



St Paul's Reception Newsletter



September 2023

Dear Parents,
Welcome to St Paul's Reception! We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming year. Below you will find a lot of information about our curriculum, routines and events happening in school.

This half term's theme:

This half term our theme will be **Once Upon a Time.**



During the unit, we will explore a selection of well-known traditional tales including The Three Little Pigs and The Enormous Turnip. We shall be focusing on the characters and events using role play, physical storytelling and puppets. We will encourage the children to develop their repertoire of stories and use of story language in their independent play as well as encouraging them to develop their own versions of the stories.

A copy of this half term's overview is attached to this newsletter.

Reading:

At St Paul's we believe that reading is fundamental to children's learning and experience.

Each week your child will bring home three books.

The first book is a library book. This book has been chosen by your child from our class library. It is a book for you to read to them. Sometimes they may wish to bring home the same book or a book that you have at home. Please read the story as many times as your child wants, talking to them about what is happening, what the characters are doing and encouraging them to join in with repetitive words and phrases.



Once your child becomes confident with the Read Write Inc Phonics Scheme, they will bring home a practice book which is for them to read to you. Please encourage your child to sound out the words and blend them back together.

The third book will be their reading practice book. This is a book from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme and contains tricky words and decodable words. Please encourage your child to have a go at reading some of the words and encourage them to talk about the story.

As well as your child's reading books, we will also send home a red reading log. This reading log will become a record of your child's reading at home and in school. We will record when your child has read with an adult in school and we ask that you tell us about their reading at home. We shall send home an information sheet which will help you to complete the reading log.

Reading books will be collected in on Wednesday and sent home on Thursday.

Phonics:

Once the children have settled into the school, we shall begin our formal phonics lessons. During these lessons, the children will be split into two groups and will work with an adult to learn the letter sounds and letter formation.



We will be running a parents' workshop focusing on how we teach phonics and reading in Reception on **Thursday 5th October at 3:45pm.** More details will be sent out closer to the date.

Maths:

The children will have a daily maths session which will focus on different mathematical concepts including number recognition, counting, addition and subtraction and measuring.



During the first half term we shall also be looking at patterns and positional language. More information can be found on the curriculum overview.

Homework:

Each week we will send home two pieces of homework. The first will focus on phonics and will be linked to our learning in class. Please talk to your child about each of the activities and encourage them to share what they have learnt in school.

The second piece of homework will be linked to our learning in maths. Each week the task will vary and will include a selection of practical tasks and paper-based activities.

Homework will be set on Friday and should be returned on Tuesday.

PE Kits:

Once a week we will take the children to the school hall for their PE lesson. During the lessons we will focus on different skills, using the Get Set for PE scheme.

During the first term the children will be asked to take off their shoes and socks and their jumpers. After Christmas we will require them to change into their PE kits.

PE lessons will take place on Friday.

Clothing:

Please ensure that **all** of your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name, including their shoes and their coats. We will encourage the children to look after their possessions, but occasionally jumpers will become muddled. It is much easier to return clothing to the correct child if it is clearly labelled.

During the year we will support your child to become increasingly independent with their clothing and shoes. Please help us by sending your child into school with clothes that they can easily manage e.g. Velcro shoes and not too many layers.

Wet weather clothing:

We do encourage the children to use the outside area in all weathers so please ensure that your child comes to school with a warm coat.

On wet days, your child is welcome to come to school in wellie boots. Please bring their school shoes in a plastic bag and we will happily help your child to change into their school shoes.

Toileting:

It is natural that during the children's time in school they may have a toileting accident. Often, they are busy in their learning activity and leave it too late to make it to the bathroom.

A spare set of clothes should be kept in school for us to change them into. This can be in your child's PE bag or a separate bag.

Please be assured that we are happy to change your child and will do our best to reassure them.

Collection from School:

Occasionally, you may need another adult, who is not on your contacts list, to collect your child from school. If this should occur, please ensure that you contact the School Office as soon as possible. It can be very distressing for both your child, and the adult collecting, if we need to check with the Office and do not dismiss them immediately.

Birthdays

We love celebrating the children's birthday's in school and as part of our assembly programme we will hold a monthly Birthday Assembly, where your child will be invited to blow out candles and talk about their birthday.



You are welcome to bring in a small packet of sweets for the class to take home e.g. Haribo. Please do not send in cakes or party bags as we cannot give them out.



Junk Modelling:

We encourage the children to create models using recycled materials such as cereal boxes and it would be great if you could bring in any of the following:

- Cereal boxes
- Egg cartons
- Clean yogurt pots
- Tubes (pringles, inside of kitchen roll etc.)
- Small boxes of any shape and size

Please be aware that you might sometimes get your donation back in the form of a lovely creation.

Dates for your diaries:

28th September – 150th Anniversary Service

2nd October – Maths Week

5th October – Harvest Donations to be brought into school

5th October – Phonics workshop at 3:45pm

17th October – Individual and sibling photos

19th October – Mufti Day (children may wear their own clothes to school)

20th October – INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

23rd – 27th October - Half term

31st October – Parents' Evening

1st November – Parents' Evening

A full list of dates can be found on the school website.

Keeping up to date:

Please check our School Website as we regularly post pictures of the things we do here in school. You will also receive an email every Friday from Mr Wright in which he shares news from around the school and information about upcoming events.

If you have any questions or queries, please speak to a member of the Reception Team or email the School Office.

Mrs Riley and Mrs Ezame