

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Spring Term in Reception Class

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! We look forward to another busy and successful term, building on the positive steps the children made in the Autumn.

Our focus for this half term will be 'Winter' and 'Cold Places'. After half term we will be looking at 'Chinese New Year', 'Superheroes' and 'Easter'. The Wow Event for this half term will focus on communication and technology.

Personal, Social & Emotional development – The children will continue to participate in circle times and class discussions where we will explore a 'Growth Mindset' with the help of Resilience the Mouse, Perseverance the Panda and Missy who makes mistakes. We will be exploring our differences and similarities through the book 'You Choose' and talking about 'Superhero' qualities. We will continue to introduce some 'Mindfulness' sessions through 'Sitting Still Like a Frog'.

Communication and Language- The children will have lots of opportunities to talk and listen each week. Through our Book Talk and Big Talk sessions they will explore books and pictures and continue to develop their language skills. We are working on sentence structure and extending the children's vocabulary. During our class assembly some children may choose to speak out in front of the school and parents.

Physical Development- Mr Chidgey (the school sports coach) will now be teaching PE sessions on Thursday afternoons. Swimming continues to be on Tuesday mornings at 10.00. The children have made excellent progress in their swimming. These sessions are an important part of our curriculum and should be taking part each week unless there is a good medical reason. There will be lots of opportunities for outdoor play and the children will continue to take part in Dough Disco, Funky Fingers and handwriting sessions to support fine motor development.

Literacy – The children are making excellent progress in phonics using the 'Read, Write, Inc' scheme. We are now focusing on the Set 2 sounds (two letters that make one sound) and will be sending home the cards to support this. The children have lots of opportunities to read throughout the week, including reading as part of the phonics lesson twice a week. If you haven't had a look at Bug Club yet then please take a look as there are lots of lovely books to support your child's reading. We encourage the children to write all of the time and in many different ways as possible. This will include writing in their books but also on whiteboards, large paper, chalk etc. We have 'Super Writer' capes that are worn on a Friday by children who have been doing lots of independent writing in the week.

Numeracy- The children will be working with numbers to 20 and we will be counting, recognising and ordering these. There will be a focus on understanding mathematical vocabulary and concepts such as more, less, fewer, add, take away, subtract etc. We will be encouraging the children to explain their reasoning and understanding when exploring mathematical problems and concepts. The children will be practising writing the numbers correctly. Through work linked with our topics the children will explore and name 2D/3D shapes and measure length, capacity and weight.

Understanding the World - Our 'Come and See' RE topics will be Celebrations, Gathering and Growing Welcome, Harvest and Birthdays. We will be going to visit the Church and explore some of the key features. Through our topics we will be exploring the seasons, especially Winter and will learn about 'Cold Places' and the animals that live in them. The children will continue to have opportunities to use the camera, laptops and Ipads. They will also explore 'control' with the remote control cars and the Bee bots.

Expressive Arts and Design- As last term, there will be lots of opportunities to create collages, paintings, sing and explore the instruments. The children will be mixing paints, drawing pictures and making use of role play areas such as 'Polar Explorers', a Chinese restaurant and 'Superhero Headquarters'. The children really enjoy using the construction toys and we will be looking at developing their ideas further.

Please check the board outside for notices and a message about what we are doing that day. There will also be information on the website: www.st-georges-somerset.org.uk

Reading books- These are changed on a Monday and Friday. Please make sure the books and Reading Records stay in your child's book bags all of the time even if they haven't read as sometimes we need them in class. **Please sign the Reading Record when your child has read so we know that we can give them a new book.**

Golden Tickets- These can be earned every Friday by reading their book or by being read to. Please sign the Reading Record book and if a child has 5 entries in their book in a week then they earn a Golden Ticket to go in the draw to win a prize.

We need to keep the children's PE kits in school please as we may ask them to put their daps on when using the bikes/trikes outside to save wear and tear on their shoes. **Please name everything including daps.**

Dates for your diaries –

Parents Evenings- Monday 5th or Tuesday 6th February You should have already received a letter asking you to select a preferred day and time slot.

Reception Class Assembly- Wednesday 14th March at 3.00 p.m. in the hall.

Family FUNs- the Tuesday group starts on 23rd January and continues for 6 weeks. The last session for the Friday group is this week on 26th January.

Yours Sincerely

Amanda Weetch and The Reception Class team