

Farmer's Class: Autumn 1

Dear Parents,



A very warm welcome to St Mary's Catholic Primary School. I am delighted to welcome you and your children to our school and join you at the start of this special journey. It is a joy to share this special time with your children as they take their important first steps in their learning. In this letter, I will provide you with an overview of the Autumn term, including the key areas of our learning and some of the activities that we have planned for our first theme: All About Me!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Personal, Social and Emotional Development, we will be focusing on helping the children to build positive relationships with both their peers and adults in our class, knowing that they can ask for help when they need it. They will learn how to play together in our new classroom environment, taking turns with toys and resources, with gentle support when needed. Through stories and discussions, we will explore feelings and emotions, encouraging children to express them to a familiar adult or special friend. The children will also begin to listen carefully to our class rules and expectations, gradually learning to follow them. Additionally, we will support the children in feeling confident as they separate from their caregivers each morning.



Communication and Language

In Communication and Language we will be focusing on developing the children's listening and attention skills. This includes gathering on the carpet for story time, joining in with songs and rhymes, and following instructions from adults throughout the day. Reception children will also work on listening to an adult during focused activities and following simple instructions to complete tasks.

Physical Development

In Physical Development, we will focus on both fine and gross motor skills. For gross motor skills, the children will work on developing their core muscle strength to enable them to sit on the carpet with good posture when sitting on the floor or at the table, as well as learning to safely use the tools and equipment in the classroom. They will also be focusing on peddling the bikes and using a three wheeled scooter safely whilst navigating obstacles. Our focus for fine motor skills will be to improve hand strength and dexterity. To support with this we will be having daily activities set up on the Funky Fingers table and Dough Disco sessions. Furthermore, Reception children will be focusing on handwriting and correct letter formation. Children in pre-school will be learning to use a palm grip when using mark making tools, whilst reception children will be refining their technique and beginning to move towards a tripod grip for more precise control. In PE the children will be working on ball skills.





Literacy

This term we will begin daily Read, Write Inc. phonic sessions to teach them key skills for reading and writing. They will bring home supporting material so that they can continue their learning at home, including a reading book when they are ready to do so. The sound book will be dated to indicate which sound has been taught in school that day. Please ensure that the sound books are kept in your child's book bag when not in use as they will be used in school regularly. Please date and comment in your child's school planner when they have shared their new sound with you or if they have read to you, and allow them to colour in a square for the Reading Challenge which can be found at the back of the planners.

Additionally, we will be learning to write our names correctly and focusing on texts that help us to understand friendships, feelings and family.

Maths

In maths we will be exploring a variety of foundational concepts, The children will begin by learning about matching and sorting objects by looking at what is the same and what is different. In number, we will be concentrating on identifying and subitizing (looking at sets of objects or pictures and saying 'how many' without counting) a number of objects to 5, numbers bonds to 5 and recognising numerals to five.



Understanding the World

In Understanding the World, we will be talking about our families and the important people in our lives. The children will also begin to reflect on their own life stories, discussing how they have grown and changed since they were babies. We will think about how to keep ourselves safe and the roles of people who help us in the community. We have planned visits by the Police and Fire services and will take part in Mini First Aid training. As part of our exploration of the natural world, we will start to observe and understand seasonal changes, with a focus on spotting the signs of autumn all around us during Forest School.



Art and Design

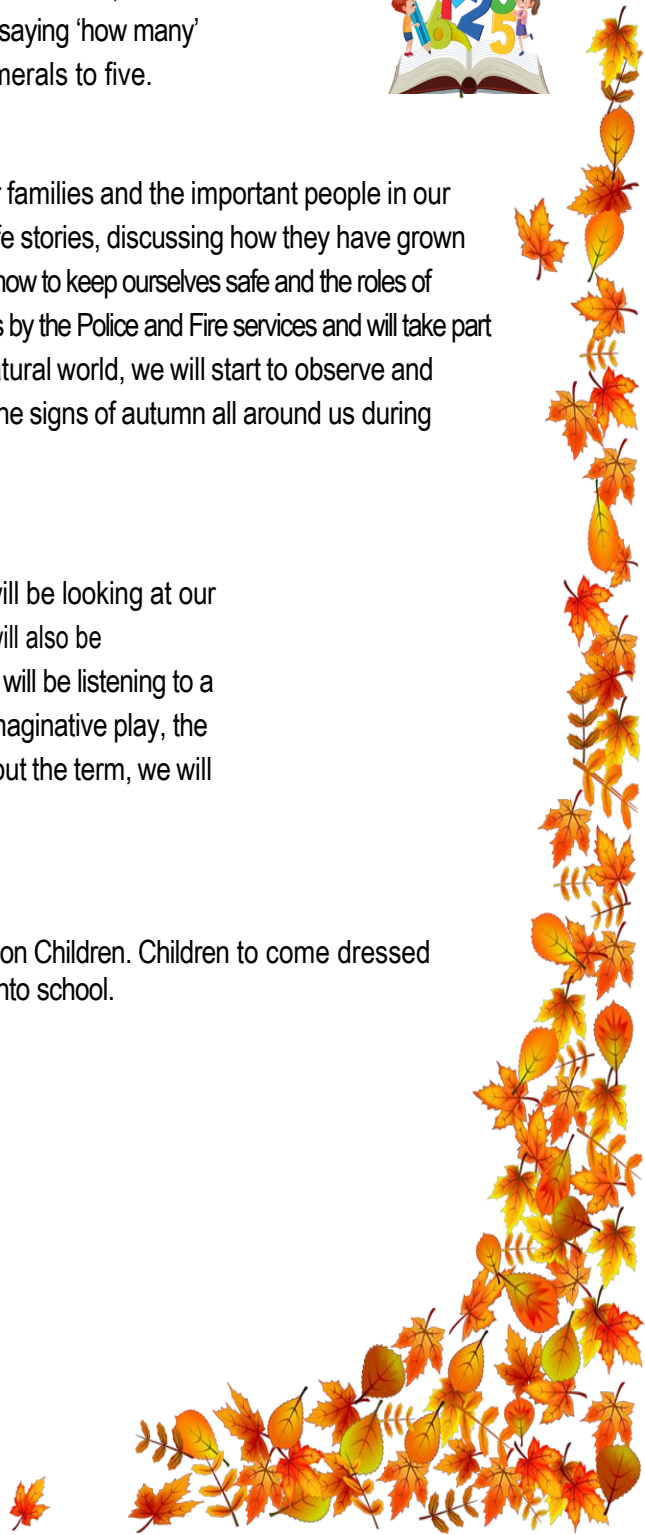
In Art and Design the children will engage in a variety of creative activities. We will be looking at our faces and uses loose parts, collage and paint to create our own likeness. We will also be experimenting with colour mixing to explore how new colours are made. The children will be listening to a range of music types and beginning to move their bodies in time to the music. In imaginative play, the children will begin to use a range of resources to inspire their creativity. Throughout the term, we will spotlight the artist Pablo Picasso and create our own self-portraits.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday: 2:30pm Celebration Assembly. Parents welcome.

Thursday: Before playtime Forest School for all children. 1pm PE for Reception Children. Children to come dressed in long trousers, leggings or joggers and long sleeved tops wear their PE kits into school.

Friday: 1pm Dance. PE kit not required





Snack and Milk

All children in Fisherman Class are provided with a healthy snack each day that is enjoyed in the morning with a story. If your child does not like the fruit that is offered they are welcome to bring a healthy alternative. **NO NUTS DUE TO SEVERE ALLERGIES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL.** Please note that crisps, chocolate sweets and biscuits will not be permitted.

Children are also offered milk until the turn 5 for free. Once your child has turned 5, they can still have milk at snack but it must be paid for by the parents at a subsidised rate. Please see the attached letter from Cool Milk for more information about how you can pay for your child's school milk should you wish to.

Information Evening

Mrs Clarke will be hosting an Information on Wednesday 16th September from 6pm. All parents are warmly invited to attend so that we can share more information with you about the forthcoming academic year, statutory assessments, Read Write Inc. Phonics, and answer any questions that you may have. We hope that you are able to attend, but if not please get in touch or speak to one of us at the end of the school day if you have any questions.



Thank you for your support as we look forward to an exciting year!

Best wishes,

Mrs Alex Clarke

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