



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School



Autumn Term 2024-25 Curriculum Newsletter

Year Group: Reception

Staff: Miss Vanacore, Mrs Burke, Mrs Greenan

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic, restful summer holiday and made lots of memories with your families. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school and hear all about their summer adventures. The children have settled so well and are really enjoying exploring their new learning environment. They are definitely enjoying being big boys and girls in Reception, especially as they get to play on the big playground at lunchtime! There are a few key dates to be aware of this term so please take the time to look at the diary at the end of this newsletter.



Curriculum

Reading

Reading is a key part of our early years curriculum. Lots of what the children learn is brought to life through stories. We encourage the children to explore books regularly to enhance their imagination and vocabulary. This term we will be reading many stories linked to our themes of pirates and traditional tales. Later in the term, the children will be beginning to bring books home to share with parents. More information on this to follow.

Religious Education

The children will learn about the following topics:
 Myself -The children will learn about families. They will learn that they are special and precious to God and He knows their names.
 Welcome -The children will learn that they have their home families but are also part of a school family that welcomes them.
 Birthdays - The children will begin to learn about how getting ready for Christmas is not just about presents but the story of how Jesus was born.

Understanding the World

The children are constantly learning about the world around them in early years. Whilst a lot of learning is 'ad-hoc' and heavily led by the children, we will be focusing on some specific areas. We will explore the changes in the seasons from summer to autumn and then to winter. We will begin to explore materials and their properties. We will also be learning about floating and sinking, and recognising the different parts of a pirate ship.

Writing

This term, we will be working on developing the fundamentals for writing. This includes a comfortable pencil grip, appropriate body positioning for effective writing and exploring a variety of tools and materials for mark making. This term, the children will be practising writing their first names, using the correct letter formation. Once they have mastered this, they will move onto practising forming the rest of the letters of the alphabet.

Physical Development

This term, the children will work on their fine motor skills through 'funky fingers' activities to strengthen the muscles in their hands to get ready for writing. We will also help the children develop their cutting skills. During PE lessons and outdoor play, the children will work on their gross motor skills, through jumping, balancing, rolling and travelling in different ways. They will begin to explore some skills involved in throwing and catching.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children express themselves in many different ways through singing, role play and creating. This term we will be learning some nursery rhymes and songs, practising and performing poetry and creating pictures and models using a variety of materials. When engaging in role play activities, we will be encouraging the children to use expressive voices and to 'get into character'. This will also be developed through their reading practice.

Maths

This term, the children will be exploring the maths that is familiar to them. For example, counting, patterns, positional language (behind, in front, on top of, below etc), matching and sorting. We will also be exploring numbers up to 5, some 2D shapes and beginning to learn about length, height, weight and capacity. We will be looking at numbers shown in a range of ways using physical materials as well as written numbers.

Phonics

The children will begin their Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics journey this term. We will begin by exploring single letters sounds (s,a,t,p,i,n.. etc.) We will also be working on oral sound recognition; learning to identify initial sounds in words and blending sounds they hear in words e.g., c-a-t.. 'cat!'. Once the children are able to recognise sounds written as letters and blend them to read short words, they will bring some reading practice books home.

Personal, Social and Emotional

As the children settle into their new routines in Reception, we will be working on developing some fundamental social skills to help them achieve their full potential. We will be encouraging the children to play in all areas, not just their favourite! We like to mix the friendship groups too to allow for new experiences. We are working on manners this term, saying please and thank you at lunchtime and offering to hold doors open. We are also exploring emotions to help the children to self-regulate.

Parents' Information Page

PE Days

Just a reminder that Reception will be doing PE activities on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**.

On those days, the children should come to school in their PE kit as follows –

White t-shirt/ polo shirt

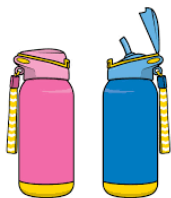
Black shorts/ leggings/ jogging bottoms
(plain please)

Green St. Augustine's hoodie or plain black/
navy/ grey

Trainers

Please no brightly coloured hoodies or leggings and no logos.

Thank you.



Snack & Water Bottles

School will provide a fruit or veg snack daily.

Water bottles should be brought to school daily. Please ensure that it is labelled with their name and contains water only. Please no fruit juice, flavoured water or fizzy drinks.

Thursday 26th September

Breakfast and a Book – We would like to invite you to our first breakfast and a book event where you can share a book and a light snack with your child. You can come in with your child from **8:30am** and are welcome to stay until **9:30am**.

Sunday 20th October – Family Mass 10am

**26th October – 3rd November inclusive–
Half term**

(School closed)

Tuesday 3rd December

Stay and Play – We will be hosting our first stay and play of the year where you will be invited to get involved with some activities in our classroom with your child.

You can come in with your child from **10:30am** and are welcome to stay until

11:30am.