

Autumn 1 Reception curriculum newsletter

At St Chad's we provide a safe, welcoming, and exciting learning environment where children love to learn through play. Our Foundation Stage is built on close relationships between our staff and children, and with our families so that will be one of the focuses for the first half term. We aim to allow children to feel comfortable at school so allocating self-expression and the opportunities to build relationships is essential.

This half term focuses on getting to know the children. The children will have access to a range of resources and participate in activities to support all areas of their early learning development. The early learning goals that the children will be able to make progress toward are communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, understanding the world, physical development, literacy, maths and expressive art and design. The children will also have the support and time to learn the rules and routines of both the classroom and school.

In literacy, the focus for the first half term is to encourage children to make marks, in all different contexts using a range of materials. The children will work towards understanding that the marks have meaning and will begin practicing letter formation as part of their daily phonics sessions. This will also allow children to develop their fine motor skills and support their tripod pencil grip. We will also explore a range of traditional tales where children will be encouraged to discuss and answer questions about the stories as well as contribute to class story maps. The children will also practice writing their names.

In maths we will be focusing on getting to know the children and their abilities, we incorporate aspects of the white rose maths learning scheme into our teaching of numeracy so as part of that we will cover the concepts of matching sorting and comparing. We will also facilitate the exploration of measuring and different patterns. The children will also learn all about the representation, composition and value of numbers 1-3. In EYFS there are mathematical learning opportunities in all areas which will also be enhanced as and when they arise.

This half-term will be focused on allowing the children to explore the areas of development and accustom themselves with the rules and routines of the setting. The first topic that we will be exploring is 'all about me.' Children will gain an understanding of themselves and will explore and have discussions and celebrate individual differences this will allow the children to make progress towards their early learning goal of Understanding the world. The children will engage in carpet sessions where they will talk about members of their immediate family and community. The children will also look at the parts and details of their face where they will be able to draw a self-portrait, using a mirror to identify their features. Towards the end of the year, the children will recreate their self-portrait which showcase their development. The children will also use a range of loose parts to create a family portrait which will accommodate discussions around different families.

In early years we are lucky to have the flexibility to follow the children's interests and incorporate these in the teaching and learning that occurs. We use Possible lines of development (PLOD) boards where we note down children's interests and we will later set up provocations or activities to allow the children to explore.

Whilst we have shared the themes and topics of this half term, we will explore far beyond that, which you will be able to see on tapestry. Tapestry accounts will be set up during the settling in period and from then on we aim to complete at least one observation per child per week. We grasp children's interests and utilise this to engage children. This provides the opportunity to create a range of opportunities and support children's development towards the early learning goals. We will also send out key messages and dates for the diary on tapestry.

We would love to hear about all the wonderful learning opportunities that happen at home too. Please add any special moments, celebrations and new skills learnt to your child's account on Tapestry. The children love to share these with their friends, and it is also a powerful and meaningful way for children to talk about their experiences and for other children to ask questions. In the past parents have come in to talk about specific celebrations or to share their knowledge on relevant topics, so if that is something you would like to participate in please let us know.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can email the reception email address at reception@stchadsprimary.net or contact any of the Reception team on Tapestry.

Kindest Regards,

The Reception team 😊

(Miss Griffiths and Mrs Cassidy)