

## **John Paul Class** **Curriculum Newsletter**



Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you had a good Half Term and that you are keeping well. Thank you to everyone who completed the holiday homework- it really demonstrates the progress that your child has made since September!

Our topic for this term is: Where are we going? I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what your child will be learning about in each area of the curriculum.

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

We will read a range of fiction and nonfiction books that explore different countries and cultures. Through these books we will continue to develop your child's listening, speaking, imagination and comprehension skills. A key focus this term will be making comparisons and applying the vocabulary involved in doing so. Alongside this, we will be developing our descriptive language to add detail to our writing. We will continue to use talk partners to discuss and share ideas- to further develop the children's speaking and listening skills.

In phonics, we will be completing phase four of Letters and sounds. We will continue to concentrate on applying the sounds we know in both our reading and writing- using our segmenting and blending skills.

Your child will continue to bring home a reading folder and a reading book, which we **aim** to change twice a week. 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. Please continue to comment in your child's reading record as it gives us a great insight to their ability to read in various settings.

We have now given out all of the key words that your child will need to know before leaving Reception. As last term, your child will receive a sticker in their homework book with specific words to revisit and learn or to spell. These words have been compiled from their key word assessment in March and weekly assessments of their homework. The importance of your child knowing their key words cannot be overstated. It is vital that your child continues to practice these in order to be a successful reader and be ready for the challenge of Year 1 in September.

### **Mathematics**

This half term, we will continue to practice and consolidate the skill of counting on and back in our head, using fingers to help. We will revisit our number bonds to ten and the composition of teen numbers to ensure that your child has a sure understanding of these fundamental concepts. Throughout the term, we will be using the skill of counting in 2's, 5's and 10's to find the total of large amounts of objects showing the children the time saving benefits of counting this way for large amounts. Your child will be encouraged to make up their own number problems surrounding things that interest them. These will be introduced as: before, now and then stories, and can be made up about anything.



## Understanding the World

Our topic this half term lends itself to exploring different countries in the world and gaining a basic understanding of the world map. We will be linking our lessons to the books we read in Literacy and find out about the countries that they feature. We will be comparing aspects of these countries such as food, weather, houses, traditional clothes and crops grown. This will allow us to taste food from different countries, dress up in various traditional outfits and learn different skills such as basket weaving and Mexican wrestling.

## Expressive Arts & Design

This term, we will be exploring new techniques, such as using paper mache to make our own globes and weaving baskets like the one used by the character Handa in one of our stories. Your child will have the opportunity to design and make a Mexican mask and will write about their finished product during literacy. We will continue to learn new songs in our music lessons and be encouraged to make up dances influenced by traditional dances from around the world.

## RE

During RE, your child will explore the importance of friendship. They will consider what a friend is, how a friend should behave, what their friends mean to them and how they can be a good friend. This will be complemented and supported with stories about Jesus' friends- the disciples. Your child will be encouraged to make up prayers about and for their friends recognising the love that this demonstrates. The children will also prepare for their class assembly which will be based on a scripture from the Bible.

## PSED

As we develop our understanding of different countries and cultures, your child will be encouraged to express their opinions and appreciate the opinions of others. Your child will further develop our team skills through team challenges when they will be encouraged to talk, share ideas, listen to and support each other. Towards the end of term, we will consider where your child is going in September- to prepare them for year one- this important transition.

## Physical Development (PE)

In P.E. we will continue to prepare the children for sport's day by practicing the various events- from hurdles to javelin! We will continue to develop our ability to work as a team and our sporting attitudes. We will also be learning some basic moves from Mexican wrestling that require balance and coordination. 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 and that in this hot weather, your child brings their water bottle.**

## Homework

We will continue to set homework every week on Thursday to be handed in on Monday- instructions for this will always be in your child's homework book.

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

