



Reception Newsletter to Parents

Autumn 2024



Welcome to Reception! We are looking forward to inviting all of our children back! We are sure that they will be looking forward to making lots of new friends. The children will have lots of opportunities to explore their new environment over the next few weeks and will be adapting to the new routines. We're looking forward to an exciting year of learning.

Dear God,

Thank you for our holiday times and bringing us safely back to school. Help me to use my eyes to see new friends. Open my ears so that I may listen to my teacher. Open my mind to learn new things. Help me to learn and grow each and every day, so that I can do the very best I can throughout this new school year. Let my heart love everyone around me as you love us. Amen.

Meet the Reception Team:

St Luke's: Miss Edwards will teach in St Luke's on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs Walton will teach St Luke's on a Thursday and Friday. They will be supported by Miss Begum, Miss Henwood, Mrs Port and Mrs Oladeinde. (The children refer to Mrs Oladeinde as Mrs Ajoke.)

St Helen's: Mrs Whittet will teach in St Helen's. Mrs Whittet will be supported by Mr Browning, Mrs Williams, Mrs Antony and Mrs Menteshashvili. (The children refer to Mrs Menteshashvili as Mrs M.)

Uniform

Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled with the child's name. Only Reception children may wear their winter uniform at this time of the year; however, as the days are still warm, some children may be wearing the summer uniform. The children should wear the correct version of either the summer or the winter uniform, without mixing the two. If girls are sent into school in summer uniform, they should not be wearing the winter tights.

As it is still quite warm, the girls might want to wear school socks rather than tights if they are wearing winter uniform – this also makes it easier for them to manage when they go to the toilet.

At times, children may pick up uniform / bags belonging to another child. Should your child bring any uniform / bags home that do not belong to them, please return these items to school the next day.

Learning indoors as well as outdoors forms an integral part of the Early Years curriculum, it is important that children have a cardigan / jumper and waterproof coat with them each day as the weather is changeable.

Children should have a red school bag as indicated on the uniform list. Please don't add a variety of key rings to the bags. Although these may help the child to identify their bag, they can be a distraction and can make the bags too bulky to fit into the storage areas used in class. No jewellery may be worn – this includes earrings.

Learning can be messy at times, but this shows that the children have been practically involved in their learning. (See the end of the Newsletter).

Subject Information

RE: Creation & Covenant

This term, we will be focusing on the Creation story. Please read this story to your children if you have a Bible at home.

We will also be speaking about particular Scriptures in each of our R.E. topics. This term we will be speaking about Genesis 1: 3; 9; 24 – 26: "God saw that it was good".



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The children will also be learning prayers that are said in school each day. You may wish to say this prayer with the children before they go to bed at night, as this is the prayer that we say at the end of the day:

God our Father, I come to say, thank you for Your love today. Thank you for my family, and all the friends you give to me. Guard me in the dark of night, and in the morning, send Your light. Amen.

Phonics: We follow the 'Read, Write Inc.' phonics scheme. More information about our approach to teaching phonics will follow in the next few weeks.

Communication and Language & Topic work: Language and Communication skills, as well as the children's understanding of the natural world, the past, present, different cultures and communities are developed through our 'Topic' work. Each week, we will focus on a new learning question. Stories and discussions will focus on this learning question. Some of the learning questions and topic themes that we will explore in the autumn term include:

All about me, Autumn and Winter.

PE:

Both St Luke's and St Helen's will have P.E on a Tuesday. P.E sessions will begin from Tuesday 10th September. Children should come to school in their P.E kit and trainers with velcro fastenings and should wear their coloured P.E sports house shirt. (Each child's sports house was indicated on the letter that was sent out about their class allocation). The children will remain in the same sports house throughout their time at St Ursula's. The children will wear their P.E kit instead of their usual school uniform on P.E days. Children should still bring their school bags and a waterproof coat to school on this day.



Water bottles:

Children should have a refillable water bottle with them each day to remain hydrated throughout the day (no single-use plastic bottles, please). The child's name must be clearly visible.

Medical and SEND information

If this has not yet been done, please complete and return the information sheets that were sent home in the Admission Packs as soon as possible. Specific medication (such as Epipens & asthma pumps) should be sent to school with the appropriate forms. Any SEND information should be emailed to the School Office and should be addressed to Mrs Butler.



'Focus Children' – progress meetings

After the half-term break in October, 3 children from each class will become the 'Focus Children' each week. Each child will become a 'focus child' at least twice during the academic year. Although adults will consistently work at moving each child on in their learning, being a 'focus child' means that staff will place a greater emphasis on identifying specific areas to focus on in order for children to progress in their learning.

When a child is a 'focus child', parents will be invited into school to have a more in-depth discussion about the child's progress. During this discussion, parents will also be given the opportunity to look through the children's work. Parents will be notified a week in advance when your child is to be a 'focused child' in order to arrange a time to meet to discuss progress. More information will follow at a later stage.

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In addition to these in-depth discussions, each child will receive a detailed report in the Summer term. As meetings will be scheduled with the parents of 3 'focus children' each week, meetings will take place over a period of a few weeks. However, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff if there is anything you are unsure of.

School Dates: Please do continue to check our school calendar on our school website for any important dates and key events.

Friday 4th October – Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 11th October – Phonics Meeting for Reception Parents
Monday 28th October – October Half Term
Monday 4th November – INSET Day
Tuesday 5th November – Individual / Sibling Photographs
Friday 8th November – Parent Coffee Morning
Wednesday 4th December - Pantomime
Tuesday 12th November – Odd Socks Day
Friday 6th December – Parent Coffee Morning (Christmas Crafting)
Wednesday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13th December – EYFS Christmas concert (Reception parents only)
Friday 20th December – 1pm finish for Christmas break

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working together to help your child be the best that they can be!

The Reception Team

Learning Can Be Messy

Playing outside is so important. I run and jump and get lots of fresh air. Sometimes I might get grass or mud on my clothes.



Using a knife and fork at lunchtime is tricky! Sometimes I get food on my clothes!

I sometimes get pen and paint on my clothes! This is because I am developing creative skills and exploring lots of different ways of making amazing art!



Our mud kitchen is so much fun! I use all my senses, which is so important for my development. It also helps me use my imagination and practise playing with my friends nicely!

Exploring in the water tray is giving me lots of maths and scientific skills! I love pouring, filling and emptying! I usually wear an apron but sometimes my clothes get wet!



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Exploring with playdough and other messy play resources like foam or food, helps me to develop fine motor control and build up muscles and coordination in my hands and fingers. I will need these when I learn to write.



When I get messy, I have been showing curiosity, determination, persistence, imagination and confidence!