



Spring 2024 Newsletter

Nursery

Welcome back

Happy New Year! 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 this term where the children will choose an animal and describe their features and what they would eat. This week we have been focusing on settling both the children and the new starters into nursery and remembering how we can be a good friend. We have been doing this through our value of respect and how we can show respect to the people around us.

We will also be learning more about animals and where they live and the changing seasons. We will be looking at 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. 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). We will be having an animal encounter workshop where the children get to meet some real animals which will be a fantastic experience for them.

This term we are very fortunate to have our art teacher Tabitha, who will come in on Wednesday mornings to do some fantastic pieces of art with the children.

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.

Phonics

We are currently working on level one phonics with the children. Please support us by talking to your children which supports their communication and language skills. Please also listen and talk about the sounds they can hear around them.

Religious Education

In RE, we will begin by revisiting our class motto of 'All are welcome here' and supporting the new children into nursery. We are focusing on the question - Why is Jesus special? 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 February 10th and we cannot wait to explore this celebration further with the children. We will be saying goodbye to the Year of the Rabbit and welcoming in the Year of the Dragon.

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.

Key Dates

Please look out for the main newsletters as well as emails/text messages from the Admin Team.

- Wednesday 7th February: Reading & Phonics Stay & Play first 20 minutes after drop-off
- Monday 12th to Friday 16th February: Half term – school closed
- Monday 19th February: Children return to school
- Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th February: Parent Consultations times TBC
- Thursday 7th March: World Book Day
- Wednesday 27th March: Easter Procession
- Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April: Easter holiday – school closed
- Monday 15th April: Children return to school

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

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 Wednesday – 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.

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all clothes and provide a change of clothes for your child.
- Please provide a box of tissues, if you can – we really go through them in Nursery!
- 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.
- We are a strictly nut-free school; please remember this for packed lunches and party/birthday treats.
- We are strictly a latex-free school, i.e. no latex materials including balloons, rubber bands, latex gloves etc.
- ***We would be extremely grateful for 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.***
- Please keep up to date with news on our website [here](#).

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 also bring in a family picture for our family wall. The children find this a great comfort and enjoy showing the class who is in their family. If unable to print, this can be emailed to the school office Office@stmarysn8.co.uk as we can print it from there.

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.

Louise, Sara, Chantelle & Karen
Nursery Team