



St Paul's
Primary School

EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and would like to wish you all a very happy New Year. We would also like to say a very big thank you for all of the lovely gifts we received. We are very grateful.

This half term's theme:

This half term we will be focusing on **Traditional Tales**. We will be reading a selection of well-known stories and exploring the characters and events, and using them to retell and create our own stories. The children in Nursery will be focusing on developing their fine motor skills leading into mark making and early letter formation. Reception will be using their phonic knowledge to write words, labels and captions.

Possible Trips:

We are currently in the process of arranging our first trip, which will hopefully be to the Steam and Water Museum. This will be an all day trip. More details will be sent home once the date has been confirmed.

Learning at Home:

There are lots of ways that you can support your child with their learning at home. Here are a few:

- Sharing stories – as often as you can and in different ways e.g. audio books, CBeebies bedtime stories, magazines etc.
- Talking about what they see when out and about – talk about the changes to the trees, the different types of transport, numbers in the environment, different buildings etc.
- Cooking together – talking about how a mixture changes, measuring ingredients and counting actions, physically mixing and stirring etc.
- Taking responsibility – encouraging your child to complete small jobs such as picking up their toys, laying out their clothes for the morning, helping to feed their pet etc.
- Imaginative play – set up a shop and encourage your child to be the shop keeper, use their toys to tell stories, build towers and see who can go the fastest/ highest etc.
- Playing board games – encouraging your child to take turns and follow rules, counting spots on a dice/ movements to be taken etc.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes – sing songs from films, from the radio, whilst in the car and encourage your child to make up their own songs.

Reading Books:

Book bags will continue to be collected in on **Wednesday** and returned on Thursday. Please ensure you sign the red reading log every week.

Good roots run deep.

This term, Nursery children will begin to bring home two books. A library book which has been chosen by your child and a picture book from the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme. These books have no words. Please encourage your child to talk about what they can see in the pictures; what the characters are doing and what is happening.

Reception children will continue to bring home three books. A library book, which is for you to read to them, a phonics book and an Oxford Reading Tree book. Please encourage your child to use their phonic skills to read the words. A list of tricky words (words which should be read by sight) will be sent home this week.

Phonics:

This term Nursery will be focusing on rhyme and alliteration. They will be reading lots of rhyming stories and playing games which encourage them to identify rhyming words. To develop your child's awareness and confidence you could read books which include rhyming words, sing songs and nursery rhymes and point out the rhyming words. There are also published games which focus on developing rhyming skills such as slimy rhymes (https://www.orchardtoys.com/dept/language-literacy-games_d0121.htm).

Reception will be continuing their journey through the Read Write Inc Phonics Scheme. The children will be focusing on reading words, including tricky words, and writing captions and simple sentences. Please encourage your child to complete the weekly homework tasks as they will help to develop their learning in school. You can also play games such as match and spell (https://www.orchardtoys.com/buy/match-spell-game_5.htm) and watch Alphablocks on CBeebies to support your child as they learn to blend words.

PE:

Nursery PE lessons will take place on **Tuesday** morning. Please ensure your child comes to school in trainers and comfortable clothes. This term we will be focusing on moving safely in the large hall space and developing control and coordination.

Reception PE lessons will take place on **Wednesday** afternoon. They will need their PE kits which consists of:



Black shorts

White t-shirt

Plimsols

This half term we will be focusing on gymnastics. The children will be developing their spatial awareness and learning the 5 basic gymnastic shapes. They will be using a range of apparatus including the large climbing frame. Please ensure that earrings are removed and that your child has shorts – no leggings or jogging bottoms please.

Good roots run deep.

Clothing.

Please ensure that your child comes to school in appropriate clothing for the weather and for the day. Reception children should wear the correct school uniform every day.

Children are welcome to wear wellies on wet days, but please ensure they have a set of shoes that they can change into upon arrival.

ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Dates for your Diaries:

16th January – Curriculum Enrichment Day (children will take part in a circus skills workshop)

27th January – St Paul's Week (events taking place across the school)

30th January – Year 2 to lead the St Paul's Service in the Church (all welcome)

11th February – Safer internet Day

14th February – INSET Day (School closed for pupils)

17th February – Half Term Holiday

3rd March – Writing Week (events taking place across the school)

6th March – World Book Day (Children come to school dressed as their favourite book character)

10th & 11th March – Parents Evenings (more details to follow)

Dates for the entire school year can be found on the school website.

If you have any questions please speak to a member of the Early Years Team.

Many thanks,

Mrs Riley, Mrs Ezame, Miss Weeks and Mrs Kellay

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