



St Mary's Catholic First School
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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 'Bears', this is a fantastic topic with lots of learning opportunities. We will be looking at some familiar stories, finding out about bears and where they live in addition to the hopefully having a teddy bears picnic towards the end of term.

At some point in the term you may find a visitor comes to stay the night. 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 with our class bear as the aim is to provide an opportunity for your child to share their time with the class. (So the less complicated the better!)

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.

Yours sincerely

Miss Libby
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 with our familiar adults. We will also be looking at stories and thinking about how characters might feel and what we can do to help. In particular, a bear who thinks it is okay to chase people!	<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 bears 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 hidden bear!	<u>Physical Development</u> We shall be going on a bear hunt to help us develop our movement skills 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> We will be exploring patterns using compare bears and thinking of ways to sort them such as colour or size. We will also begin learning different numerals and find ways of representing them whilst helping a bear to catch fish.	Reception Class Topic Web Autumn 1 - 2017 Bears 	<u>Literacy</u> During the Autumn term we will be exploring different bear based books and comparing them to find our favourite. We will be learning about characters, the plot and settings then telling our own version of We're Going on a Bear Hunt. We will be learning initial sounds and how to read and write them.
<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 find out about bears- what they eat, where they live and how they survive. This area also includes our knowledge of technology and learning how to use CD players, 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 bear collage pieces.	