



Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year: Reception

Autumn 1stHalf Term: September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer. Welcome to St Mary's and to your child's first academic term. The Reception year is an exciting and special time for your child where they begin their school journey and I am looking forward to working with you and your child over the coming year. Every half term you will receive a curriculum letter that outlines what your child will be learning in the coming weeks. One of our main aims during these initial weeks is to help your child feel happy and confident in their new surroundings. Much of the learning will stem from the children's interests and our topics. The topics are "All About Me", "In the Park" and "Celebrations". In the table below I have outlined some of the learning experiences that your child will have across the different areas of the curriculum.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding classroom routines and boundaries • Circle games and collaborative play opportunities • Learning the names of their peers • Learning how we look after our classroom
<i>Activities at Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Play games that require turn taking and discuss the rules</i>
Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening games to develop phonic skills • Talking in a small group • Joining in with rhyming activities • Using talk to extend play
<i>Activities at Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have 'chat times' where your child gets to lead the talk</i> • <i>Visit the local library</i>
Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manipulating a range of different tools such as paint brushes, scissors and play dough moulds • Learning to travel in different ways including jumping, crawling, hopping and sliding • Learning how to use tools and operate safely within the school setting • Learning how to change for PE • Engaging with simple hygiene routines such as washing their hands before lunch and after using the toilet.
<i>Activities at Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Remind your child about the importance of washing their hands</i> • <i>Encourage your child to dress themselves for school</i>
Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction books about families • Engaging with mark making in role play • Answering simple questions about events in a story • Reading a few familiar words • Making labels for models they have made
<i>Activities at Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Spend ten minutes everyday reading a book with your child.</i>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting objects e.g. how many can they find? • Comparing different sized items and talking about their ideas • Singing number songs • Recognising and ordering numbers up to 10
<i>Activities at Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encourage your child to compare the size of different items by asking questions such as 'Which toy is the heaviest/tallest?'</i>



Understanding the world and RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking about significant events from their past • Identifying how they have changed since they were babies • Using electronic equipment such as the interactive whiteboard, digital cameras and CD player. • Listening to stories about Jesus. • Celebrating Harvest Festival.
<i>Activities at Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Look at pictures of your child and other family members as babies</i>
Expressive arts and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting self portraits • Listening to music and introducing musical instruments • Exploring tools that can be used for creating
<i>Activities at Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Listen to music with your child and encourage them to talk about what they like or dislike about it. Encourage your child to draw themselves or family members.</i>

Uniform

It is important that your child always brings a waterproof coat or fleece to school as they are likely to play outside several times during the school day. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that all items of clothing need to be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Water Bottles

Children are allowed to bring a bottle of water to school which they can then drink through out the day. Again it is important that bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name. Children are not allowed to bring in alternative drinks such as squash or fruit juices.

P.E

Your child's PE kit needs to be kept in school and will be sent home at the end of each half term. Our PE lessons will take place frequently so please ensure your child's PE kit is in school on a daily basis. One of our initial focuses is on teaching the children to change independently.

Book Bags

Book Bags need to be sent into school every day. Any school letters will be put into book bags and later in the term school reading books will also be sent home in these bags. Please do not carry water bottles in the books bags.

Tissues

We get through many boxes of tissues each term. Please provide 1 box of tissues for the autumn term.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead and are keen to work with parents to ensure that each child has the best possible start to their school life. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Reid or myself. We would appreciate it if you could try and speak to us at the end of the day rather than the beginning as the mornings are usually very busy.

Kathy Lawrence
(Reception Teacher)