



Reception Newsletter Spring 2024



Welcome back to all our families after the Christmas break. We hope that you had a happy time celebrating this special season.

Thank you for all your kind messages, cards and gifts over the Christmas season - they are greatly appreciated! The children enjoyed their visit to the Church at the end of the term to join KS1 in telling the story of the Nativity. They worked hard at learning the words to the songs and enjoyed having such a large audience!

We're look forward to an exciting term of learning as the children continue to build on the good start made during the past term.

A prayer for the new year: Dear Lord, As the new year begins, I look to You for our hope, joy, and peace. Give me the courage to do all that You ask of me. Show me how to walk in grace and embrace Your love for me. Amen



Topics: During the first half of this term, we will be focussing on Winter, and will be asking 'Is it Winter Everywhere?' As we will discuss features associated with winter, it would be good to chat about the changes that the children observe in the weather and the environment on their journey to school or whilst out and about. As part of our work for 'Understanding the world' we will be learning about animals that live in the Arctic regions, and will compare different environments by also learning more about animals in very warm countries.

Sharing stories with the children is an important part of their vocabulary development, and we will continue to do this regularly. Some of the stories we will share will include 'Stick Man' (Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler), 'Lost and found' (Oliver Jeffers), 'Handa's Surprise' (Eileen Browne) 'Elmer in the Winter' (David McKee) and a variety of 'Little Bear' books (Martin Waddell). When visiting the local library, look out for these books to read at home as a bedtime story.



Reading: It has been pleasing to see that a number of children are beginning to receive their reading certificates. Please continue to support your children in developing their reading skills. Children should be reading to an adult at home at least **5 times** each week, as regular reading is required in order for them to reach the expected level in Reading by the end of the year.

R.E:

During the Spring term the children will be discussing the Epiphany and looking at the life of Jesus, preparing for Lent and the celebration of Easter.

Key dates:

Friday 26th January: Coffee morning

Thursday 8th February: Christian Unity Mass (Year 2 & 5 only)

Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday Service (Year 1 -6)

Friday 16th February: Inset Day (School Closed)

Monday 19th February -Friday 23rd February: Half-term Break

Friday 1st March: Coffee Morning

Thursday 7th March: Lent Penitential Mass (Year1 & 3 only)

Friday 8th March: World Book Day Dress up

Friday 15th March: Science Dress Up Day

Thursday 21st March: Easter Mass (Reception - Year 6)

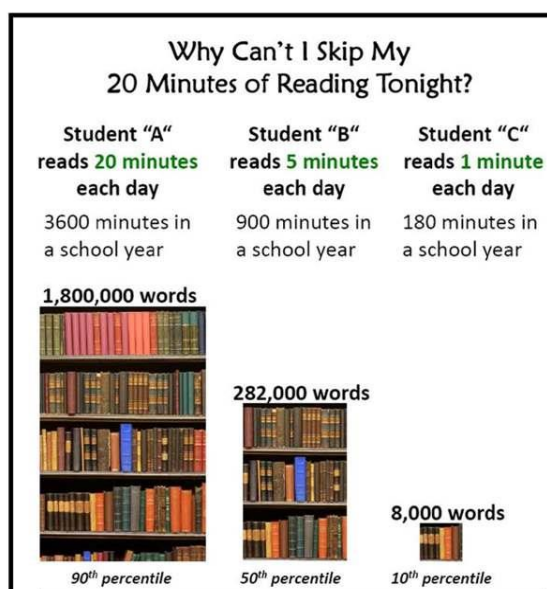
Thursday 28th March: Coffee morning (Easter Crafting)

Friday 29th March: Bank Holiday (School closed)

Monday 2nd - Friday 12th April: Easter break

Parent's Consultation sessions: We will continue the system of having 3 Focus Children each week, and will, therefore, make appointments to meet with parents following the week that your child is a 'Focus Child'. All parents will have met with the class teachers by the February half-term. Each child will then become a Focus Child once more following the February half-term. We hope that you are finding this format for the Parent's Consultation sessions useful, as it allows Staff to have a slightly longer discussion about each child and allows them to share their work with parents, which they are always very excited about!

A final thought:



By the end of Year 6, Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school ... and in life?

(Adapted from Nagy & Herman, 1987)