

## **Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 1 2017 – Reception**

**Our topic this half term is**

**'Why are humans not like Tigers?'**

Can I firstly welcome you and your child to our reception class at St Ann's Catholic Primary School. We have all had a fantastic first week as the children have explored their new surroundings. I'm sure your children have enjoyed it just as much as we have.

Each half Term we will have a new topic focus, this half term we will be learning all about 'Why are humans not like Tigers?' Firstly, we will identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body, as well as becoming 'sense detectives' the children will explore which part of the body is associated with each sense, performing simple tests investigating each of the five senses. The children will gather and record data to help in answering questions to solve a puzzle. Next, we will turn our attention to grouping animals to identify and name a variety of common animals including, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, describing and comparing common animals. Finally, we will become zookeepers and identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and classify by sorting animals into categories.

In Reception your child's learning is split into seven different areas.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Religious Education plays a key role in the children's learning and the topic this term is 'Myself'. We plan a wide range of activities linked to these areas.

The most important part of this half term is that your child settles into school life. To support them with this we will be playing lots of 'getting to know you games', exploring the school and finding out about the different people who will be a part of our school life.

## Reading

Your child will be taught to read letters and groups of letters by saying the sounds they represent, they will be taught that the letter L makes the sound LLLL when they say it. The children will then progress to read words by blending the sound together to make words. Once your child has learnt the sounds of single letters and they are beginning to blend simple words together they will participate in guided reading daily and bring home a reading book each week which will be changed on a Friday.

I cannot stress enough the importance of reading, learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what is printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It is important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child does not understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

As children start to learn to read at school, you can play a vital role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together.

## Maths

At St-Ann's your child will be following the mastery maths programme of study this half term we will be working with numbers within 10 and creating and continuing patterns.

As you may have already heard from your child we have a class mascot 'Listening Lion' He will choose a child each week to come home with for the weekend. This activity is to encourage the children to talk within a group and develop the skills needed to ask questions. He will come with his own book for the children to record their adventures in; the children can choose how they wish to record their adventures for example – photographs, drawings, writing etc. The book will be used to help your child explain to their friends the adventures they have had with 'Listening Lion'

## P.E.

P.E will be on a Thursday morning. Please can your child come to school dressed in their P.E. kits and bring with them their school uniform. We will change your child into their uniform after their P.E. session.

In Reception your child will join in '***Finding out Friday's***', on Fridays your child will need to come to school dressed appropriately for the weather, but please make sure your child is wearing their school jumper or cardigan on this day. Your child will participate in lots of outdoor learning, which will focus around their study in science, history and geography. The children's learning will be displayed in a floor book for everyone to see.

## **Homework**

### **REMEMBER - YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT**

Each week your child will be given 'home work' which will be given out on a Friday, and returned on Thursday for marking.

On alternate Fridays children will be given either literacy or maths homework which will be returned to school the following Thursday for marking.

Phonics will be given out throughout the week for your child to practise the new sound taught that day.

Each child should bring a named water bottle into school each day so that they have access to fresh clean water throughout the day. Your child will be bringing a home school liaison book home and this can be used to communicate with the staff at school. We will check the book at regular intervals and do our best to reply to each message either in writing or by talking to you at the end of the day.

If you have any further questions please come and talk to a member of staff. We will be happy to help you.

I am looking forward to a fun term of learning and laughter.

Best Wishes

Mrs Brotherton

Class teacher