



## John Paul Class Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the start of another half term, I hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what your child will be learning about in each area of learning this half term.

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

In the second half of this first term, we continue to focus on the alphabet. Your child will continue learning the names of the letters; the uppercase and lowercase 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'.

Like last half term, we will focus on two different letters each week. As you know, we have a 'Sounds of the Week' table in our classroom where the children bring in objects from home that begin with the 'sounds of the week'. Our tables were overflowing each week last half term with your wonderful items from home so thank you for your support with this ☺. Remember, please do not send in things of great sentimental value or anything fragile as sometimes they get damaged or broken.

As you are aware, your child is given a reading book and a book from our book corner, which we aim to change twice a week. This routine is separate from the reading activities we do in class. I would like to remind you that the days we hear children read may vary according to the week's events, so please ensure your child brings his/her reading folder to school each day. In addition, remember to check your child's book bag every day to keep informed of upcoming events and important dates.



We would also like to thank you for your support with your child's reading. Reading scheme books are often repetitive as this helps children identify words and correct sentence structures – but be aware of children memorising texts! If they do manage to tell the whole story without looking at one word, then ask them to find a particular word, e.g. 'said', after they have read the book to you. Can they distinguish between the words and pictures? Can they point out Kipper in the pictures and find his name in the text? Do they know what a word is? Can they point to each as they read? As an additional challenge, can they attempt spelling a particular word? Also, remember to read beyond the text – discuss favourite parts, characters' actions and the details in the pictures. This is fundamental in checking the children have understood what they have read, because there's no point to reading unless it has meaning! It is evident that children make better progress in all Literacy activities with support from home – so please try and read with your child every evening. I would be grateful if you could continue to make a comment in your child's 'Reading Record' book, stating if they enjoyed the book and recording any particular difficulties they have encountered, including challenging words. There is a list of possible comments you can make in your child's reading record to support with this.

Lastly, there are 100 key words children in Reception are expected to be able to read by the end of the academic year –that's by July 2019. These are the 100 most common words found in children's books and the complete list is in your child's reading record. The children will need to regularly read and review all the key words they have learned to commit them to memory. Remember to keep playing the games as it really makes a big difference to your children's engagement and confidence in reading. 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 continue to focus on numbers this half term. Your child's ability to count accurately is an important foundation for all future maths learning. As mentioned in the Reception Review Meeting, please support your child by checking they can count accurately using 1:1 correspondence - counting each object once giving one number name for one object. A solid understanding of number will help when we move on to addition and solving simple addition number sentences through practical activities.

We will also learn about mathematical concepts such as weight, money and time.

Remember you can support your child's learning by talking to your child about what they see and hear when you are out and about to help develop their maths vocabulary, e.g. when your child has eaten half of a packet of raisins, ask him/her - have you got more or less? See if your child can choose a ripe melon for you when shopping – can they comment on its weight? Can they use the words 'heavy' and 'light'?

## Understanding the World

Our topic this half term is 'Toys.' We will be learning about old toys and new toys and how toys work. To support this, we would like your child to bring in their favourite toy to school – please look out for a letter requesting them please. In computing, the children will use fun programs and game, such as Colour Magic and Tizzy's Toybox to help them develop their mouse control. They will continue to learn the names of the different parts of a computer.

## Expressive Arts & Design

As we are learning about toys, we will be making our own ones in class! Again, please look out for the letter requesting 'junk' materials from home that we can use to make them. In addition, your child will continue to partake in music lessons each Wednesday with Mr Dixon, our specialist music teacher. There will of course be lots of singing and dancing daily in class too - encourage your child to share with you the new songs and dance moves they have learnt with you!



## RE

This half term the children will learn about 'Baptism' as a time when we are welcomed into God's family. To support this, we would like a photograph of your child's Baptism – please see this week's homework in their homework book. As well as discussing Baptism, the children will learn more about birthdays. They will discuss what a birthday is and how we celebrate birthdays. They will also learn more about Jesus' birthday and why it is such an important event.

## PSED

As we begin to prepare for Christmas, we will learn about some Christmas traditions and we will discuss the real meaning of Christmas- the birth of Baby Jesus. We will also discuss what it means to be a good friend and how we can be a one too.

## Physical Development (PE)

Indoor PE will take place on Tuesdays and outdoor PE on Wednesdays. In indoor PE, the children will be learning a dance routine in preparation for our Nativity! In outdoor PE, the children will be learning how to receive and kick a ball confidently and safely. As always, the children will take part in regular outdoor play sessions where they will take a part in a range of activities to support and develop gross motor skills, such as chalking and riding the bikes and scooters!

PE kits should be brought to school on Monday and the children will take them home on a Friday. **Please ensure that PE kits and uniform are clearly marked with your child's name. If your child comes home with another child's item of clothing, please return it to school the next day.**

The full PE kit consists of a school tracksuit (navy jumper and jogging bottoms), black shorts, a T-shirt and plimsolls/trainers (preferably without laces) all kept together in a PE bag. Please make sure that they have every item in their 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>

## Homework

Your child will be continue to receive homework on a Friday and it should be returned the following Tuesday. It is very important that homework is completed and returned on time! Today your child has received a maths target card with three targets for them to work on at home. Please spend some time over this half term working on these targets.

## Reminders

- **Story sacks** – From this half term, we will give out story sacks each week on a rota basis. The sacks are given out on a Tuesday and should be returned the following Monday. Not only do they have the story book inside, but sometimes a non-fiction/information book or some games, puzzles and puppets to engage the children in the books and help them develop a love for reading and learning. Please check the contents before you return your story sack – it is highly frustrating when we cannot give out sacks due to missing pieces. We want to continue to give all children the same opportunity of exploring and learning from these lovely stories.
- **Nativity Dates-** The highly anticipated event of the year is near! The Nativity performance for Reception parents will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 2pm (doors open at 1.30pm). Tickets will be sent home to you in the upcoming weeks.

As always 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 continued support ☺

*Mrs Subebe*

John Paul Class Teacher