

# YEAR R AUTUMN 1

## CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER 2021

[www.stmaryshorsforth.org](http://www.stmaryshorsforth.org)

Twitter: @StMarysLS18



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

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

**Tapestry, Twitter & school website:** 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. At St Mary's we use Twitter to keep parents involved in activities which we recommend parents / carers to join in, and we have our own Reception Class page on the school website, where I add photos of special events.

**Snack time/milk:** The children are provided with milk up until the week of their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, if you would like this to continue after that time, please contact the school office. The school provides fruit for break which we all have together as this is a lovely social time. If you would like to send in an alternative healthy snack from home for your child, please feel free.

**PE:** Reception PE days are on a Tuesday & Thursday, please send your child to school in their PE kit and trainers. As the weather starts to get colder, please make sure they have extra layers such as navy tracksuit bottoms and the school PE hoodie. We will start PE on **21<sup>st</sup> September**.

**Spare clothes, wellies water bottle:** Please can your child have a named pair of wellies to stay in school and if you feel your child needs extra clothes, please bring in a PE bag, but this will again stay in school (this bag will not go back and forth to home every day). Your child will also need to bring a named water bottle each day.

**Phonics and literacy workshop:** This will be for parents on **28<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm**. I will add the slides to the Reception class page on the school website. I will address the teaching of phonics, early reading and writing which will support you and your child to learn to read and write (the children will watch a DVD in another classroom).

I will be supported in Reception this year by Mrs Quinn.

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](mailto:office@stmaryshorsforth.org)

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

Miss Roberts (Class teacher)

### **Weekly Important Dates**

#### **Tuesday & Thursday**

PE (starting 21<sup>st</sup> of  
September)

#### **Important Dates**

21.9.2021 – PE will start

17.9.21 – Non uniform  
day & Bun sale

23.9.2021 – Individual  
school photos

24.9.21 – Macmillan  
Coffee afternoon  
@2.15pm

26.9.21 – Family Mass  
@11am

28.9.21 – Reception  
parent phonics meeting  
@3.30pm

30.9.21 – School  
birthday celebrations

4.10.21 – Reception  
class Saint Day

7.10.21 – Rosary Day

8.10.21 – Non uniform –  
wear green for Cafod

8.10.21 – Harvest  
Festival\* @2.30pm

8.10.21 – Bring tins for  
SVP

18.9.21 – Parents  
Evening\* @ 4 -6.30pm

20.10.21 – Planetarium  
in school

20.10.21 – Parents  
Evening\* @ 4 -6.30pm

21.10.21 – School  
closes for half term

22.10.21 – Training Day

## 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 our 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 at different styles of text such as poetry, fiction and non-fiction and rhyming stories.

## 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 and adult knife and fork at lunch time.

In PE sessions, 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 our bodies.

## 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.

## The Foundation Stage

### Curriculum

### Half-Term 1



## Mathematics

We use the White Rose Maths Hub 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.

## Topic: Traditional stories

This half term we are focusing on traditional stories and how special each of us is and what makes our families unique, their interests and their homes and families. 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 be safe. Our role play area will be the 3 Bears.

We will be looking at the 5 senses and we will explore each sense through different activities to promote communication and language, such as a small tasting, feely bag and different sounds through music and play.

## 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 feelings.

Once the children are settled, we will slowly introduce the 'Leader in me' scheme of work that the whole school is following to promote positivity, resilience, and independent children in a thriving school community.