



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Early Years 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We thought that it might be helpful to explain some of the activities and areas of learning that your child will be working on this term.

Our topic is **ONCE UPON A TIME**

The focus for this half term is settling in to a new class for some and a new school for others. Through adult led activities we will teach the children how to use the different inside and outside areas, gradually introducing new resources and skills. The children will apply these skills in their children initiated learning (ChIL).

We will be spending the first few weeks getting to know the children and giving them time to get to know each other. As part of this we encourage the children to bring in a photo (or photos) from home that show more about them e.g. a pet, their family, them as a baby or any other photo that is special to them. Any photos we get in we will share together and would be greatly appreciated.

We will be beginning 'Show and Tell' soon (more details on this will be in our weekly information sheets) and it will be on a Friday. Your child will be given a 'group' and every third week they will be invited to bring in a special object, photo or toy that they can speak about. Please help them to choose wisely as this is an important time for them to gain confidence speaking to the whole class, it is much easier when their object is interesting (and they have something to say about it!).

In Literacy we will be reading a range of traditional tales and knight/princess themed books. These books will be the basis of our learning and we will link all areas of the curriculum in. Your child will also be given their first reading scheme book and reading diary (please send in £1 and we will issue your child with a diary

to keep). Please try to read these books each night with your child and keep them in their bookbags as we will be reading weekly with each child and this day may change. We will also begin taking the children to the library weekly to take out a book, this can happen on any day as it depends on parent volunteers. If you are able to spare an hour during the week to help with the library please let either me or Miss Bolton know; the library can only happen with the help of parents.

We will also begin phonics on a daily basis and will be using a mixture of Letters and Sounds and Jolly Phonics to develop children's phonic knowledge for reading and writing. They will have the opportunity to develop their writing skills in a variety of contexts. You may like to extend this learning at home, following the ideas in the "*Literacy Out and About*" booklet that you received in your 'welcome pack'.

If you have mislaid this, please ask us for a copy. We will write to you again shortly about the opportunity for you to attend a workshop at school about how you can help your child with phonics at home.

In Maths we will cover number, shape & space and measures. These are taught primarily in a practical way encouraging the children to learn through daily experiences in a stimulating environment, rather than through formal recording. You may like to extend this learning at home, following the ideas in the "*Maths Out and About*" booklet that you received with your 'welcome pack'.

The children will also be learning to use the computer for a range of purposes, including sessions in the ICT suite.

In PE with Mr Baker will be on a Friday, so please make sure your child's PE kit is in school on this day. As a large part of our curriculum in Early Years is developing those key skills of independence we ask you to please allow your child to get changed on their own. For the first few sessions, you can come in to help teach your child how to get ready (and help with those tricky buttons!) but our aim over the first month is to have the children getting ready independently – even if it takes all P.E. lesson!

Please could you ensure that **all** items of kit and uniform are clearly named, including socks and vests as these are easily mixed up!

Earrings need to be removed for PE or tape provided to cover them and long hair should be tied up at all times.

Please ensure that your child has their book bag and all books in school every day, as they are often needed. They also need a waterproof in navy or black that permanently stays on their peg as we often go out in damp weather! If you wish to bring in wellies on a rainy day please ensure your child has school shoes for when they are inside and we can help them swap footwear when they go outside.

N.B. As we are officially a "Healthy School" we would ask you to support us by NOT sending in sweets and chocolates when it is your child's birthday. Birthdays are celebrated during our weekly Celebration Assembly when the whole school sings 'Happy Birthday'!

As we share a piece of fruit or vegetable in snack each day, if you would like to bring in some of these that would be lovely; some of the children's past favourites have been packets of raisins, melon and berries.

If there are any changes regarding the collection of your child, please advise the school in writing as early as possible. If it is a last-minute arrangement then please call the office no later than 2:45pm so that there is time for the message to make it to class. As we get to know your family we will allow your child to go home with their parent or grandparent without knowing in advance but if any other adult is picking them up and we weren't aware we will have to call you to check before we let them go.

If any parent, grandparent, aunty or uncle would like to help out in Early Years 2 please sign up on the rota displayed on the class window.
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We hope you find this information useful. Look out for notices on the weekly parent information sheet detailing what we are learning that week and things we may ask your child to bring in for this topic. If you have any questions please just come and ask, thank you for all your support.

Kind regards

Mrs Smith-Beckingham and Miss Bolton

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