

John Paul Class **Curriculum Newsletter**



Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you had a good half term break and that you are keeping well. Thank you to those families who completed the half term homework and submitted evidence of this to *Evidence Me*- it has been fantastic to see your children in action making play dough, singing phonics songs and so much more.

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

Communication, Language and Literacy

We have started Literacy this term with the book '*Aaaarrgghh Spider*' by Lydia Monks. Through this book we will develop your child's listening, speaking, imagination and comprehension skills, while also expanding their vocabulary. They will have the opportunity to design their ideal pet, naming, labelling and describing it, and deciding what they would like to do with their pet.

Alongside the books, we will be focusing on phase three of the phonics scheme. As with phase two phonics, 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 or diagraph.

Your child will continue to bring home a reading folder and a reading book, which we aim to change twice a week, depending on the child's familiarity with the text. The days that we hear your child read continue to vary according to the week's events, so please ensure your child brings their reading folder to school each day. We will continue to send home books from our class book corner for you to share with your child; these will be changed every Wednesday. Your comments in your child's reading record have been really informative for me and I would be grateful if you could continue to do this when you hear your child read.

Please continue to help your child learn the weekly key words and revisit those already covered; these are sent home every Tuesday. I really appreciate those of you who have been working hard on these; it gives your child a great advantage with their reading.

Mathematics

This half term, we will continue to develop your child's ability to identify numbers to 10 and beyond. We will count sets of objects accurately; order numbers; compare numbers, match numbers to a group of objects, and vice versa. We will also consider one more and one less than a given number. Please continue to help by counting with your child in everyday situations.



Understanding the World

Our topic this half term is: '*What happens when...?*' We will be making observations as to what happens when we mix different substances and change the temperature of things, as well as learning about what happens when animals get scared and when Autumn turns to Winter. As we approach Christmas, we will be comparing Christmas in different countries, learning about what happened on the first Christmas and how we celebrate Christmas now, in this country.

Expressive Arts & Design

This term, our Expressive Arts and Design lessons will reflect our topics in Understanding the World and RE. The lessons will give your child an opportunity to use mixed media, construction tools, dance, music and drama to express their understanding of the topics, while also developing key skills in these areas.

RE

We will be identifying the similarities and differences between Christianity and Judaism. We will learn about the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah and compare it to Christmas. As we learn the Nativity story, we will consider what Birthdays are, why they are important and what we can do to prepare for Jesus' birthday during Advent.

PSED

On the 16th November, your child will be invited to wear odd socks to mark the beginning of anti-bullying week. In response to this, we will be thinking about what makes a good friend, how to resolve disagreements and what to do if a friend has made you unhappy.

Physical Development (PE)

In P.E. we are refining our ball skills, learning how to throw both under arm and over arm, and aim towards a target. In indoor P.E. we are learning how to use our bodies to travel safely and successfully on, under, around and through equipment including benches, tunnels and gymnastic apparatus. Your child must have the full PE kit: school tracksuit, black shorts, a T-shirt and plimsolls/trainers (preferably without laces) all kept together in a PE bag. **Please ensure that all items of P.E. kit and uniform are clearly marked your child's name.**

Homework

We will continue to set homework every week on Thursday to be handed in on Monday- instructions of this will always be in your child's homework book. It is important to submit evidence of your child completing practical homework to *Evidence Me*. If you are having difficulties accessing this, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can support you to get it set up.

Under the current restrictions, I am unable to offer face to face meetings. However, if you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact the school office with a message and I will get back to you.

Many Thanks for your continued support,

Miss Brockbank

John Paul Class Teacher