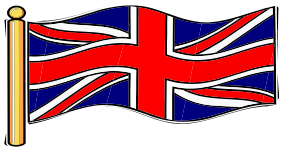
Foundation Stage News - Summer Term 2019





Dear Parents,
Welcome back to the new term after what we hope was a restful and enjoyable Easter break. The children are all keen to be back in school and are ready to continue their learning. We cannot believe that they are about to begin their third and final term in the Foundation Stage! Time certainly does fly when you are having fun! The children have already achieved so much in their first two terms at St. Mary's and we are looking forward to witnessing them achieve even greater things in what promises to be a busy and very exciting term.

Our learning journey

In the Foundation Stage, we believe that the best way to engage children fully in their learning is to be flexible and allow them to have control over the directions in which their learning journey takes them. Your children's interests led to some very exciting learning last term with activities about 'Super Heroes', garden birds and ways to save our planet. All planning is flexible and will be adapted and changed to meet individual children's needs, interests and threads of learning.

This term we are visiting Dell Quay where we will be looking for creatures on the shoreline, we will combine this with a trip aboard the Solar Heritage, their solar-powered boat, to experience the Harbour from the water! I have made a date in the diary to visit Ingfield Manor School in June to share a Forest School session.

We are excited about sharing a piece of land in the corner of Pocket Park. The Recreation & Open Spaces Committee have agreed to let students of St Mary's School have use of the north eastern corner of Pocket Park for things like planting and making bug hotels.

We will use these themes as a context to help your children continue to develop key skills such as reading, writing, communication and mathematics.

Communication and Language

This term we will be continuing to learn Letters and Sounds using a combination of the 'Letters and Sounds', and 'Jolly Phonics' programmes. The children will also be learning High Frequency and tricky words. The children are being encouraged to use their sound knowledge to write simple CVC words (e.g. cat) and to make an attempt at more complicated words.

The children will be listening to familiar stories in class and will be asked to talk about what they think will happen next, and retell them in order. The children will be working on their letter formation especially focusing on trying to get letters consistent in size and accuracy.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The main aim of Reception is to provide an environment where the children can develop into independent, confident children. To achieve this we encourage the children to work harmoniously with others by following the Golden Rules. This develops their understanding of what is right and wrong and why.

This term the children will be encouraged to show independence in selecting and carrying out activities, initiating ideas and speaking and working in groups. The children are encouraged to take turns in conversations and games and to have an awareness of their own needs and the needs of others. We shall be developing these skills through whole class circle times.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creative development is present in all areas of the foundation curriculum. The children have access to activities every day, which encourage, promote and celebrate creativity. The children have access to musical instruments, role-play areas, puppets and a creative area where they can make a variety of objects. The adult led creative activities are connected to each weekly theme where we encourage the children to talk about what they are doing.

Physical Development

Physical development is not only about what we do in P.E as it is present in all areas from using scissors and pencils, to kicking a ball and using climbing equipment. The children will be working on building their skills using tools and P.E equipment, as well as using their bodies in different ways for movement and dance. The children are always encouraged to use small and large equipment for physical development.

Maths

The children will continue to work on recognising and writing numbers to 20 and beyond. They will continue to practise counting in steps of 2 up to 20 and in steps of 10 up to 100.

The children will have the opportunity to sort many different small world creatures and talk about different possibilities such as 'lives under the sea' and 'lives on the land' or 'has 4 legs' and 'does not have 4 legs.'

Swimming

This term we will be swimming on Thursday afternoons. The children will need a towel and a swimming hat if their hair is shoulder length. Please speak to me if you can help. Please remember to check if your child needs verruca socks and that written permission is needed for children to wear goggles.

R.E.

Our topics this term are 'Getting to know Jesus' and 'Trust'. The children will be encouraged to learn respect for each other through the lessons Jesus taught and from examples set. We will be visiting St. Mary's church with our buddy classes China and Mexico.

Work at home

Please encourage your child to talk about the topics which they are learning about, and to bring in any photographs or other items which are relevant to our theme. We would appreciate any books/models that might be inspired by our learning at school.

We are enjoying reading all about the children's special moments at home. I will keep popping the prompts in the book bags for the new term, so keep sending these in. Also, photographs sent to our email address are great. These can then be pasted into the Learning Journals.

Our Allotment

This term the children will be sewing beans, herbs, radishes, sweet peas and many other flowers and vegetables. The children will spend a lot of time outside in our garden, looking after the flowers and vegetables, watering, looking at insects, examining, using their senses which are all lasting childhood experiences. It looks like a very busy term!!



Ways to help your child

Reading— Encourage reading by looking at favourite stories and books. Act out a story using soft toys or use the internet together to find out about the things they love. Make sure you use the log book to communicate with us about their reading!

Phonics - play eye-spy getting your child to look for items that start with a given letter sound instead of a letter name, make up silly rhyming sentences or clap out the individual sounds in simple words (eg p-i-n).

Maths skills - look for numbers, shapes and patterns in the places you visit together, count everyday objects and talk about how many more/less/altogether or sort them in to groups to show similarities and differences.

Mark making - practice making the letters that children have been learning in 'Letters and Sounds'. Think fun, do not just use pencil and paper: make up a dance by making movements in the air, paint them with finger paints, ice them on to a cake or even write them in sand if you visit the beach!



The Request Spot!

Thank you to everyone who is bringing in junk modelling materials. We love to have interesting boxes, tubes, plastic lids and trays to make a huge variety of models. Huge cardboard boxes are particularly welcome.

We are very much looking forward to another exciting term of learning. Our class assembly is scheduled for Thursday 4th July.

Please come and speak to us if there are any concerns this term.

Forest School sessions will continue every Wednesday.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 15th May – visit to Dell Quay

Wednesday 5th June – Austria trip to Ingfield Manor for a Forest School session

Trip to St. Mary's Church tbc.

Thursday 4th July Austria class assembly.

The Early Years Team