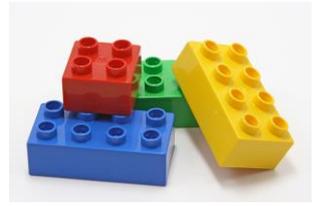


Robin and Hummingbirds Newsletter for Reception Parents

Spring 1 2016-17



Aspire Believe Succeed



Inspiring learners for life.

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We hope you had a fantastic holiday with your family and friends and are ready for a busy term back in school. Our topic this term is High in the Sky, see below for details of some exciting events this half term.

High in the Sky

This term our topic is High in the Sky. We will be learning all about things that fly and float in the sky.

As part of this unit the children will:

- Release a helium balloon
- Design and make their own kite
- Explore bubbles
- Design and make paper planes
- Learn to retell 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy
- Pretend to be astronauts in our space role play.



We are glad so many of you are using and enjoying viewing your child's learning journey through Tapestry. Please remember that you can add your own observations of your child's learning at home as well as view the observations made in school. We love seeing what experiences the children have at home and what they enjoy doing, you could add an observation of anything from practising their writing, having swimming lessons to attending a special family event like a wedding or Christening. If you are unsure how to add an observation, please ask the class teacher.

Parent and Carers Workshops

Supporting your child's reading at home – Tuesday 24th January 3pm

What skills does my child need to be able to read? How can I support my child at home? How to use phonics and other strategies to support reading at home.

Introduction to early writing skills and how you can support at home – Tuesday 7th February 3pm

How we teach writing at St Pauls. The end of year expectations in Reception. How to make writing fun and engaging.



We strongly urge you to join us in the school hall for a fun and interactive session for parents and children.

Show and Tell

We will be starting show and tell on a Friday afternoon this half term. This is an opportunity for the children to bring in something special from home, this could be a toy, a photo of a special event, or a special object. The children will be able to show the item to the friends and will then talk about why it is special. It would be good if you could practice this with your child beforehand so they feel more confident on the day. Please do not bring in anything expensive or breakable.

Red group – Friday 13th January

Blue group – Friday 20th January

Green group – Friday 27th January

Orange group – Friday 3rd February

Purple group – Friday 10th February

Yellow group – Friday 17th February



Balloon release

Thank you to everyone who came to our balloon release. We will let you know if we get any responses.



We take pride in our appearance!

Please ensure your child is smartly dressed and wears the correct uniform.

Learning in Reception

Learning in reception is play based and we want the children to enjoy their learning and remain engaged and excited about it. As we move through the year we have more structured times during the day in order to prepare the children for their move up to year 1. This term we will be introducing a guided reading session every day. Each week the children will have the opportunity to read in small groups with the teacher and teaching assistant in their class. It is an opportunity to learn basic book skills and practise applying their phonic knowledge whilst reading. The end of year expectation for children in reception is that they will be able to read a sentence independently and talk about what they have read.

Learning to read takes lots of practise so we appreciate all the help you can offer by reading regularly at home with your child.

Remember, your child can change their book every day now. The baskets of books are available every morning, please ask if you aren't sure which basket your child should be taking from or if you have any other questions.

Book Buddies

We will be continuing book buddies this term. Join us from 3.25pm to read your child's home reading book with them. Teachers and assistants will be around to offer support in how to read effectively with your child or answer any questions you may have. Don't forget the children who read will also get a biscuit and a drink!

Book buddies will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:25pm to 3:45pm.

We look forward to seeing you!

Encouraging Independence

Now your children are settling into school life we'd like to start promoting them to be more independent. Encourage them to put their own book bag and reading folder away and select their own lunch. It would also be good to start letting them get dressed in the morning, we are finding a lot of children are struggling to put their uniform back on after PE or put their coat on at playtimes.



This is Robbie the Robin. He'll be coming to visit one day soon, he is writing a diary all about his trips so please fill this in with your child.



Early Bird Reading

The bell rings at 8:45am every morning, this is a chance for you to join your child in their classroom to share a story together. Please ensure you leave promptly at 8:55am so we can begin our learning.



This is Harry the Hummingbird. He'll be coming to visit one day soon, he is writing a diary all about his trips so please fill this in with your child.