



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Autumn Term 2025-26 Curriculum Newsletter

EYFS

Mrs Eilbeck, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Hall

We hope your child has enjoyed their first few weeks settling into their new class. This year will be exciting and busy and we want to support you in every way we can. You will receive information about whole school matters through school letters or parent mail, but we also wanted to send you our own information about EYFS through a newsletter.

Throughout the year, we will be working within the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage. These are:

- **Communication and Language:** This is the development of children's spoken language, which underpins all seven areas of learning and development.
- **Physical Development:** Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Children's personal, social and emotional development is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives and is fundamental to their cognitive development.
- **Literacy:** It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading.
- **Mathematics:** Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically.
- **Expressive Arts and Design:** The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity.
- **Understanding the World:** Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community.

Themes in EYFS

Each half term we have a different theme to explore, we use this as a delivery vehicle to support the children to have the essential knowledge they need to know at a particular time in the year. For our first Autumn half term, our theme is 'Marvellous Me!' Your child will learn about why they are precious, building friendships and exploring their likes and dislikes. They will explore how they are special and unique and talk about their family. They will take part in practical activities to support them to build new friendships and explore what makes a good friend. You can support your child at home by looking at family photographs together and discussing who is part of your family and extended family, look at baby photographs and talk about how they have grown, ask questions about your child's likes and dislikes, can they give a reason as to why they like/dislike something? Talk about the things you like to do together and places you like to go.

Nursery Phonics

Nursery children will develop their listening skills through fun activities such as songs, rhymes, and games. They will learn to tune into sounds around them, preparing the foundations for recognising letters and words later on.

Reception Phonics

Sounds Write

This term, we will introduce the Initial Code sounds. The children will begin to learn how to blend and segment with these sounds. Reading books will begin to come home this term too.

Number Nursery

Children will explore numbers, shapes, and patterns through play and everyday activities. They will begin to develop counting skills, compare sizes, and build an early understanding of problem-solving.

Reception

The children will be learning about how numbers work! They will be introduced to different representations of numbers and begin to work with 5 frames to show their understanding. The children will also begin to learn about subitising (where they can see the quantity of a group without needing to count) and use these skills to help with addition and subtraction.

Writing

Nursery will explore mark making, stories and sounds. For Reception, It is really important for the children to begin to learn how to write their letter sounds correctly. This term we will be focusing on correct letter formation and how to write small words (cvc) e.g. mad, sat, pig etc. The children will be given lots of opportunities to write throughout the day in their work and play.

Religious Education

The children will continue to follow the 'Come and See' programme as part of their Catholic faith. Topics covered this term will include;

Myself:

The children will learn about families. They will learn that they are special and precious to God and He knows their names.

Welcome:

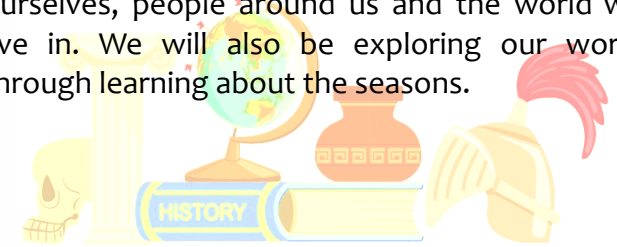
The children will begin to learn about how they belong. They have their home families but that they are also part of a school family that welcomes them and sees how special they are.

Birthdays:

The children will begin to learn about how getting ready for Christmas is not just about expecting presents but is about the story of how Jesus was born.

Understanding the World

We begin the Autumn Term by learning about ourselves, people around us and the world we live in. We will also be exploring our world through learning about the seasons.



Physical Development

In Physical Development, children will strengthen their gross motor skills through activities like climbing, running, and balancing, as well as their fine motor skills through cutting, drawing, and using small tools. They will learn how to move their bodies with control and coordination while building confidence in trying new physical challenges. Children will also begin to understand the importance of keeping healthy through good hygiene, eating well, and staying active.

Expressive Arts and Design

In Expressive Arts and Design, children will explore their creativity through painting, drawing, music, role play, and building with different materials. They will learn to express their ideas and imagination while developing confidence to experiment and share their creations with others.

Parents' Information Page

PE Days and Outdoor Learning

Our PE kit days are **Thursday and Friday**. Please send your child to school in their PE uniform on this day.

Outdoor Learning

We encourage outdoor play in all weathers for the children to explore the natural environment and the world around them. These are some of the reasons why we incorporate outdoor learning:

- The positive impact it has on the health and wellbeing of young people.
- It helps to develop responsible and independent young people, with lifelong appreciation of the natural world.
- The outdoors improve children's social and communication skills which are essential.
- Being outdoors in all weathers can be beneficial for children's stamina, resilience, and understanding of the seasons and how they change.

It would be great if all children could have **wellies in school with their name clearly labelled**. We are supporting the children to independently get themselves ready and change their shoes for when we have wet play.

FOOTBALL KITS / COLOURED T SHIRTS MUST NOT BE WORN FOR PE.

Water Bottles

If you haven't already, please can you provide your child with a labelled water bottle which is accessible to them throughout the day.

Please only send plain water for your child.

NO juice or flavoured waters. Thank you

Dates for the Diary

Subject to change

Date	Time	Event
12.09.2025	10am	Welcome Mass
25.09.2025	8:40am - 9am	First Stay and Read
08.10.2025	8:40am - 9:20am	Stay and Play
05.11.2025	8:40am - 9am	Stay and Read followed by Phonics Lesson for Parents to join!
04.12.2025	9am - 10am	Stay and Pray followed by Stay and Play (Christmas Maths theme)

Please note - these are Reception dates only.

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER.

Further dates to follow.

Jewellery

Please remove any jewellery before your child enters school.

Children must not wear earrings for school.

If they have to remain, please ensure they are covered with plasters.

Staff are not allowed to remove earrings.

Reading at Home

Reading at Home

Research shows that parents who get involved in their child's education make a big difference to how well their children do.

Please read with your child at home every day for up to 10 minutes with a minimum expectation of 4 times per week.

Remember – your child will progress faster by reading in short bursts daily rather than for a longer period of time just once!

Help your child to read and write

Sounds-Write Phonics Program, Initial Code, Units 1-7

It's FREE!

- help your child take their first steps in reading and spelling;
- understand how to help your child build, write and read simple cvc (consonant, vowel, consonant) words;
- understand how to correct your child when they make a mistake in their reading or writing simple words;
- have a basic understanding of how phonics works.



Simply scan the QR codes on a mobile device.

Useful Sites

There are so many wonderful and exciting authors and genres around that there is definitely a book to engage and inspire your child.

These websites may help you to find the right book:

BookTrust SMC Reading Spine The Children's Book



Oxford Owl



Simply scan the QR codes on a mobile device.

Reading Star

Every week we celebrate a Reading Star. These mini suitcases are filled with a cuddly reading buddy, a story to share, hot chocolate and a biscuit. If your child brings this home, please take time to enjoy the story together and even send in a picture to our school email address to share your lovely reading treat. Please then return the bag back to school for the next pupil.

TOP TIPS

- ★ Listen to your child read every day.
- ★ Ask questions about the book before reading, during and afterwards. Questions should range from simple retrieval of information to hypothesising about 'whys', possibilities and opinions.
- ★ Little and often is more beneficial than a long session once a week.
- ★ Limit how long you are reading for - the amount of reading time should match your child's span of attention.
- ★ Mix lots of different types of book - an interest in a certain genre is brilliant but breadth and balance create a stronger reader in the long term.
- ★ Finally, find a quiet and comfortable place to enjoy your time together.

Healthy Child Programme

Throughout the year, your child will have the opportunity to have their vision, height and weight checked by the NHS. There will also be an opportunity for each child to take part in a dental survey. Letters will be sent out with relevant information at times throughout the year.

