

introduce activities related to Fireworks, the festival of light, "Diwali", and the important preparations for Christmas.

The outside area is used as a continual extension of the classroom and many learning activities are planned for this environment. We therefore ask that each child has a pair of labeled Wellington boots that can be kept in school and coats are brought in daily.

4) Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning includes art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play. We aim to develop creative skills by providing a wide range of resources, and activities. This creative approach is an essential means of communication for young children, especially in the early weeks at school when they may find it difficult to express emotions appropriately.

Other Information

In each Reception Class, children take part in preparing afternoon snacks as well as regular cookery sessions. £20.00 per term voluntary contribution to support afternoon snacks, ingredients for cookery and forest school is now payable through School Money.

Could you please make sure all clothing and personal items are clearly labelled.

Parental support at home is vital in order for each child to develop his or her full potential. We aim to work in close partnership with all parents and hope that together we can meet the learning needs of each child.

We look forward to working together over the coming months and aim to ensure that the children understand that "School is Fun".

Coming up:

We plan to visit the local library on Monday 6th November and ask if anyone would like to accompany us please let us know as soon as possible.

Also, if anyone would like to come into class and read a story, this would support the children's awareness of different types of stories and storytellers.

'Learning Makes Us Smile'



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Autumn Term Curriculum For Reception

Class Teachers:
Miss Mulhern
St Joseph
Mrs Mardell
Mary Mother of God
EY Manager
Mrs Smith

Nursery Nurse:
Mrs McCullie

Teaching Assistants:
Miss Holland
Mrs Mitchell
Miss Soares
Mrs Daves
Mrs Maguire

Teaching and learning in the Reception year is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This is a continuation from the curriculum followed in all pre-school settings and covers three Prime Areas of Learning;

- 1) Personal, Social and Emotional Development,**
- 2) Communication and Language, 3) Physical Development, as well as four Specific Areas,**
- 1) Literacy, 2) Mathematics, 3) Understanding the World and 4) Expressive Arts and Design.**

In RE we follow the "Come and See" curriculum and topics for this term will be "Myself", "Welcome", and "Birthdays". The children learn to say prayers for Morning, Lunchtime and Going Home worship, a copy of which is sent home for you to support your child.

1) Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This is a key area of development in all children and has a direct bearing on the transition from pre-school to full time education in Primary School. Children need to be able to adapt to a different setting and work with increased independence in the classroom situation. With this in mind, parents have been given the option to keep their children on a part-time basis, if necessary in order to allow each child time to adapt at his/her own pace.

Forming new relationships and interacting with a wider circle of children will be a feature of our "Myself" topic in this first half term and activities which promote sharing and turn taking will be included in all weekly planning.

The children will be encouraged to become more self-reliant, washing their hands before lunch, using the toilet independently and caring for their own possessions.

2) Communication and Language

This area of the curriculum develops a range of skills. Opportunities to listen, understand and speak are planned through play-based activities.

Good communication skills are essential for future reading and writing, and our aim for this term is to develop listening skills and verbal communication.

Each child will have opportunities to talk about themselves and get to know more about their new class friends.

Class teaching will encourage children to listen and follow instructions during registration, circle time and guided work activities.

Daily stories on a one to one and whole class basis will further develop concentration and listening.

Parents will be invited to further meetings later in this term to outline the methods used to teach reading and writing in Reception and Key Stage 1.

3) Physical Development

This area concentrates on developing both fine motor and gross motor skills.

This term we will concentrate on instructions and spatial awareness during indoor PE sessions. The adventure playground will be used regularly for balance, climbing and agility and children will have the chance to use large wheeled toys in the playground each day. Fine motor skills such as pencil grip and scissor control will be promoted each day and messy play such as shaving foam and cornflour will be provided to encourage larger hand movements. Learning to dress independently is a great way of developing fine motor control and concentration and we ask that parents encourage their children to dress by themselves at home. This may take time but is gratefully appreciated, particularly when it comes to PE lessons in the future!

Four Specific Areas

1) English

As the children's communication and language skills secure, they begin to recognize and identify letter sounds in words. The children will be introduced to reading scheme books of their own after half term, together with formal phonic teaching, reinforcing their understanding of letters and sounds. This skill, in time, will unlock the mechanics of reading and hopefully, together with all the other components, will enhance the children's love of books!

2) Mathematics

This area of the curriculum is sub divided into shape, space and measure and number. For this first term the key objectives in this area of the curriculum will concentrate on number recognition and counting. In the reception year all Numeracy is presented in a practical format with opportunities for pupils to learn using a fun, play based, hands on approach.

3) Knowledge of the World

In this area of the curriculum children are encouraged to learn through investigation and discovery. By experimenting and using all the senses they learn to find out about the world around them.

Children use a number of Early Years programmes using computers within the setting.

During the term we will look at the seasonal changes which take place during Autumn. We will also