

St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Reception Newsletter—Autumn Term 2011

back to
School



Welcome to Reception Class!
Our themes for the Autumn terms
are:

Who are you? and Festivals

Communication, Language and Literacy

We will share and re-tell our stories using puppets, toys or dressing up clothes. We will be playing letter hunting games both inside and out. The children will be encouraged to extend their play writing using familiar words—such as their own names, Mum, Dad, cat. We will begin the early stages of reading and writing (further detailed information will be sent home in book bags as we introduce this in class time) We will be talking about how important it is to take turns to talk and how we can be fantastic listeners.

Among our shared stories are:
Starting School, We're going on a bear hunt, Titch, Owl Babies, This is the Bear.

At home: share stories as often as you can, encourage your child to speak in full sentences.

Reading

Before half term the children will be given their first reading book to take home. They

will have no words at the beginning—encourage your child to look carefully at what is happening on each page and talk about it in sentences—such as “Mum is not happy with the dog. The dog is very muddy.”
At home: Little an often is best—begin with 5 minutes each night with a book bag book or a story from home. When the children progress to books with simple words, please encourage them to sound out the words that they are unsure of and point to each word as they read. The children are rewarded with stickers on the bookmark when they have read at home so please remember to sign the reading diary to make sure they get the sticker they deserve!

Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy

We will play counting games and sing number songs together. We will begin to measure and compare objects that we see every day and use words such as bigger, smallest, circle, straight to describe them. We will be learning to recognise, order and write numbers 1 to 9 and then beyond. We will solve simple practical problems together and try to work out what we might do next.

At home: encourage your child to spot and identify numbers in their environment: on mobile phones, on front doors, on buses

Personal, social and emotional

As a whole class we will be talking about the rules and routines that keep us all safe at school. In circle time we will play games to encourage the children to get to know each other and feel that they belong to our class, school and parish community. We will take a first look at understanding our own feelings. We will begin to put on coats, aprons, dressing up clothes and hats with decreasing support.

At home: encourage your child to dress and undress on their own as much as possible

Physical Development

Gross motor:

We will have opportunities to explore a range of climbing, balancing and sliding apparatus using the outside area. We will play games to develop spatial awareness.

Fine motor:

We will have opportunities to solve a range of jigsaws, thread beads and reels, make collages and model dough.

Health:

We will try and remember how we can be healthy and hygienic in our school day – such as always washing our hands.

Earrings must not be worn on PE days please: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday for the safety of the children.

Creative Development

We will explore how colours are made and mixed. We will be looking carefully at our faces, fingers, hands and feet and using them in our creative time. We will make models using junk, clay, dough and construction tools. We will sing simple songs from memory and explore the different sounds musical instruments can make.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

The children are always encouraged to be curious and ask questions about the world they see, hear and smell around them. We will explore God's Creation in the world around us. Using microscopes we will be looking carefully at different fruit and tasting some unusual fruits. The children will be encouraged to use all their senses: sight, smell, taste, to explore some surprise boxes and bags—nothing too scary though!

Religious Education

RE is a very important part of our curriculum. This term we will explore God's Creation and the importance of looking after ourselves because God made and loves us. After the half term break we will be learning about how Jesus invited men and women to be his disciples and follow him during Advent.

Education Sunday Mass is on **Sunday 2nd October at 12 noon** and the Reception children will be welcomed by the parish at the Cathedral and process in at the start of

Mass. Uniform must be worn please, it would be great to see everyone there.

You are very welcome to join us at the Cathedral on **Wednesday 23rd November at 9.15am** for our first **Class Liturgy**.

Thank you for your continued support and the door is always open if you want to come and look in the classroom at the work we have been doing or just for a chat.

Mrs Lucas
Reception Class Teacher

Independent Learning

One of the major drives of the new Early Years' curriculum is developing and providing opportunity for independent learning in the setting. In practical terms this takes place at specific times during the week and is balanced out with daily, structured, adult-led focus groups for every child.

What is independent learning?

Independent or child-initiated learning involves children making decisions about what they want to do, where, with whom, and what resources they will need. They then need time to play, to explore and experiment with their ideas and knowledge. During this playing time, children need support from adults in a variety of ways to scaffold, extend and model learning. During and after their play, children should be encouraged to talk about what they have done, whether they have discovered something new, improved upon a skill or just enjoyed playing with a friend.

Why is independent learning important?

Independent (child-initiated) learning encourages children to develop thinking skills as well as to become aware of the ideas of others. As part of child-initiated learning, children plan what to do and then review what they have done. This enables children to share ideas and to discuss how to solve problems, helping them to see mistakes and difficulties as challenges not failures. We all learn through our mistakes.