

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Mark Braund

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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 Barthram and Mrs Liz Lodge. Mr Jake Chidgey, Mrs Olivia Ely and Mrs Sonia Buck will teach PE and swimming. Mr Neil White will be supporting our ICT sessions. Mrs Christine Tohall, Mrs Lodge and Miss Walkman will be our lunchtime assistants.

Our focus for this half term will be 'Here We Are'. There is an overview of the topic on the Reception Class page of the school website. Each half term we also hold a 'Wow' event and this half term our school focus will be on Speaking & Listening. After half term we will have a focus on Celebrations which will include Advent, Hanukkah and Christmas.

The children made a great start last week and have settled very well. Once the children are in fulltime then we ask that you drop your child at the large blue gate to our small outside area and let them walk in by themselves. We found that last year this really helped the children to develop independence and enabled the morning routine to go very smoothly. If you have a short message then you will be able to pass it on to us at the gate but if there isn't an opportunity, or for longer messages, then I can be contacted via email at ACWeetch@educ.somerset.gov.uk. I will be able to check this at lunchtime and after school so if there is an urgent message please phone or email the school office. I may not be able to reply to emails straight away but will get back to you as soon as I can.

RE- This year we will be following the Clifton Diocese RE scheme and our topics for this term will be 'In the Beginning' and 'Called and Chosen'. We will also explore Harvest and join in our school celebration.

Personal, Social & Emotional development –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 'Here We Are' 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- This is a key area and the children will have lots of opportunities to engage with books and stories. This year we will be using 'The Poetry Basket' and 'Helicopter Stories' to support the children in their language development. They will be able to use role play in our home corner and will also focus on nursery and number rhymes.

Physical Development- Mr Chidgey will be leading PE sessions on Thursday afternoons. On Tuesdays the children will either be swimming or will have a PE session with Mrs Buck. There will be lots of opportunities for outdoor play and we support the children's development in both gross and fine motor skills through 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' and Funky Fingers sessions, including dough disco.

Literacy - We will teach phonics daily using the 'The Little Wandle' phonics 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 'Here We Are'. To begin with the children will choose a 'Sharing' book from our book box. 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 the children to our school's reading scheme. There will be a meeting to talk about phonics and you will be given a pack to support this.

Maths- The children will participate in activities that explore number rhymes, counting games, matching, sorting and comparing. We will be subitising (recognising how many there are without counting) and exploring how these numbers to 5, then 10 are composed. This will include exploring vocabulary such as more, less and fewer. The children will be using 2D shapes, making patterns and look at the days of the week. We will also use Numberblocks, alongside activities supported by the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics to ensure the children are secure in their understanding of Numbers.

Understanding the World – We will use ideas from the book 'Here We Are (Notes from Planet Earth)' to support the children in exploring & investigating 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. We will be talking about how they have grown and changed. 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 singing. We will have a focus on Nursery Rhymes as these are important in the development of reading. The children will also use 'Kapow' (an online music resource) and use their bodies to explore vocal and body sounds. The children will use the construction toys to make their own models. Our role play area will start as a home corner and then change throughout the term, depending on the children's interests.

There is a board outside the classroom where we will write down something that your child will be doing each day. The class page on the website will have copies of important letters and topic overviews. The Google Classroom page is currently being set up and on there we will be adding photos etc. You will soon receive a letter asking for your permission and instructions for how to join your child on to our class page.

Dates for your diaries –

Week commencing 20th September all children will be in school from **9.00am until 3.30pm**. The classroom door opens at 8.50am. If you have any concerns regarding your child attending school full time please come and talk to us.

Friday 1st October- Reading Meeting in the school hall at 2.55pm.

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th September- Parents Evenings For Reception Class this is a chance to talk about how the children are settling in. You will be able to book these through the school website (an email will be sent to explain this)

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. **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 clothing, bags and water bottles MUST be clearly named to avoid upsets and misunderstandings please.

Please contact us if you have any worries or concerns.

Yours Sincerely

Amanda Weetch and The Reception Class team