket, when we notice the children trying hard, sharing, turn taking, listening carefully or giving something new a try we will put a stone in their bucket. The children will then come home with a certificate after they have achieved 15 stones.

We also choose a '**star of the day**'. This child will get to be the front of the line, take the register and do other special jobs.

In line with the whole school behaviour policy in the classroom we have our 'Reach for the stars' Traffic light system. Where every child aims to reach 'the shooting star' through trying their very best with what they have been asked to do.

Year 6 Buddies –

All of the children have been assigned 1 Year 6 buddy. These older children will act as a mentor and come to visit the children to help them settle into life at Sacred Heart.

A request for help! -

As part of our curriculum this half term we would love to be able to welcome parents or family members of the children who work and help in the local community. This could be a nurse, vet, fire fighter, doctor, police officer or a shop assistant. We would like to welcome you to come into class for half an hour for so. We are looking at doing this during the week commencing 16th October and 23rd October. The children will ask you questions about your role as part of our learning about 'jobs in my community'. If you think this is something you or a family member can help with, please email the school office with your availability.

Many thanks

We are very much looking forward to a busy and exciting term in Reception and working with you and your family. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we can arrange an appointment for a telephone conversation. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Best Wishes.

Mrs C Gilhooly and Mrs S Fisher