

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. 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 Hilton, the class teacher in Peter Class and our class teaching assistant is Mrs Brown. We are all looking forward to supporting your child's learning and development this year.

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 and Language

During Literacy this term, we will be reading a range of books related to our topic of: *Where am I?* These books will explore the concept of maps, cities and country side and different countries and cultures. Through these books we will develop your child's listening, speaking, imagination and comprehension skills, while also expanding their vocabulary.

Literacy

Alongside the books, we will be focusing on phase two of the phonics scheme. 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'.

From next week, your child will bring home a reading folder and a reading book, which we will change at least once a week, depending on the child's familiarity with the text. 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 folder to school each day– this may also be used for daily communication when necessary.

In addition to their reading folder book, each week your child will also choose a book from our class book corner to bring home. This allows the children to engage with a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. 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, there is a list of possible comments you can make in your child's reading record. The children will not always be independently reading the whole book, but such shared reading is an excellent way for them to build their comprehension skills.

Lastly, your child has been given a list of Reception keywords in their reading record books. These are the 100 high-frequency words they are expected to read by the end of their Reception year. Each week we will send home a set of 5 key words on flashcards – look out for them in your child's reading folder. Please practise reading the words with your child and play games such as 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 to 5, counting sets of objects accurately; knowing the order of numbers; comparing numbers, matching numbers to an amount of objects, and vice versa. 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'



Understanding the World

Our topic this half term is 'Where am I?' We will be considering our class' position in the school and local area- embarking on tours and map reading around the school, and going on local walks to become familiar with the school and surrounding area for example, we will be walking to the river. Your child will also begin to develop their understanding of time by making a time line by ordering events that are relevant to themselves. We will also explore different countries and cultures through the stories that we will read.

Expressive Arts & Design

This term, our Expressive Arts and Design lessons will reflect our topic: 'Where am I?' The lessons will give the children an opportunity to use mixed media, construction tools, dance, music and drama to express their understanding of the topic, while also developing key skills in these areas. Equipment will be available to the children everyday for them to practice and utilise these skills independently during our free flow activities.



RE

We will be practising making the 'Sign of the Cross' and learning our daily school prayers which will be sent home to practice. The children will learn all about 'Myself' and that God knows and loves each one of us. Your child will also learn about the importance of treating others with respect- a quality reflected in our mission statement. They will also learn how to worship God through song and dance.

PSED

In our *Relationships Education*, your child will learn about friendship and the qualities that are required to be a good friend. Your child will also learn about sharing and the importance of having rules in our lives. We will also explore and celebrate the differences between us. The children will develop their independence with routines such as managing their belongings, washing hands regularly through the day, selecting, using and tidying resources, dressing/undressing for PE and more.

Physical Development (PE)

This term indoor P.E. is largely focused on teaching your child to dress independently- this includes learning to do up buttons, clasps and zips which support the development of fine motor skills. During outdoor P.E. sessions your child will be learning to develop their spatial awareness whilst exploring a variety of movements including hopping, skipping and jumping to travel from point A to B. The children will have two P.E. sessions per week. P.E. kits should be brought in on Monday and can be left in school all week.

The full PE kit should consist of a 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 with your child's name so it can be easily returned if misplaced and to avoid costly replacement. All items of clothing are available from the following website- <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/st-josephs-014b-r-c-primary-school-20988>

Homework

Your child will be given a homework book with some fun tasks to complete each week. Homework is given out on a Thursday and should be returned the following Monday allowing you the opportunity to ask questions on the Friday if you have a query about it. The homework tasks will relate to our learning in all 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,
Miss Brockbank
John Paul Class Teacher