

## John Paul Class Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our school! I hope you all had a relaxing summer and are ready for the new school year! I am writing to thank you for your assistance with our settling-in routines - it has been a very smooth start and the children have settled in remarkably well considering it is only their first few days! As you know, I am Mrs Subebe, the class teacher in John Paul Class and our class teaching assistants are Mrs Mchaki and Mrs Sommergyll, who are looking forward to supporting your child's learning and development in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what your child will be learning about this term in each area of learning.

### **Communication, Language and Literacy**

In this first term we will be focusing on the alphabet. Your child will be learning the names of the letters; the upper case and lower case form of each letter e.g. (A a); and importantly, the phonic sound of each letter, e.g. the phonic sound of 'a' can be heard at the beginning of the word 'ant'.

We will focus on two different letters each week. We have a '*Letters of the Week*' table in our classroom where the children can bring in objects from home that begin with the 'letters of the week' to be displayed on the table. Please do not send in things of great sentimental value or anything fragile – in a classroom environment things do sometimes get damaged or broken. Further details of when to send these objects in will follow.

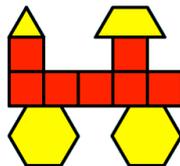
Today, the children have brought home a reading book, which we aim to change twice a week, depending on the child's familiarity with this. This routine is separate from the reading activities we do in class. The days that we hear children read may vary according to the week's events, so please ensure your child brings his/her reading wallet to school each day – this is also used for keeping school letters safe. School letters are given out on a regular basis, so please check your child's book bag every day to keep informed of upcoming events and important dates.



During the course of this half term, your child will also choose a book from our class book corner to bring home each week. This allows the children to engage in a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. These will be changed each week.

We want to promote a love of reading with the children and we appreciate parents' support with this so please read with your child every evening – book sharing is a wonderful part of a family's daily routine. Look at the reading book with your child, discuss the pictures and read the text with them, pointing to each word in turn. I would be grateful if you could make a comment in your child's 'Reading Record' book at least once a week, stating if they enjoyed the book and any particular words they found difficult, etc. There is a list of possible comments you can make in your child's reading record. It is important for children to read a variety of books so please read books from home – comics and library books too!

Lastly, your child has been given a list of Reception keywords in their reading record books too. These are the 100 high-frequency words they are expected to read by the end of their Reception year. Please look through them with your child at home – have fun reading them together and using them in sentences. Each week we will send home a set of 5 key words on flashcards. Please practise reading the words with your child and play games like hiding one of the words and seeing if your child can identify the missing one. We will check your child's familiarity with each set of words weekly and keep you updated on their progress with these.



### **Mathematics**

We will be focusing on numbers with your child - identifying numbers, counting sets of objects accurately; knowing the order of numbers; comparing numbers, matching numbers to an amount of objects and vice versa, knowing which numbers represent more and less in a set and moving onto simple number sentences and problems to solve, e.g. If Jack took 8 gold coins from the giant and then went back for 4 more – how many gold coins would he have altogether?

You can help by counting with your child in everyday situations, e.g. when walking up the stairs or counting the number of buses they can see on their way to school and by playing board games like 'Snakes and Ladders'. We will also be learning common shape names and their properties; the days of the week and times to the hour, e.g. 8 o'clock. Your child will also be given a maths target card with three targets to practise at home during this half term. More information will be given about this in our Reception Review Meeting for parents to attend in school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 2:00pm.

## Understanding the World

You may know this curriculum area more commonly as history, geography, science and computing. Our topic this half term is 'Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales'. We are going to have great fun singing and reciting nursery rhymes, reading and enjoying fairy tales and acting these out! We will look at rhymes and tales from different cultures, those that tell us about the past and we would like to know your favourites from when you were young! So look out for a letter requesting this in your child's book bag!

Your child will also embark on following fun trails around the school to become familiar with the school geography. In computing, your child will use fun programs and games to help them develop their mouse control and they will learn to logon and name the different parts of a computer.

## Expressive Arts & Design

Your child will enjoy music lessons each Wednesday with Mr Dixon, our specialist music teacher. After singing nursery rhymes and acting out fairy tales, we will also paint, draw, chalk and model our favourite fairy tale characters and props!



## RE

We will be practising making the 'Sign of the Cross' and learning our daily school prayers. Your child will learn all about 'Myself' and that God knows and loves each one of us.

## PSED

Your child will learn about friendship and the qualities that are required to be a good friend. They will also learn about sharing and the importance of having rules in our lives. They will have the opportunity to participate in school council activities too! Your child will develop their independence with routines such as managing their belongings, washing hands before lunch and after using the toilet, selecting, using and tidying resources, dressing/undressing for PE and more!



## Physical Development (PE)

Your child will be learning different ways of travelling and balancing and, importantly, learning how to negotiate space. Outdoor PE will take place on Thursdays and indoor PE on Tuesdays. The children's PE kits can be left in school all week (**please ensure that their PE kits and the rest of their uniform is 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 via the link on our school website -

<https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/st-josephs-014b-r-c-primary-school-20988>

## Break times

During the morning break the children can choose a piece of fruit from our class fruit bowl. There are also water fountains in the playground where the children can get a drink of water. Please remember your child should bring his/her water bottle (**filled**) to school daily – these can be purchased from the school office for £1.50.

## Lunchtimes

As you are aware school dinners for children in reception classes continue to be funded by the local authority. Please review our exciting school menus on our website.



## Homework

Your child will be given a homework book with some fun tasks to complete each week. They will be given on a Friday and should be returned the following Monday. The homework tasks may sometimes relate to our phonics learning or to other areas of the curriculum.

We look forward to working with your children during the coming year and to speaking to you about their progress and development. I am available by appointment, or at the end of the day to answer any questions or to discuss any queries you may have.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Subebe  
(John Paul Class Teacher)