



Autumn 2022 Newsletter

Ducklings and Goslings

Welcome to Reception

We would like to welcome everyone to St Mary's! We hope that the children will enjoy their first year of school, which will be full of exciting opportunities to develop both socially and academically.

Curriculum

Maths

In maths this term, our focus will be on number. We will be introducing Numicon, which is used throughout school so it is very helpful for the children to become familiar with this resource. We will also be looking at number formation, counting and ordering numbers to ten, days of the week and much more.

When travelling to school there are lots of opportunities to discuss which numbers you can see, the shapes of signs and object to count. All of the language associated with these conversations will help develop your child's mathematical understanding.

Literacy

This term in literacy we will be starting our phonics programme where your children will learn the sound, the name and the formation of each letter. Look out for the bi-weekly newsletter to see which sounds we have done over the last two weeks, so you can practise them with your children at home.

In addition to this, we will start to look at our Reception 45 words and start to sound out and learn these important words.

Topic

Our first topic is 'Me and My Community'. This topic supports children with settling into school and encourages them to make new friends and feel confident in their class. The topic also teaches children how they are unique and special, the importance of friendship and how people in their family, school and local community are important and can help them.

Our second topic is 'Exploring Autumn'. This topic teaches children about the natural changes that happen during the season of autumn, including how the weather changes, why trees lose their leaves and how wild animals prepare for winter.

Religious Education

In R.E. this term we will be looking at two different topics. The first is topic is 'This Wonderful World', thinking about how we look after the planet. Our second topic is 'Why is Christmas Special' where we will look at the story of the Nativity and why this is important to Christians.

PE

In PE we will work on ball skills such as throwing and catching and getting to know our different houses whilst playing team games. In the second half of the autumn term we will look at different ways of moving such as hopping, rolling, skipping and balancing.

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all sweaters, coats, gloves, hats, plimsolls etc.
- The children will be doing **PE** on a **Thursday**. On Thursdays children should come to school dressed in their PE kit: black shorts or jogging bottoms, plimsolls or trainers and a plain T-shirt in their house colour.
- Parents and children are encouraged to check book bags for letters each day.
- It would be really helpful if you could send in tissues for the class.
- We also ask parents for voluntary contributions of **£5** per term for consumables (to make play dough and so on).
- Please check the school's website regularly for any important dates.
- Please look out for an email from Tapestry (towards the end of September) in order to activate your child's learning journal.
- If you ever have any concerns or questions please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance or email the Admin Team on Office@stmarysn8.co.uk
- We would like to remind parents that the only jewellery allowed at school are small stud earrings. Nail polish is not allowed.
- Please keep up to date with news on our website [here](#)

Key dates

Please look out for the main newsletters as well as emails/text messages from the admin team.

- Monday 19th September: Queen Elizabeth II's funeral – school closed as a mark of respect
- Friday 23rd September: Jeans for Genes Day - please wear an item of denim with your uniform and bring £1 to help fund research into genetic disorders
- Wednesday 19th October: Harvest Festival Assembly
- Monday 24th to Friday 28th October: half term – school closed
- Monday 31st October: INSET day – school closed to children
- Tuesday 1st November: children return to school as usual

*You can find the above dates and more on our calendar [here](#)

If there is anything that you would like to talk to us about, please feel free to talk to us after school, or make an appointment via the school office.

Miss Greenwood and Miss Abernethy

Reception Team