



# Spring Term (1) 2024

## Reception Curriculum Letter

Mrs L Ainscough & Mrs N Cassidy



**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and are ready for a successful and exciting 2023 in Reception Class. We can't believe how fast time has gone and we are now starting our second term together. We are looking forward to lots more fun and learning during this term.

### Topic



Our topic in Reception for this half term is 'Are dragons real?' Please see attached curriculum overview which outlines what your child will be learning over the next few weeks. We have included as much information

as possible so that you have some ideas of the activities your child might have been up to while at school. Our main text for this half term is

'Marmaduke: A Very Different Dragon' by Rachel Valentine. Other texts your child will explore are The trouble with dragons, How to catch a dragon, The different dragon, The knight who wouldn't fight and The boy who grew dragons. We will also be looking at lots of non-fiction texts about China!



In the Early Years, alongside teaching explicit skills, planning from your child's interest is paramount for their development and enjoyment of each topic. To help with this we have included with this curriculum letter a 'planning map' for you to complete with your child. In the centre you will see our topic for this half term. Please can we ask you to have a short discussion with your child about what they would like to know about the different areas we are going to cover. From this we will then include these ideas in our planning so that your child receives a bespoke curriculum involving home, school and the child in the planning process. Many thanks for completing these for Autumn term 2. We were able to weave quite a few ideas of what your child wanted to know into our planning and we asked lots of questions along the way.

## Vocabulary

Here is a list of vocabulary, which we will be exploring during our topic this half term: **China, Chinese New Year, dragon, parade, happy, clean, dance, celebrate, lantern, zodiac, lunar, food, noodles, prawn crackers, rice, chopsticks, lion, flags, fortune cookies, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, race, river, twelve, money pocket, culture, landmarks, traditions.**

## Author of the Half Term

Our Author for Spring Term is Mick Inkpen! We will be reading lots of stories by Mick Inkpen and learning one by heart.



## Come and See (RE)

Our First 'Come and See' topic for Spring 1 will be 'Celebrating'. In this topic children will know and understand what a celebration is and how the parish family celebrate. They will talk about their own experiences and feelings about celebrations they have been part of and how the celebration was shared. They will recognise the story of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple and they will recognise that the church/parish family celebrate in particular ways. Following this, our 'Come and See' topic will be 'Gathering'. In this topic children will know and understand how and why people gather together and the joy of gathering together to celebrate at mass.

### A few notices:

- 🌻 We have a fantastic EYFS team across the Nursery and Reception class at St Mary's. In the Reception class there are three adults this year - Mrs Ainscough & Mrs Cassidy as the class teachers and the very experienced and talented Teaching Assistants Mrs Swarbrick. Mrs Ainscough will be the Class teacher Monday - Thursday and Mrs Cassidy will be the Class teacher on Friday.
- 🌻 All teachers have release time during the week for PPA (planning, preparation & assessment). Mrs Cassidy will be covering Mrs Ainscough's PPA time on a Thursday from 1.30 pm. Throughout the week we have small 'key worker' group time with either Mrs Ainscough, Mrs Cassidy or Mrs Swarbrick to sing songs/read stories/ opportunities for speaking and listening and 'Show and tell' including looking at 'magic' moments from home.
- 🌻 The children will do **P.E.** every **Friday afternoon**; **please can you make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit every Friday.**
- 🌻 Every day your child has access to a drink of milk after their lunch time. Please can you ensure that your child brings in a water bottle filled with water every day for them to access in the classroom.
- 🌻 We offer toast as an additional morning snack which will be incorporated into your child's learning each day. The school office will send information out as to when this will be starting and you will pay for this termly if you so wish.

## Outdoor Provision



Each day the children have access to outdoor provision which can get a little messy and wet. It is important that your child has a waterproof coat and wellies (which are to be left outside the Reception classroom) as we enjoy playing outside - whatever the weather! Please can you ensure that your child's belongings are **clearly labelled with their name**.

## Weekend News

Weekend News will be a new activity for the children in the New Year to develop the children's writing skills. Each week your child will be invited to write and draw a picture about what they have been doing at the weekend and outside of school. This will then be shared with the rest of the class during speaking & listening time. It may help your child if you have a brief chat with them about their weekend.



## Magic Moments

'Magic Moments' are one way in which you can contribute to your child's learning journey. They are to be completed by an adult when you see your child do something that perhaps you haven't seen before or make you go 'wow' or smile. Please add a photo or comment on Tapestry of your child's magic moment for us to share.

## Reading Books and Homework



Your child will be given a reading book when we feel they are ready for one. If your child has already been given a reading book please can you ensure that your child brings their reading book and reading record book into school on the day stated below (they have a coloured sticker on their plastic book bag). Their reading book will be changed (if needed) on this day only. Your child's reading book is important, however, this isn't the only book that they can read (or have a go at reading). Please encourage your child to read other books at home or in the library. If you wish to do so you can record the other books they are reading into their reading record book too. Homework is given out/uploaded onto Tapestry as and when your child's phonics teacher feels they have new learning to consolidate at home. This may be every day. Please can you upload your completed homework onto Tapestry. Thank you for all your support with homework!

## Reading book changing timetable

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| <u>Monday</u>    |        |
| <u>Tuesday</u>   | RED    |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | YELLOW |
| <u>Thursday</u>  | GREEN  |
| <u>Friday</u>    |        |

### Tapestry

Hopefully everyone is able to access Tapestry and are enjoying viewing your child's learning journal. If you have any difficulties accessing this please do ask and I can ensure you have full access to your child's area.

### Stay and Play

This half terms stay and play will be focussed around maths. The plan is to invite parents in over a few days to come and see how we teach maths in Reception class! This will be happening week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 in the mornings. Look out for more information regarding this.



Yours Sincerely

Mrs Lisa Ainscough & Mrs Nicola Cassidy  
Class Teachers

*With Christ We Live, We Love, We Learn, We Grow*

