



Reception Weekly Newsletter

Term: Autumn Term 1

Week: 2

Week beginning: 20.09.2024

Religious Education Directory – To know you more clearly

This week we began our Journey into 'To know you more clearly' which is the Religious Education strand of our school curriculum. We have started with the topic of The Creation and the children's learning is based around the introduction of The Bible as a very special book because of the wonderful stories of Jesus that it contains. In the coming weeks, the children will explore all about how God made the world and themselves and what we are taught in the Scripture. This week we learnt how to make the Sign of the Cross and learnt some of our school prayers. We discussed how when we pray, we are talking to God and how this can be by sharing prayer together or by staying silent and making a silent prayer in our heads. The children have taken this on board and been very respectful during this important time.

Baseline assessment

You may be aware that as children enter Reception, they will be involved in statutory baseline assessment. This is undertaken during the 1st 6 weeks of starting school and consists of a series of short practical tasks that assess the children in language, communication and Literacy and Mathematics in a fun play based way. Children are not given a score for this and nor do we receive any detailed information about how the children have fared in these assessments as it is solely used as a Government measure of assessing whole school progress at the end of Year 6. The children have been completing these tasks as part of their daily learning in addition to our own baseline observations of the children's development in relation to their own EYFS journey. If you have any questions about this, do not hesitate to ask but more information is provided on the link below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d18cdcd107658faec7e3d1/2024_Information_for_parents_reception_baseline_assessment.pdf

Safeguarding

If someone other than yourselves are picking up your children or there is a change to home time collection, don't forget to let us know in writing via a note in a book bag, an email or phone call to the school office or even a message on the Class Dojo. You can also remind us at the gate in the morning. Thanks to everyone who has done this this week.

Snack

The children have enjoyed fresh fruit and milk and learning the routines of our self- service snack area since starting at school but our snack menu began properly today where the children enjoyed preparing and eating crackers and cheese.

Snack will be provided in the morning and fresh fruit and milk will be available in addition. Then during the afternoon session, children are welcome to have more fruit if they would like.

Home Learning

Each week we will send some home learning tasks that are linked to what the children have been doing in school. This will go home on a Friday and will need to be returned to school by the following **Wednesday at the latest** in order that we can look at the books before returning them to you at the end of the week with a new task.

This week we would love to know the story of your child's name. What does it mean? Why did you choose it? Does it have any special significance?

Communication, Language and Literacy

We have linked our CLL this week to our personal, social and emotional development and our Understanding the world areas of learning. We read 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas and 'Pete the cat – Rocking in my school shoes' by Eric Litwin. We talked about the different colours that the monster had and associated that to our feelings. We discussed when we might have had feeling like this, especially the mixed up feelings. WE then talked about starting school and the different areas of school that Pete explored and how he wasn't sad but instead rocked in his school shoes. The children created their own colour monsters for a display and we completed our very first piece of writing in our books – Super proud!



Maths

This week we began our Maths No Problem Curriculum in line with the rest of the school.

These scheme uses Mastery in maths techniques and focuses on the CPA (concrete, pictorial, abstract) approach to teaching and learning mathematics. This involves the children using manipulative materials to aid their understanding and problem solving. This allows for greater depth in learning as children are able to explore mathematical concepts at their own level and are taught how to problem solve effectively and are encouraged to explain their reasoning.

Our first topic this week has been matching and the children have looked at matching in different ways, beginning with direct matching, then matching objects by function building up to matching objects by number. We looked at whether objects that were in different orientations could be matching or objects with different but shared properties. The children enjoyed completing their workbooks and could talk through their decisions. Next week we will move on to sorting.

Class Dojo

Thank you to everyone who has accepted the link for our Class Dojo, we cannot wait to start sharing photographs with you to show your child's learning. We introduced Class Dojo to EYFS last year and for those who are not familiar with it, this is an online portal exclusive to Reception (and now Y1) families. We feel it has been really successful in increasing our communication with families even more than before and allows us to have a two-way stream of children's learning and achievements. It allows us to keep you updated with snapshots of your child's learning and the play and activities that they are doing in school. As the children are learning, we can capture photographs and videos and it is a really useful tool as it allows you as your child's primary educators and caregivers to send in to us your observations from home too. If you haven't yet signed up, you should have received an email this asking you to click on a link. Please check your junk/spam folders for this.

Once you have accepted the link, this allows the portal to be open and is ready for us to send you your child's learning stories. You should be a member of both your individual child's class and then also the whole 'Reception' group as we post our class stories via that group but send out photographs and messages from the class accounts. Any issues with this, please let us

Phonics

Since starting school, the children have been doing some informal phonics sessions and we have been strengthening our phonological awareness by listening to sounds both in the environment and musical / animal and identifying them and then listening to initial sounds in words and segmenting the different sounds in words.

This is Level 1 phonics, much of which your children will have been doing in nursery. This week we have moved on to Level 2 where we begin to learn letters and sounds.

Our school uses the Twinkl phonics scheme and each day as the children learn a new letter sound, they have a story to go alongside and learn a song and an action alongside an image as a mnemonic for remembering each sound.

Each week we will send home a parent information sheet with some information about the sounds and the sounds themselves to be kept in a wallet and used as flashcards to help your child. The more these are used, the better your child will be at recalling the sound that goes with each letter and then will be able to use these sounds to blend in order to read.

This week we met the Twinkl phonics family which are characters that are in the daily story used as context for the children learning a new sound and these characters will continue during their learning as they move throughout KS1.

This week are sounds (or phonemes) were s a t p

Children will learn a new phoneme each day and then at the end of the week will have more application if reading and writing these sounds. The children have loved learning these this week and have attempted our writing challenge to write the letters in chalk outside.

Other Information

If you still have to return your slip detailing home time collection, could we ask that you do that next week as we have not received them all back yet. If you require another copy, please ask at the door.

Thanks