

JOHN PAUL CLASS
Spring 1 Curriculum Letter



Friday 5th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break; we would like to say a BIG thank you for all the Christmas cards and generous gifts we received – we loved them all 😊

Detailed below are the areas we will be learning about this spring term...

Our topic for this first half of the spring term is 'Food!' – we will be reading stories about a runaway pizza and an enormous turnip and will hopefully be embarking on a trip to Pizza Express to make and enjoy pizzas! More details to follow!



RE

- Celebrating – we will learn what a celebration is and how people celebrate in church.
- Gathering – we will learn how the parish family gathers together to celebrate the Eucharist.



Communication, Language & Literacy

We will continue to concentrate on 2 different phonic sounds per week. Your child will be learning different digraphs (2 letters that make one sound e.g. 'oa' as in 'boat', 'sh' as in 'ship') Thank you for your continued support in providing objects for our 'Sounds of the Week' table - the children really enjoy exploring and discussing the variety of objects!

Your child will develop their blending and segmenting skills in order to read and write words. We appreciate your continued support with encouraging your child to use their sounds when reading and spelling unfamiliar words. For words that are not decodable, please remind your child to use visual cues such as the pictures in the book and to use their sight vocabulary, i.e. their knowledge of key words to support them.



The children will continue to bring home two reading books: a reading scheme book and a book from our class book corner. The latter book is for you to read with and to your child and will be changed weekly (usually every Tuesday). Please continue to ensure your child brings their reading folder to school each day.

Please continue to use the keyword flashcards your child is given. Thank you for your continued support with this as your input is making a significant difference with your child's reading. Your child will continue to be assessed weekly with the current set of words – look out for the 'Key Words – Super Reader' sticker on your child's jumper/cardigan!

Our story sacks are getting good use! They are given to children on a rota basis. When your child receives a story sack, please spend time enjoying the contents with them and remember to return it with all the pieces. These are given on a Wednesday and should be returned the following Tuesday.



Mathematics

In maths we will be focusing on counting on and back in steps of one, two, five and ten as well as learning more addition and subtraction strategies to aid problem solving. You can help by counting on and back with your child in everyday situations, e.g. walking up the stairs and by playing board games like 'Snakes and Ladders'. Please also refer to the Reception Calculation Booklet you received in our autumn term review meeting for some more fun activity ideas.

The children will also be developing an understanding of concepts such as time, positional language, tally charts, sorting, naming 2D and 3D shapes and the characteristics of these, e.g. a square has 4 equal sides and 4 corners.

In addition to this, your child has a maths target card with individual targets designed to help extend and improve their mathematical skills and confidence. Please support your child by working through their targets on a regular basis.

Understanding of the World

As our topic this half-term is all about food, we will be learning lots of fun facts about the different things we eat! We will talk about our favourite foods and learn about the different food groups. We will also discuss which foods are good for us, and which we should eat in moderation. We will learn about different food sources, and where in the world different foods come from. We will compare sweets from the past to the sweets we eat now and will learn about the history of preserving food as well as observing changes to food.

In Computing, the children will continue to develop their mouse control and the ability to double-click to open folders and programs. They will learn to search for, copy, paste and print images of healthy food. Lastly, they will learn about the range of technology we have in school, e.g. photocopiers, digital cameras, remote control toys and our interactive whiteboards & sound bars.



Expressive Arts & Design

We will be drawing and painting healthy foods! We will be engaging in imaginative play with dinosaur figures and acting out stories. We will also sing food songs and use instruments to tap rhythms for food poems. You can support your child by learning and singing food songs, e.g. Food, glorious food! (from the musical, Oliver).

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be focusing on:

- New Year's Resolutions
- School Council developments
- Porridge as a healthy breakfast option and the importance of trying new foods even if you don't particularly like them!
- Reading The Little Red Hen and discussing how bread is made and the importance of doing your part and helping
- E-safety (Safer Internet Day – 6th Feb. 2018)



Physical Development (PE)

We will continue to have regular outdoor play sessions where the children can dress up, imagine and recreate roles and experiences, whether they wish to be builders, police officers or vets! They can also create music and rhythms with our great range of musical instruments or construct great monuments with large blocks! They can even develop their bike riding skills – outdoor learning has no bounds!

- Indoor PE (Tuesdays) → ‘Gymnastic Rolls’
 - Your child will learn the different types of gymnastic rolls, e.g. log rolls, egg rolls and teddy bear rolls. Then they will be challenged to put these into a sequence including elements previously taught, e.g. travelling and balancing.

- Outdoor PE (Thursdays) → ‘Throwing and Catching’
 - Your child will be learning how to throw different equipment underarm and overarm, e.g. bean bags, scarves and different sized balls. They will learn how to move to and catch different equipment thrown with increased accuracy and co-ordination, incorporating this skill by creating their own simple throwing and catching sequences, e.g. throw ball/bean bag, clap and catch/throw ball, let bounce then catch.

Reminders

Please ensure that your child’s PE kit and the rest of their uniform are clearly marked with their name. The full PE kit consists of a school tracksuit, black shorts, a T-shirt and plimsolls/trainers (preferably without laces) all kept together in a PE bag. All items of clothing are available from the school office. As we can still expect cold weather, please provide your child with a track suit for outdoor PE.

Water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a cost of **£1.50**. Please remind your child to bring his/her water bottle each day to build a routine and to allow your child to regularly hydrate his/her brain ready for learning.

Homework will continue to be given on a Friday and collected the following Monday. Please ensure your child completes their homework to the best of their ability and feel free to record any feedback in your child’s homework book about how they found the tasks – this is always welcome.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, either at the end of the day or by appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Allen

(Class teacher)