



St Margaret's C.E. Primary School EYFS Newsletter Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer! We are excited to be starting a new year back in school and are so proud of how well the children have settled into school already! This term our topics will be 'Amazing Me' and 'Celebrations'. Within these topics, we will be following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Below is a brief outline of what we will be covering within the seven areas of learning.

Communication and Language

Listen to stories and rhymes and responding
Develop speaking and listening skills
Use imaginative language through role play
Learn and use new vocabulary linked to our topics

Physical Development

Basic skills- following instructions, stopping and starting, moving safely
Develop fine motor skills
Learn to handle equipment safely

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Begin to understand feelings
Know 'I am special and unique'
Take turns and sharing
Settle into school
Learn the classroom rules and expectations

Literacy

Learn to recognise and write first name
Begin phonics teaching of Phase 2 sounds
Practise segmenting and blending skills to read simple words
Read some irregular words on sight

Mathematics

Recognise and understand the value of numbers 1-5
Subitise numbers to 5
Learn some addition and subtraction facts within numbers to 5
Length
Pattern
2D shapes

Understanding the World

Describe and talk about ourselves, home and school
Investigate using our senses
Learn about our local environment
Harvest festival
Learn about the Jewish festival Sukkot
The Christian Creation story
Shabbat

The story of Christmas

Expressive Arts and Design

Experiment with different media and explore colours

Create sounds with different musical instruments, listen and respond to music

Develop storylines in their pretend play

PSHE/RSE Curriculum

Health and Wellbeing

The importance of and how to maintain personal hygiene

Relationships

To identify their special people (family, friends, carers), and what makes them special and how special people should care for one another

Living in the Wider World

To recognise that they belong to various groups and communities such as family and school

Timetable

Please find attached a copy of our timetable. Please understand that the Early Years timetable is very flexible as children's interests and learning development is taken into account, as well as special events. This is given as guidance only. This year our PE day is a Thursday. Please remember that your child should come to school already dressed for PE. Our class will continue to access Forest Schools throughout the year and we will let you know in advance so that appropriate clothing can be worn to school on those days.

Reading

We will be sending home reading books with your child in a few weeks' time. These will match the phonics progression of sounds that we teach as well as children's knowledge and comprehension ability. Please record any reading of your child's phonics book in their reading record. Once we know you have read it at home, we can change it once a week. We recommend at first, you look at the inside front cover of the reading book where you will find information for parents regarding the sounds and irregular words you might find. There are also some ideas of activities to do with your child before, during and after reading the book. Then, concentrate on word recognition and understanding the meaning of any new words. If your child is struggling with some of the words, you could make a flash card and practise it separately from the book. Finally, talk about the book with your child to check comprehension skills. Reading regularly at home helps children to make good progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes per day. Children should have their school reading book in their bag on a daily basis to enable us to listen to them read throughout the week. Children will also have access to library books for you to read together at home. Reading books will be changed weekly and will be handed in on a Thursday and sent home on a Friday. This year we continue to use the Bug Club Phonics scheme. We will soon send out your child's log in details for this to access online books and phonics games.

We will be inviting parents in for a Reading and Phonics presentation on Friday 20th September at 2.45pm to explain our phonics/reading scheme further and answer any questions you might have.

Homework

Homework will be sent home on a Friday and will be returned on a Thursday. The homework will be a 'Home Stories' task, that will ask you a different thing about your child each week and they are your chance to tell us all about your special and unique child. We absolutely love reading them! We understand that your child will have other activities outside of school and may have difficulty completing tasks on a set night. If this is the case, please complete the homework when time is available.

School Uniform

It would help us immensely if you could name **all** of your child's school uniform (even shoes!). This ensures that any discarded jumpers, shoes or anything else can be quickly returned to their rightful owner. We will place any unnamed items on the EYFS outdoor fence at home time. Also, due to our changeable weather, please can you ensure that your child always has a named coat in school every day, as we will be outdoors every day.

Book bags

Just a polite reminder that we do not have much space in our classrooms and therefore we ask that children do not bring in a backpack, as these do not fit in the storage areas and cause a trip hazard. They need a book bag to hold their reading book, library book and a named water bottle, which must be taken home, washed and refilled each day.

Drop off and pick up

Just a reminder that Reception children can be dropped off at the EYFS outdoor area gate from **8.45** until **8.55**, then the gate will then be locked. If you arrive after 8.55, please take your child to the school office.

Reception children are to be collected from the EYFS outdoor area gate at **3.20**. If any arrangements for collection change from the list of adults allowed to collect your child, please can you contact the School Office who will then let staff know. If your child is not attending Tea Club on their usual day, please also inform the office prior to home time.

Communication

We do operate an open-door policy and welcome communication with parents/carers. We are available at pick up most days if you have any queries. You can also email the school office with any queries or messages for the attention of the class teacher. Please be assured that if we have any concerns about your child, we will get in touch with you. If you have any queries or messages about you child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you very much for your co-operation,

Mrs McNicholas and Mrs Reilly