



St Mary's Catholic First School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



14th September 2018



A warm welcome new Reception parents!

Firstly, may I thank you for making yourselves available for the home visits last week. It was brilliant to speak to all of you and find out about your little person. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to teach them in their first year of school and I truly hope they have a wonderful experience.



This half term will be an exciting time for them with making new friends and learning new things. We will be focussing largely on helping them to settle in comfortably and begin to establish those positive relationships.



Our topic this term is going to be 'Space', this is a fantastic unit with lots of learning opportunities. We will be looking at some familiar stories, finding out about different planets, the moon and rockets.

At some point in the term you may find a visitor comes to stay the night (our class alien). He will bring everything he needs including a diary for you to record the things you do with him. Please do not worry that you have to do something special as the aim is to provide an opportunity for your child to share their time with the class (so the less complicated the better!).

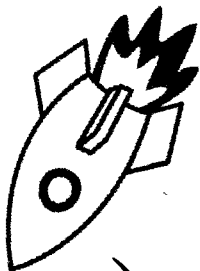
Important dates: 9:00am Tuesday 18th September – Liturgy for new reception children and parents are welcome to join us.

5:00pm Wednesday 26th September- New parent meet at St Mary's, chat with other Reception parents over a cup of tea. Parents are welcome to bring their children.

I look forward to getting to know you and your little one better over the term and if you ever have any questions or queries please feel free to ask.

Many thanks

Mrs Coffin
Reception Class Teacher

<u>Personal, Social & Emotional Development</u> Starting school can be an emotional time so, this term we shall be focussing on understanding our feelings and how to express them in an appropriate way. We will be thinking about how to make friends with our peers and form positive relationships. The children shall look at stories and think about how characters might feel and what we can do to help. In particular, we will meet a Martian who is new to the planet wanting to make friends!	<u>Communication and Language</u> This is an important aspect of our learning as it underpins a lot of the other areas. We will be working on our listening skills through hearing stories and rhymes about space as well as conversing with others. We are going to be developing our speech to ensure what we are saying can be understood. We shall also be learning new vocabulary thinking about positional language trying to find the different planets in space!	<u>Physical Development</u> We shall be going to the moon and exploring ways to move such as running, jumping, crawling and hopping. We will also be developing our fine motor control through Funky Fingers; this will help us with holding a pencil, cutting with scissors and threading activities. This area of learning does not just involve movement skills but encourages us to think about how to look after our bodies such as handwashing and toileting independently.
<u>Maths</u> In Maths we will be learning about number and what a number means. We will be finding ways to make a given number, the way it is represented through a numeral and one more/less. We will be learning to compare and sort quantities using our number knowledge to explain. We will also begin to explore 2D shapes and their properties looking for them in our environment.	Reception Class Topic Web Autumn 1 - 2018 Space 	<u>Literacy</u> Throughout this term the children will be learning a range of skills to prepare them for reading and writing. We will be learning a story in Talk4Writing linked to our space topic and then adapting it to create our own. In Phonics we will begin learning to read our set 1 sounds, how to blend and segment simple CVC words and forming letters.
<u>Understanding the World</u> During this term we shall be getting to know each other and finding out about our families. We will also be learning lots about our topic such as the different planets, what the moon is like and parts of a rocket. We will be demonstrating our knowledge of technology and learning how to use iPads and computers for a range of reasons.		<u>Exploring Art & Design</u> We are going to be exploring our creativity through music, art and role play. We will be retelling stories using puppets and making up our own narratives in our play. We will be learning about colours and how to change them whilst creating our own space pictures and rocket models using recycled materials.