

Reception Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to a new term here at St. Paul's Academy. I hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and spent some quality time with your families. We are very much looking forward to our second term in Reception and continuing to watch your children learn and develop. We have some interesting topics this term and this newsletter will keep you informed about what will be happening over the course of the term.

R.E

Our RE theme this term is 'Special Stories' where the children will listen to different religious stories including Noah's Ark, Jesus Calms the Storm and Crying Camel, where they will begin to understand the miraculous work of Jesus. We will also explore key religious celebrations including the festival of Epiphany and the Chinese New Year festival and understand its importance.



Communication, Language and Literacy

In Communication and Language this term the children will be asking and writing questions to help them understand their past and how they have grown. We will also be having a focus on new vocabulary and encouraging the children to use any new vocabulary they have learnt from stories within their play. The stories children will be exploring linking to our topic this term include 'Bear Shaped', 'Lost and Found', 'The Giant Jam Sandwich and many more. Within our phonics sessions the children will be introduced to phase 3 sounds and begin to recognise these within words.



Mathematics

This half term we will continue to consolidate number bonds to 5 but the children will also begin to explore numbers up to 10. The children will also be introduced to the + - sign and begin to understand how we use them in a number sentence.. Number bonds to 10 are a key focus this half-term and the children will be encouraged to learn and recall these by heart. Later in the term, we will also cover measure including length, height and weight, finally moving on to exploring patterns.



Understanding of the World

This half term we will be exploring past and present. The children will talk about their lives and make comparisons between things in the past and their lives now saying which they prefer and why. Children will look closely at a familiar setting such as our school and consider how it has changed over time. It would be great if you could share some stories with your child about life in the past and how things have changed over time.



PE

We will be having PE on a Wednesday and Friday morning this term. Please make sure that your child comes into school on this day wearing their complete PE Kit, which consists of plain navy jogging bottoms and a plain white t-shirt. No branded clothing should be worn. This term we will be focussing on dance where the children will explore and copy different body actions and rhythms and respond to music, trying to keep in time to the beat.



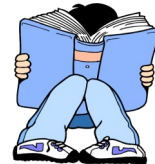
Topic - Long Ago & Ready Steady Grow

Our Cornerstones topics this term are 'Long Ago' and 'Ready Steady Grow'. Within our Long Ago topic the children will learn about how they have grown and changed since they were babies and how life in the past was different from today. The children will also begin to understand the past as events that have already happened and name some special memories from their lives. They will be introduced to key vocabulary including past, yesterday and memory and try to use these in their everyday language. In our 'Ready, Steady, Grow' topic the children will learn about food and farming and begin to understand where their food comes from. They will think about healthy lifestyles and how they can apply this to their own lives. The children will also look at how plants and animals grow and what they need to survive. They will look after their own plants in school ensuring they have the correct conditions for growth.

Homework

Your child will have now started bringing home a reading book. They will bring a new reading book home every Friday and it is important that your child is heard read at least 3 times a week. Reading books and reading records must be returned to school every Friday, with the reading record signed by an adult. In addition to their home reading books, children will continue to have a St. Paul's Reading Spine book to enjoy as a family. These books will continue to be changed every fortnight and the specific return dates can be found in the reading spine bags. We kindly ask that you take some time to complete the reading journal that accompanies the spine book to show what your child enjoyed.

Numbots is also a priority for your child and it has been great to see children progressing through the levels. Your support with your child's homework is invaluable and will have an extremely positive impact on your child's progress, we thank you for your support with this.



May I take this opportunity to remind you that children should come to school everyday in full school uniform and any form of jewellery is not allowed, if ears are pierced then only small studs should be worn. If you have any problems or concerns and wish to speak to me, please email the school office or arrange a telephone appointment.

Class teacher: Miss Tart LSP: Mrs Barker

