

RECEPTION - AUTUMN 1

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER 2023

www.stmaryshorsforth.org

Twitter: [@StMarysLS18](https://twitter.com/StMarysLS18)



"Happy together in God's family,
we love, grow and learn."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to St Mary's School, firstly the children have coped amazingly with their transition period into school. Mrs O'Donnell, and myself have been extremely impressed with how well they have started to settle into school life and pick up their new routines and the schools expectations; you should all be very proud of them. The children have been exploring their new environment and playing with old and new friends. They will meet their Year 6 buddies over the coming weeks and enjoy a story and some fun playtime with them.

Tapestry & Twitter: I will be setting up your child's Tapestry account over the next week and a link will be sent to the email on the consent form. Please only use Tapestry to post about your child's activities/achievements. If you need to contact me please email the school (see below) as I do not check Tapestry every day. At St Mary's we use Twitter to keep parents involved in activities which we recommend parents/carers to sign-up for.

Snack time / milk: The children are provided with milk up until the week of their 5th birthday, if you would like this to continue after please contact the school office. We do have a fruit bowl for snack time, alternatively if you would like to send in a healthy snack from home, please feel free. This must be nut free and must be healthy, no chocolate, sweets or crisps.

PE: Reception PE is on Tuesday & Thursdays. Please send you child to school in their PE kit and Velcro fastening trainers. As the weather starts to get colder, please make sure they have extra layers such as navy leggings or tracksuit bottoms and the school PE hoody. We will start PE on Tuesday 19th of September. The children will come to school on Thursday 21st in school uniform, this is due to school photos. Then after that they will come in PE kits every Tuesday & Thursday.

Spare clothes/wellies/water bottle: Please can your child have a named water bottle and a pair of wellies to stay in school. If you feel your child needs extra clothes, please bring in a small non-plastic bag. The bag will stay in school and not go back and forth to home every day.

Phonics workshop & Stay and Play: This will be for parents on **12th October at 3.30pm**. I will address the teaching of phonics, early reading and writing which will support your child's learning between home and school, (the children will be supervised in another classroom and watch a film). Stay and play is a lovely time for you to come into school and see what the children are learning. I try and alternate the days throughout the year so it accommodates work patterns. Please can I ask that only one adult comes and no younger siblings, as the classroom gets very crowded, which can be overwhelming for small children.

Dates and notices: Mrs Hurley sends out a weekly newsletter/diary dates to share news and celebrations that have happened across our school and community, it also contains important school dates and events, this is an excellent way of staying on top of dates and upcoming events.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask, if you need to get hold of me the quickest way is to send an email to the school office: office@stmaryshorsforth.org

Thank you for your support in settling your child into school life,

Miss A Roberts (Class teacher)

Weekly Important Dates

Tuesday & Thursday
PE days

Important Dates

19.9.2023 – PE starts in Reception class

21.9.23 - Individual photographs

24.9.23 @11.00am Family Mass in church*

29.9.23 - @2.30pm Macmillan Coffee Morning*

4.10.23 Reception Class Saint Day – St Francis of Assisi

5.10.23 Rosary Day

6.10.23 @2.30pm Harvest Festival*

12.10.23 @3.30pm Reception phonics workshop for parents*

24.10.23 @4.00-6.30pm Parents Evening*

25.10.23 @2.00pm Reception stay and play session*

26.10.23 @4.00-6.30pm Parents Evening*

26.10.23 - School closes

Phonics and Literacy

This half term we will start work on Phase 2 of Floppy's phonics, starting to blend and segment simple CVC words, using their 'phonic fingers'. We will introduce the characters from the reading scheme (Oxford Reading Tree) and we will begin to learn phase 2 'tricky words' (through sight reading) these are words that cannot be decoded. In writing we will be developing a good pencil grip, making patterns, starting to form letters and writing their own first names from memory in pre-cursive handwriting.

This half term our focus texts will be linked into our topic 'Traditional tales;' these will include 'The 3 Pigs, 3 Bears, Little Red Riding Hood'. We will be starting to look a different style of text such as poetry, fiction and non-fiction and rhyming stories.

RE

The children will learn their school prayers, how to make the sign of the cross and start to take part in collective worship.

In RE lessons this half term, the children will be learning about "God's World." We will be learning about the things God created for us and how to care for them. We will reflect on how God made each one of us special and different.

Mathematics

We use the White Rose Maths scheme and will be exploring numbers 1, 2, 3 looking at comparing the composition of each number. We explore through practical investigations what each number represents within its place value. We count forwards & backwards, look at 1 more, 1 less. This will help to build the foundations to number work and early problem solving. We will be focusing on counting objects accurately by saying a number name for each item and introducing the correct numerals.

We will also be looking at matching, sorting, comparing groups, size, mass, capacity and making repeating patterns.

The Foundation Stage

Curriculum

Half-Term 1



Physical Development

We will be developing both gross and fine motor skills through activities both inside and outside. The children are encouraged to use a variety of tools such as scissors, pencils, adult knife and fork at lunch time, paintbrushes, rolling pins... etc.

We have two PE sessions a week and we will be exploring different ways to balance and move around safely. We will start to look at how exercise keeps us fit and the effects it has on their bodies, and healthy snacks.

Topic: Our amazing selves / Homes

This half term we are focusing on 'our amazing selves' and 'homes,' and how special each of us is and what makes our families unique and their interests. The children will be getting to know each other's names, learning to share and take turns with their new friends. We will be exploring different feelings and how we can stay safe and who can help keep them safe. Our role play area will be the 3 Pigs to link into different homes.

We will be looking at how they have changed (Understanding the World – past and present), family trees, making maps of the classroom, school and how they get to school and their local surroundings.

PSED

We have a weekly circle time session where we will be exploring their own feelings based on the book 'Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas.

We will support the children to learn different strategies to calm down and ways of expressing their feels.