



St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School

FOUNDATION STAGE (Reception/Year1)

AUTUMN TERM 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, we would like to welcome you and your child to our class. All of the children seem to have enjoyed their first week, are settling in well and making new friends. If at any time, throughout the year, you wish to discuss anything at all please pop in to speak to any member of our staff. We aim to make your child's year in our class as enjoyable as possible. If you could please ensure all of your child's clothing is labelled it would be greatly appreciated.

THEMES FOR THIS TERM ARE: Marvellous Me!

Here are some ideas for home learning to support your child in their learning journey in Reception/Year 1. Young children need lots of repetition and practise at key skills so learning is often repeated many times before they become fully secure in those skills. Some children may find some things easy, whilst others may find it more difficult. Please just adapt as necessary based on the level your child is working at. If you are unsure we are happy to help you with this, just ask.

LITERACY

This half term we will be introducing children to Phase 2 of the Letters and Sounds programme. They will be learning initial sounds of objects and will also be learning some 'tricky words'. These words are known as 'tricky words' as they can't be decoded and easily read. You can assist your child by allowing them to listen to Jolly Phonics - Phase 2 jingles on You Tube. They could then go on a treasure hunt around the house to find objects beginning with specific letter sounds. A simple game of I Spy is also a fun way to embed initial sounds. There is also a very catchy phase 2 tricky words song on You Tube, which I am sure you will end up singing along to also. Children will also learn how to correctly form each letter and begin segmenting and blending simple CVC words. As they learn the letter sounds you can encourage them to write simple CVC words such as 'sat', 'tap' and 'pat'. We follow a pre-cursive style of writing so it would be greatly appreciated if you could assist your child with learning this as progression will be much quicker.

Year 1 children will be progressing onto phase 3 of the Letters and Sounds programme as soon as they are secure with phase 2 knowledge.

Our topic is 'Marvellous Me', so we will be reading lots of stories linked to this. You could talk to your child about people who are in their family, pets, different celebrations, favourite foods etc. As a challenge this half term please teach your child their home address. The author we will be looking at is Julia Donaldson therefore you could visit the library and share stories together by her.

MATHS

We will be supporting your child to recognise numbers to 10 and then extend to 20. This is a skill all children need to know by the end of the EYFS. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated. Any child already able to do this will be extended further. Pointing out numbers when out and about or making number cards for your child to name and order would benefit your child greatly. Showing your child a number card and then asking them to collect that amount of objects are key skills your child needs to be able to do. These are the foundations of your child's mathematical journey and will allow their knowledge to be built upon much quicker once these skills are grasped. You could support your child by naming 2D and 3D shapes. Many 3D shapes can be found during a shopping trip to a supermarket. Year 1 children will be also completing simple addition and subtraction.

PHYSICAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

In order for your child to develop a good pencil control, which is necessary for writing, your child first of all needs to develop their gross motor skills. Providing opportunities for your child to make large movements with their arm, will greatly aid this skill. Activities such as sweeping, mopping or painting outdoors, using a brush and a bucket of water, are all great ideas which are not costly. Using a large roll of wallpaper on the floor to allow drawings to be large is also thoroughly enjoyed by children. Each day in class we have activities set up to develop finger strength which will aid their pencil control.

Your child will continue to have daily access to the shared EYFS outdoor area which will aid their physical development. Any opportunities you can provide at home to allow your child to jump, run, skip and climb will help their gross motor skills. Playdough is a fantastic way to help their dexterity and strengthen fingers in preparation for writing. Dough disco, which is on You Tube, is a fun programme for your child to watch and follow the actions of the presenter. A recipe to make dough is available if you would like to make your own. It is very cheap to make and lasts several weeks.

Now your child is in school we will be encouraging them to become as independent as possible. We aim for every child to be able to put on their own coat as soon as possible. You can help by allowing them to get dressed and undressed on their own. Their personal development is very important to us and we encourage your child to share news from home with their friends. Children are welcome to bring something in from home to share with the class. This may be about a recent visit they have been on, a sports club they have attended, a piece of work completed at home or any news from home they wish to share. We do ask for toys not to be brought in but souvenirs, medals, photographs, certificates etc are useful to help your child share their news.

RE

THIS HALF TERM WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT: Myself

We will be discussing the name your child has and how God knows each of us by our names. If you would like to send a photograph in of your child when they were younger it will be used and displayed in class. Please write your child's name on the back and we will return all photographs. They can be placed inside your child's book bag and we will take care of it.

Thank you for your support in helping your child's learning journey be fun.

EYFS team.