




St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Curriculum Information

Foundation Stage Autumn Term 2018

Subject	What are we doing in school?	How can you help at home?
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>Number The children have been enjoying their 'Little Big Maths' lessons which at the moment focus on learning numbers 1-10. We have been exploring number and looking at how to represent these numbers using objects, equipment and pictures. Next, the children will learn to recognise numbers 11-20 and learn how to count on one.</p> <p>Shape, Space and Measure The children will be learning the names of 2D shapes and their properties. We will use the classroom environment to view these shapes and talk about where we find them in everyday life. In the mud kitchen, the children will be set a variety of fun challenges focusing on ordering. These include: ordering two or three items by length or height and ordering two items by weight or capacity.</p>	<p>Topmarks is a brilliant website that the children can use to practise all different aspects of maths. http://www.topmarks.co.uk</p> <p>Create your own number flashcards with your child, encouraging them to write the numbers correctly. Play a game of 'snap' with playing cards – this is a great way to get the children to recognise the number on the card.</p> <p>Try and find 2D shapes in your home. Search the food cupboards, kitchen and living room and talk about the properties of the shapes you find with your child.</p> <p>Bake a cake together, talk about how to use the weighing scales and compare the weight of all the different ingredients. Can your child tell you which the heaviest / lightest item is?</p> <p>Remember to add this home learning to tapestry, we love to see how you supporting your child's learning at home.</p>
<p>Science (Understanding the World)</p>	<p>In Science this term, we will be focusing on talking about some of the things we can observe such as plants, animals and natural objects. We will be exploring signs of Autumn by going on a nature walk and exploring our 'forest' and mud kitchen.</p>	<p>There are lots of activities you can do together at home to support your child's understanding of this topic.</p> <p>Go on a walk – Talk about the changes you see in the environment, what do you notice about the trees? Can you count how many conkers you found? Can you make a</p>



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Over the next few terms, we will be growing our own vegetables and plants in the sensory garden. The children will learn how to care for their plants and to discuss the changes in their environment.

At the end of the term the children will be able to:

- Talk about why things happen and how things work.
- Develop an understanding of growth, decay and changeover time.
- Show care and concern for living things and the environment.

picture collage using the natural items such as leaves and conkers?

When gardening at home involve your child and talk to them about how to care for plants/ vegetables you are growing. Can they tell you what a plant needs to grow?

We would love to see your pictures of these activities on tapestry!

Reading



We love reading in reception! Next term, the children will read in class every day. They read in a variety of ways including whole class, small group and individual reading.

During 'Big Read' the children read together, sharing their ideas and taking it in turns to read individual pages of the same book.

Books will be changed when we feel the children are able to retell a story and begin to use their phonics knowledge to sound out initial sounds in the book. We may send the same book home for a second reading if we feel more understanding of the story is needed.

We hope you will support us in listening to children read at home, if possible, **a minimum of three times a week.**

Your comments are a valuable contribution to the reading record so once you have read together with your child please record your experience which helps us to know when to change books.

Oxford Owl offers 250 free e-books which can be accessed at home. It's free to register and provides a wide variety of different texts for your child to read.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>



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Literacy



In literacy we are encouraging the children to give meaning to their marks. The children are now beginning to form recognisable letters and draw beautiful pictures! The children are applying their phonics knowledge to their written work and trying to label their picture with initial sounds. The children have access to sound mats and tricky words to support them with their writing.



Each week the children complete a piece of unaided work in their literacy books. The teacher then sits with the child to talk about the positives and together with the child they set a next step e.g. to write on the line. This allows the children to evaluate their own work and take ownership.

During the Autumn term, we really encourage children to learn how to write their name. Once they can do this, it is amazing how confident they become when writing!

Letter Formation

We have handwriting lessons as part of our Phonics lessons. The children are working hard to ensure that they are forming their letters correctly. In addition we have daily fine motor activities available to strengthen the children's muscles ready for writing. The 'finger gym' in both classes is very popular and we will soon be starting 'dough disco' with the children.

Some great websites to support your child's phonics at home :

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

www.phonicsbloom.com

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

A game to play at home is sound hunt. Write down the sounds and hide them around the house. Once your child has found the sounds, ask them to make their own. You can do the same with phonetically decodable words such as cat, dog, hat, cat etc. (see the letters and sounds website for lists of words to use)



The children are currently learning phase 2 sounds:



Please practise writing your child's name with them every day. This could be with chalk in the garden, with pencils, in the sand, with paint... the children love doing it in different ways!



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		<p>If your child is finding letter formation with a pencil difficult try writing letters in sand/ flour and use play dough to strengthen their hand muscles. The website below has lots of activities to try at home: http://handsonaswegrow.com/fine-motor-skills-activities/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Spelling</p> 	<p>For spellings in reception we focus on tricky and high frequency words.</p> <p>When we feel the children are ready, which is when they have grasped phase 2 sounds, the children's spellings will be placed into their reading records and will be changed when the child is able to both read and write the words. Please practise these spellings regularly at home.</p>	<p>The Letters and Sounds website contains a wealth of free resources to support your child's phonics.</p> <p>They have a variety of resources for every phase from 1-6. All of the children are currently working on phase 2 sounds.</p> <p>http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RE</p> 	<p>Welcome</p> <p>This term in RE our focus is 'Welcome'. We will be thinking about how we can welcome people into our classroom and how we can act towards them.</p> <p>We will be learning about Baptism and what this means. We are excited to act out a Baptism with the children and talk about the special and important objects associated with Baptism.</p>	<p>To help at home, it would be brilliant if you could encourage the children to talk about what experiences they have of the topic. How and when have they welcomed others? Have they ever been to a Baptism?</p> <p>We would love the children to bring in any items from their own Baptisms such as candles, bibles, cards and photos to discuss with the class.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PE</p>	<p>PE is on a Wednesday this term. The children's PE lessons focus on a different skill each term and the</p>	<p>There are occasions when extra PE slots are available so it is always a good idea to have kit at school all week.</p>



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theme is Autumn. Children will play various games which will also teach them about signs of Autumn and the changes in the environment. This term, the children will practise negotiating space effectively when playing running games, be able to balance and throw/catch balls.

A plain white T-shirt, white shorts and black plimsolls are required for indoor P.E. and we would like the children to wear plain dark tracksuit bottoms and trainers for P.E. outside and for the colder weather.

Please remove earrings, jewellery and watches at home on PE day as children are required to remove their own earrings because teachers are not authorised to remove them. Please name your child's kit and PE bag.

Homework

In reception the children's homework mainly consists of their home reading and learning their spellings.

We will give out additional homework or activities to do together at home to further support your child's understanding of a particular topic or skill.

Please remember to check Tapestry regularly for announcements and tasks to complete at home.