

Year R – Newsletter

Date: Autumn Term 2026

St. John's, CE (A) Primary School,
Burnley Rd.
Burnley,
Cliviger,
Lancashire,
BB10 4SU

Mathematics

Children will take part in various counting activities – counting forwards, backwards, from a given number etc. They will practise to count a group of objects using our clever counting tips. This term the children will be working within numbers to 5, finding different ways to represent them. They will also take part in sorting and matching activities and will be introduced to 2D shapes around the environment. We follow the 'White Rose' programme to deliver Mathematics.

PE/Physical development

PE will be on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please provide a plain white t-shirt, navy or black shorts and trainers which are all named. This term we will be concentrating on travelling, changing direction and finding spaces. We will also complete activities/exercises to develop fine motor skills to enable children to improve their pencil control.

Communication and Language, Reading and Writing

This term the children will look at books to identify the main features such as front & back covers, title, spine etc. We will work on identifying first names and begin to practise writing them. Children will be encouraged to mark make around the classroom, using sounds correctly in their writing. To develop speaking and listening skills the children will take part in listening games and circle time.

RE

The RE themes for this term are:

- I am Special
- Harvest
- Christmas

Letters and Sounds

The children will take part in rhyming activities. They will focus on hearing sounds in words through segmenting, and will be introduced to individual letter sounds. The children will then begin to blend and write CVC words. The children will be following the 'Red Rose Letters & Sounds' programme which will be taught daily.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The main aim for the first part of the term is to settle the children into school life and to make sure they are aware of the routines and rules. We will also learn about caring and respectful relationships, and mental well-being and physical health.

Other Areas of the Curriculum

Understanding the World - Our topics this term are 'The Colour Monster' and 'Little Owl and the Star'.

The Colour Monster – We will identify different emotions and feelings, and learn about our different body parts. We will also explore how we are all special and have different families.

Little Owl and the Star – We will identify and explore our senses, and learn about the seasons autumn and winter. We will also explore Christmas and learn about the Nativity story.

Expressive arts and design

All creative work will relate to our class themes. The children will paint self portraits, exploring different art processes and techniques. In music we will be taking part in number songs and ring games. We will design and make Christmas decorations and various art work towards the end of term.

Throughout the above topics the children will use appropriate information technology such as computers and programmable toys to support their learning.

Our class charity is RSPCA, so the children will learn about the great job they do.

Ideas to help your child at home

- Check our class page regularly for photographs, weekly activities and updates.
- Record how your child has read their reading book in their reading record. Please bring these to school every day. If the reading record is not signed, the reading book will not be changed.
- Please let us know if your child is being picked up by a different adult.
- Practise zipping coats to make your child more independent at playtimes.
- Please ensure all of your child's uniform and PE kit are clearly named to avoid confusion.
- Your child can bring in a healthy snack for playtime. They only need one snack, as we also have fruit in class. Please ensure these are also named. Snacks do not need to come into school in a bag as we don't have space to store them.
- Finally, if you have any concerns or queries please come and see us anytime.

Thank you
Mrs Kenny & Mrs Pickup