

Curriculum News
September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children are settling in happily to the Reception Class and are beginning to make new friends. They are learning a lot of new systems and routines and they are all coping very well. They are beginning to understand the behaviours necessary for learning that are expected at school. We all follow the **Golden Rules** at St Bartholomew's.

Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 topic in the Autumn Term is 'We have wings.'

Important dates this term

Fridays are BOOK TIME days!

Every Friday at 3pm we invite families to join the class for **Book Time**. You are welcome to come into class and sit with the children to look at books and share stories.

Tuesday 26th September 9am

To support our topic 'We have wings' we have invited Owlsabouttown to come and visit the school and bring their special owls. The children will get a chance to see owls up close and find out all about them. We will be asking families to pay a contribution towards this event.

Wednesday 27th September 9-10.30

The City Partnership are running a '**Happy start to school workshop**' at school so you can ask lots of questions about this exciting time, meet other parents and share any worries about your child.

Wednesday 11th October 9am-10am

Ms Hier and Miss Foster will run a **reading and phonics workshop** for parents in the Reception classroom. Please come and find out how we teach your child to read and write and how **you** can help at home.

Thursday 12th October 9.05am

The Reception Class will go to church for the **Harvest service**. You are all welcome to join us at this service. Please let us know in writing if you do not want your child to attend church because of your own religious beliefs.

Friday 13th October - Monday 30th October

Half term holiday.

Wednesday 8th November 3.45pm-7pm

Thursday 9th November 3.45pm-6.35pm

Parents' evenings will be held on the above dates. Please sign up for your 10 minute appointment with me to talk about your child's progress at school.

Wednesday 15th November 10-11.40

The Reception Class and Year 1 are invited to see **Rock Dog at Duke's at the Komedia**. We will all walk to the cinema together.

Friday 17th November 9am-10am

Ms Hier and Mr Beggs will run a **maths workshop** for parents in the Reception classroom. Please come and find out how we teach mathematics in school and how you can help.

Tuesday 12th December 2.15pm

The Reception class will take part in the Infant Nativity performance to families.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into 7 areas, 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas.

Prime Areas

1. Personal, social and emotional development

We will be helping the children to develop good relationships with others by taking turns, listening and sharing. We all sit down together for snack time and encourage social talk.

Please remember to pack some fruit or vegetables every day for your child.

The children will be asked to take care of their environment by taking on more responsibility for the equipment and tidying it away. We spend a lot of time at the start of the year getting to know the environment, the rules and expectations, the staff in the classroom and elsewhere, and the children.

2. Communication and language – listening and attention – understanding - speaking

The children will be listening to lots of stories, rhymes and songs and developing good attention and understanding of spoken English.

We play lots of listening games to encourage this important skill.

The children also have many opportunities to show and discuss their work, talk about their fascinations and reflect on their learning.

The children will have lots of opportunities for writing both inside and outside to learn that they can communicate their own ideas in print.

3. Physical development

We aim to give the children an exciting outdoor environment that provides opportunities for physical play that develops co-ordination, imagination and the safe use of equipment. The children use a wide range of tools and equipment independently in order to develop their finger strength to help them draw, write, paint and make.

We aim to develop fine motor skills by using whole class funky fingers activities and handwriting sessions.

Specific Areas

1. Literacy

Learning to read is a very important focus of activities in the Reception Class and we will teach phonics using Letters and Sounds. We will regularly send home phonics activities for you to share with your child.

We have organised **a phonics and reading workshop for parents on Wednesday 11th**

October from 9-10am to explain how we teach phonics and show you how you can help support your child at home.

The children will have a regular reading session with a teacher once a week to support their developing interest in a wide range of texts. They will then take home a guided book to read

with you at home. The children can also take home books from the class library every day. We ask you to take time to read with your child regularly. Please use the yellow reading record book to write comments or messages to the teacher.

The children will have lots of opportunities for writing both inside and outside and learn that they can communicate their own ideas in print. We use a wide range of tools and equipment to develop good pencil control. We encourage the children to explore the many purposes of writing such as labels, lists, cards, letters, signs and messages.

2. Mathematics

In mathematics the children will be learning about numbers to twenty and where appropriate, beyond. They will learn to order numbers 1-20 correctly. The children will find out about doubling and halving single digit numbers. They will have many opportunities to count objects, order numbers, write numerals and solve practical problems. We often send home activities for you to tackle with your child at home.

We will run **a maths workshop on Friday 17th November from 9-10 am** to show the approaches we use in class. Posters will go up nearer the time.

3. Understanding the world

We will be finding out about seasonal changes and making autumn collections. The children will be learning about harvest before attending the Harvest Festival Mass at St Bartholomew's Church on **Thursday 12th October at 9.05am**.

This term we will introduce Brunel Bear who loves to go and visit the children in their homes. This activity encourages the children to explore ideas about time, place, belief and culture.

4. Expressive arts and design

The children have many opportunities to express and communicate their ideas and feelings, and will use a wide range of materials and tools. We will investigate colour-mixing, model making, drawing and painting.

We follow a music scheme of work and the children enjoy lots of different types of music, learn songs, play instruments and perform to others.

Dramatic role-play is an integral part of the foundation stage curriculum and we will use stories, songs, rhymes and music to develop co-operative, imaginative play.

Parental Partnership

We really value the knowledge you have about your own child and we are always eager to share our experiences in the class with you.

Last year many of our parents came in to class to talk about their own interests, fascinations and hobbies. The children absolutely loved this and we really hope you will want to come in and share your talents too.

Thank you,

The Reception Team