



St Mary's Catholic First School
Lucetta Lane, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DD
Tel: 01305 262258
Fax: 01305 257101



E-mail: office@stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk
Website: www.stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



16th January 2017



Dear Parents

Reception Class – Spring Term

This half term we are storytelling, both orally and using words/pictures. We are learning to read and write story maps, using pictures to help us retell the story.

We are starting with “We’re Going On A Bear Hunt” and will then change aspects of it so that it becomes our own story. Please do take the time to talk about favourite stories at home and try making your own story maps. Please take a look at the story maps we have written in the classroom to help you at home. Going back over short stories that your child knows will help them to build the confidence to tell and write their own story.

We are continuing to learn about numbers this half term and trying different ways of recording our maths - using drawings and symbols. We always make the most of what is naturally happening daily in school, helping to count the “moves up” and counting how many children we have in class. Please carry on attending the weekly maths workshops on Fridays as it is a good way to see what and how your child is learning. It also gives you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We love seeing you there.

With our guided reading sessions we are starting to use the Read Write Inc Ditty books and discussing in groups what is happening in the stories. Now that we have learned quite a few sounds we can use these to help us read. Thank you for your help with changing your child’s book in the mornings, it is a great opportunity to share with your child what they enjoy reading. I would strongly encourage you to become members of the local library as they have a great selection of children’s books and CD’s with stories - all free!

Thank you everyone who is using Tapestry. It is a lovely way to share your child’s successes and helps us to assess your child’s achievements at the end of Reception, both in and out of school. If you are still not accessing it, I would recommend that you speak to a parent who is using it regularly or myself.

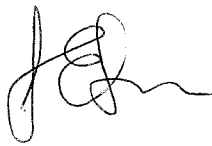


Please use Education City for home learning - set by myself, to suit your child's needs. I usually add a new activity onto it every Wednesday. There are many activities on there now as I have purposefully left old ones there to go back over. Every Monday after school Year 2's classroom is open to parents who do not have access to Education City at home. You are warmly welcome to come into school and work on our school computers from 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm. Phonic and number activities are always worth going back over.....and over!

Reading with your child as often as possible is one of the best things you can do to help your child at school, so please carry on. The more the merrier but be guided by your child as to when is the best time of day to do this; it is not always at bedtime.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to ask any questions concerning your child's learning journey with us.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Bourne', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mrs Bourne
Reception Class Teacher

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Prime Area)

In SEAL time the class will talk about feelings and how important it is to express them in a suitable manner. They will discuss how actions affect both themselves and others. The children will discuss how to be a good citizen and what these qualities are. They will continue to learn how to keep themselves safe from harm, including use of the internet.

Physical Development (Prime Area)

Our Sports Coach will continue to lead PE lessons on a Wednesday afternoon. He will be developing gymnastic movement this half term – focusing on climbing on, up and over equipment. Gross motor skills will continue to be developed both within these lessons and through our continuous outdoor provision. Your child will also be continuing to develop their fine motor skills, learning how to manipulate different one handed tools, developing a firmer pencil grip, increasing strength to form both recognisable letters and digits.

Your child will be getting changed for PE independently this half term with minimal help.

Mathematics (Specific Area)

Children will be developing their ability to discuss the mathematics they are doing and to check that they are being accurate with their counting, comparing and ordering. In addition to number work (counting objects to 10 and beyond, finding totals, calculating one more/one less, subtracting, doubling and halving) your child will also be using stop watches to measure, playing with money in the role play area and learning to estimate. All of this learning is embedded in their play through water, sand, small world figures, PE games, play dough and finger puppets. Please keep coming to the math sessions on a Friday at 2.30 to discover how we learn in Reception.

Literacy (Specific Area)

Your child will be exploring story telling this half term, looking at familiar characteristics in stories such as story openers, problems, characters and endings. They will be learning to retell a story orally and to create their own alternative ending.

Your child will use role play, signs, talk and writing to express themselves. Together we will build up a bank of ideas, words and phrases that we like and can select to use if we choose.

We will continue to read in our groups and to explore different genres of reading material.

Communication and Language (Prime Area)

The children will continue to extend their vocabulary through talking, singing and taking on board ideas from others. They will use puppets in play and will begin to use phrases and words heard in stories.

All children are given the opportunity to express themselves individually, in paired groupings, small groups and as a class throughout the half term.

As we lead into the Spring term children will increase their group work – giving them opportunities to share ideas with others who are now more familiar.

What is your happy ending?

Spring 1: 4th January–9th February 2017



Understanding the World (Specific Area)

People and Communities

Role Play – taking on different roles and playing together.

RE lessons – comparing the past and the present day whilst looking at different customs.

The world

Planting seeds and observing growth, using magnifying glasses.

Noting changes taking place in this new season.

Technology

ICT – Using animation to tell a story, ipads to select games, cameras to record observations and talking tins to communicate and express themselves. Your child will continue to learn how to keep safe whilst using ICT.

Expressive Arts and Design (Specific Area)

Our theme this half term lends itself to many different forms of creative expression. Although we are led by your children's ideas, we will be initially using paper mache to create puppets for our retelling of stories with music composition to complement this. We provide an assortment of resources so that children can take the theme in the direction they choose. We will be looking at designs on shields for some of our story characters, using a selection of paint and glitter.

Forts and towers will be created with lego pieces and wooden blocks – encouraging the imagination and construction. Gender stereotypes will be challenged with children being encouraged to explore different learning areas this half term. Dressing up and role play will be ongoing.