



Spring 2023 Newsletter

Nursery

Welcome back

Happy New year and we hope that you all had an enjoyable festive break and would like to say a huge thanks for all the lovely Christmas treats. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new children and their families to St Mary's. We are thrilled to have you joining us.

This term, we will be thinking about animals and the changing seasons. During which we will learn about a range of animals, using high quality picture books as a hook. We will be learning about what animals we might see in the wild, or in a zoo or on a farm and which we might keep as pets. The books we will be looking at include, *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell, *What the Ladybird Heard* by Julia Donaldson and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr, we are looking forward to hosting an animal tea party in the third week of term. During this week, we will be looking at the work of Henri Rosseau, an artist who showed amazing perseverance in his career as we look at his work, *Surprise*.

We will also be looking at the work of talented author/illustrator Yuval Zommer as we learn more about animals and the changing seasons, looking at his stunning new picture books *A Thing Called Snow* and *The Lights that Dance in the Night* then moving on to find out more about our favourite animals in his non-fiction book, *The Big Book of Beasts*. These books are fantastic for inspiring awe and wonder as we learn more about our natural world, alongside encouraging children to develop their own questions and investigations. In week 2, lots of our work will focus on learning more about the 'Aurora Borealis' (Northern Lights).

After half term, we will be thinking about our built environment, wondering how buildings stay up, alongside learning more about spring, with a focus on developing our noticing skills. We will be doing lots of work about the traditional story of *The Three Little Pigs*. The children are already fantastic at building using a wide range of materials and we cannot wait to explore this further with them, encouraging the further development of the characteristic of effective learning.

Religious Education

In RE, we will begin by revisiting our class motto of 'All are welcome here' by creating a display inspired by the book of the same title and thinking about how we can be a good friend to others. We will then continue to develop children's understanding of our School Christian Values of friendship, community, compassion and hope. Lunar New Year falls on January 22nd and we cannot wait to explore this celebration further with the children. We will be saying goodbye to the Year of the Tiger and welcoming in the Year of the Rabbit.

After half-term we will be finding out more about why Easter is so special to Christians and linking this to our work on spring and new beginnings.

Homework

Please support your child's learning at home by reading with them daily and discussing stories, and/or TV shows with them. If possible, give them jobs to do around the house such as sorting socks, tidying toys and laying the table. **A bi-weekly ideas sheet of possible activities will be published to Tapestry or available at the door.**

Library books will be changed once a week on a Tuesday or Thursday – please remember to send books back. If you would like any further guidance on how to support your child at home, or would like to borrow games/resources, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Key dates

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

- Monday 13th to Friday 17th February: half term - school closed
- Monday 20th February: children return to school
- March: Parent Consultations - details to follow
- Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day
- Friday 17th March: Red Nose Day - details to follow
- Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April: Easter holiday
- Monday 17th April: INSET day - school closed
- Tuesday 18th April: children return to school as usual

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

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all clothes and provide a change of clothes for your child.
- We would like to remind parents that the school has a no jewellery policy and earrings should be studs only, please. Nail polish is not allowed.
- Please provide a box of tissues, if you can – we really go through them in Nursery!
- If possible, we would really appreciate **a voluntary contribution of £5 towards our Nursery fund**, this helps to pay for our cooking and gardening activities, as well as other key resources.
- We would like to remind parents that the school has a no jewellery policy and earrings should be studs only, please. Nail polish is not allowed.
- Please remember that more information of what we are getting up to on Nursery is available on Tapestry and we will be posting a quick summary of our key planning on a Sunday evening for the week ahead.
- Please keep up to date with news on our website [here](#)

As most of you are already aware, Chantelle will be leaving us temporarily in mid-January to begin her maternity leave. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to her on behalf of all the children and the Nursery team and to say that we can't wait to welcome her back towards the end of the summer term.

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.

Thank you, from the **Nursery Team**