

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Mark Braund

Welcome to Reception Class

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Autumn Term! We look forward to working together with you and your child so that everyone has an enjoyable and successful year ahead.

Firstly, let me introduce the team. I am the class teacher supported by Mrs Marion Parker, Mrs Debbie Bathram, Mrs Bryany Cox, Mrs Marta Thomas and Miss Anna Blackmore. Mrs Julie Smith will be teaching swimming on Tuesday mornings and Mrs Veronica Price will be supporting our ICT sessions. Mrs Murray and Mrs Tohall will be our lunchtime assistants.

Our focus for this half term will be 'About Me'. Each half term we also hold a 'Wow' event and this half term our school focus will be on 'letters'. After half term the Wow will be linked to History. We will be looking at the theme of 'Dinosaurs' and then moving into Advent and Christmas themes.

Personal, Social & Emotional development – This year we will be following the 'God Matters' RE scheme and our topics will be Creation, Prayer, Saints & Feasts, Advent and Christmas. We will also explore Harvest and join in our school celebration. Through circle time and pupil discussions we will talk through the golden rules, sharing, taking turns and familiarising themselves with the classroom and the school. Throughout our 'About Me' topic we will be talking about our likes/dislikes, similarities/differences and how we feel about new experiences. We will be introducing some 'Mindfulness' sessions where the children will experience some quiet times and reflection. They may well talk about 'sitting still like a frog'!

Communication and Language- Across the school we use Somerset Talk and Communication signs for the names of staff, good morning & afternoon, please, thank you and many more. The children will experience shared and individual reading of stories. They will be able to use role play in our home corner and have lots of opportunities to develop and extend their use of language. We will also focus on nursery and number rhymes.

Physical Development- Mr Chidgey will be leading PE sessions on Thursday afternoons. Swimming will be on Tuesday mornings at 10.00. There will be lots of opportunities for outdoor play and we support the children's development in fine motor skills through Dough Disco and Funky Fingers sessions.

Literacy - We will teach phonics daily using the 'Read, Write, Inc' scheme. The children will practice recognising and writing their name, complete handwriting tasks and engage in mark making and writing activities related to our topic. Children will have access to lots of rhymes and books linked to 'About Me'. To begin with the children will choose a 'Sharing' book from our book box outside. These are not books that the children are expected to read but are ones for you to read, discuss and enjoy with your child. At an appropriate time for your child we will introduce children to our school's reading scheme. There will be a meeting to talk about phonics and reading.

Numeracy- The children will participate in activities that explore number rhymes, counting games,

recognition and writing of numbers to 10/20, colour recognition, sorting, measuring, using 2D shapes, days of the week and months of the year. We will be introducing and using lots of mathematical vocabulary such as more/less/fewer.

Understanding the World - The children will explore & investigate their new surroundings- both indoor & outdoor. They will name and learn about the parts of their body and explore similarities and differences between themselves e.g. hair and eye colour. We will be talking about our families and where they come from around the world. The children will have opportunities to use the camera, laptops and Ipads.

Expressive Arts and Design- There will be opportunities to create portraits, collages, paintings and join in with lots of singing. The children will also use 'Music Express' and Charanga (an online music resource) and use their bodies to make sounds and explore large/ small, fast/slow movements. The children will use the construction toys to make their own models. We will be celebrating 'International Dot Day' and using this as inspiration for creative tasks.

We put notices about what we are doing and write important messages on the whiteboard outside the classroom so please look at this each day. There will also be information on the website: www.st-georges-somerset.org.uk

Dates for your diaries –

Week commencing 10th September all children will stay for lunch and be picked up at 1.35pm.

Week commencing 17th September all children will be in school until 3.30pm. If you have any concerns regarding your child attending school full time please come and talk to us.

17th and 19th September- Opportunity to come in after school and ask how your child is settling in if you wish.

Read, Write, Inc phonics/reading meeting- Tuesday 18th September at 3.00 p.m. in the classroom.

Harvest Festival– Friday 12th October at 9.30 a.m. in the school hall.

Parents Evenings- There will be two parents evenings held in the Autumn Term. These will be held to talk about how your child is settling in. They will be held on **Monday 22nd October 5.30-7.00 and Tuesday 23rd October 3.30-5.30**. You will receive a letter nearer the time to arrange a time-slot.

Please keep the children's PE kits in school as we may ask them to put their daps/trainers on when using the bikes/trikes outside to save wear and tear on their shoes. The PE kit should be in a clearly named drawstring bag so that it hangs easily from a hook. Swimming kits will be needed on Tuesdays. The children need a swimming hat, one piece costume (no bikinis/tankinis please) and a suitable towel. **Please name everything including daps/trainers.**

Children won't need to bring in pencil cases as we have all necessary equipment in school. We also encourage children not to bring in any toys from home as these can get lost or damaged which can cause an upset. However, if everybody could provide a box of tissues it would help towards comforting runny noses throughout the year.

ALL their clothing, bags and water bottles MUST be clearly named to avoid upsets and misunderstandings.

Once the children have settled in we value help in the class by changing reading books or playing games with groups. If you are able to help then please let us know.

Yours Sincerely

Amanda Weetch and The Reception Class team

