

Information for parents/carers-please keep safe for future reference.



Term: Spring 1  
2018/19  
Year group:  
Reception

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We wish you and your family a happy and blessed New Year. We are hoping you had a very peaceful and enjoyable time with your families and friends and that your children are rested, recharged and ready for learning!

Good News for Families

Along with encouraging your child in their learning journey, it is also a very good time for them to reflect and focus on their *spiritual journey*. As mentioned in the *Wednesday Word for Advent and Christmas* (in reference to the Gospel of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019-Matthew 2:1-12 'The Feast of the Epiphany'):

"What guided the wise men to Jesus? On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany. We remember how the wise men from the East were guided to Jesus. *Ask your child what the word 'guidance' means to them. Who guides them through life to make sensible and wise choices? Who or what guides you on your journey through life?* The church exists to help us and provides us with the timeless guidance of the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.' These are manuals for life which can guide us on our journey.

As we journey through life to God, we need good guidance to help us along the way. *Ask your child if they know some of the ways in which Jesus guides us today. Perhaps it is through: listening to good people; learning Church teaching; prayer, worship and the sacraments.*...If you haven't already started, why not resolve to head into 2019 on a spiritual journey as a family-to be guided by God?"

*The wise men in the Gospel were guided by a star but since the birth of Jesus we no longer need stars to guide us. Just as the wise men discovered-Jesus is the way: the way to happiness, to truth and to eternal life....*

### **PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)**

We will continue to celebrate the positive attributes of your children this year through awarding 'pupil of the day'. This award is given out at random on a daily basis to our pupils. We hope you continue to enjoy hearing the compliments your child receives!! We continue to participate in the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) programme, supported by Barnardos. The programme consists of whole class lessons and the 'pupil of the day' approach is one way in which we are able to develop the ability to give and receive compliments. It is always a positive way to end the day! See <http://www.pathseducation.co.uk/> for more details.

### **FAMILY LEARNING**

We would very much like to welcome you to our family learning opportunities this term. The main focus of the sessions will be writing, how we develop writing in the particular year groups and how we can work together to support writing both at home and school. We hope you can join us!

Our family learning session will be on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 9am**. The purpose of the session is to help our pupils develop their writing skills.

We hope you can join us!

### **WORKING TOGETHER**

Please support your child in achieving their goals by encouraging them to develop their learning behaviours. The 8 learning behaviours we focus on at school are:

- Being curious (curiosity)
- Having a go (perseverance)
- Co-operating
- Enjoying learning
- Improving
- Using your imagination (creativity)
- Concentrating
- Not giving up (resilience)

Also, please ensure that your child comes to school well rested and ready for learning by checking that they have the necessary equipment they need on a daily basis (e.g. reading book and diary, homework resources, water bottle, PE kit etc).

-Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning about this half term:

## Teaching and Learning Reception Class Spring Term One 2019

### Topic focus – Superheroes

#### Religious Education: Celebrating

I will recall the special time of Christmas and how we celebrated the birth of Jesus. I will be learning that celebrations are part of everyone's life and that they bring people together. I will learn that on Sunday, the parish family gathers at Mass to celebrate God's love. I will think of all the things I have to be thankful for at home and at school.

#### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

I will be learning about what it means to be a good friend to others; how to play cooperatively and how to negotiate successfully. I will be learning about my own and others feelings and consider what I need to do to make myself and others feel happy. I will become increasingly more independent in the classroom and learn what I need to do to be a motivated and successful learner. I will continue to share, take turns and care for my school environment.

#### Physical Development

I will continue to develop my independence in the classroom e.g. taking off and putting on my coat, putting on an apron for art and finding the resources I need around the classroom. I will be learning how to negotiate climbing equipment and use equipment such as bats and balls safely. I will be learning what I need to do to keep myself healthy.

#### Literacy

I will listen to a variety of stories about superheroes such as Superhero Hotel, Supertato and How to be a Superhero. I will continue to learn how to write letters correctly and continue to learn my letters and sounds in order to read and write. I will learn about different forms of writing such as narratives, captions and labels. I will learn that people are able to write in different ways all over the world and in a variety of languages.

#### Mathematics

I will be learning about the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes. I will begin to use both mathematical names and terms to describe shapes and will be using common shapes to create patterns. I will develop my counting skills, including counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and I will continue to learn about addition and subtraction, through songs, rhymes and practical activities.

#### Communication and language

I will begin to use my imagination to create, act out and retell stories which I will then recount in my writing. I will learn how to listen carefully to others, to ask appropriate questions and to answer others using complete sentences. I will learn how to describe

characters and settings using a range of interesting vocabulary and learn to retell stories I have heard in the correct sequence.

### Understanding the World

I will be learning how to log on and off of the computer and how to navigate a simple program. I will be learning about different occupations and will be talking about my past experiences with the class. I will be using my imagination to make a superhero hotel using large and small building blocks and recyclable materials

### Expressive Arts and Design

I will be learning how to retell a story through role play and use my imagination in art and dance to recreate the stories I have read. I will be learning to listen to different types of music and think about how the music makes us feel. I shall be matching movements to the music and learn a simple dance. I will learn new songs and begin to prepare for my assembly.

