Care, Grow and Flourish
in God's Loving Hands

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Reception Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Autumn 2nd Half Term: November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope the children have had an enjoyable half term break. We are so pleased with how they have settled into Reception and are looking forward to the weeks ahead. Much of our learning this half term will centre upon our key texts which will be 'Little Glow', 'Stick Man' and 'A Star So Bright, A Christmas Tale'. Later in the half term, the children will also enjoy taking part in wide range of Christmas activities.

The table below gives a brief outline of the learning in different subject areas.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
Communication Language and Literacy	The children will have the opportunity to develop this area through: • Describing natural objects • Retelling stories through the use of actions • Using their imagination to describe different uses for one object • Sequencing images of a story • Role play • Joining in singing and rhyming activities
Phonics	The children will be recapping the Phase 2 sounds and harder to read and spell words they have been learning. • **Set 1** – s a t p • **Set 2** – i n m d • **Set 3** – g o c k • **Set 4** – ck e u r • **Set 5** – h b f ff l ll ss The children will also be learning to read and spell the following harder to read and spell words: **I, the, no, put, of, is, to, go, into, pull, as, his**
Physical Development	Weekly children will take part in two PE lessons. In class this area will be developed by: • Manipulating a range of different tools such as paint brushes, scissors and pencils • Learning to travel in different ways including jumping, crawling, hopping and skipping • Engaging with hygiene routines to keep ourselves safe • Putting on their coat and fastening it independently

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	We will be focusing on 'Celebrating Difference', where the children will: • Identify something they are good at • Know they are each special but can be different or similar • Discuss why homes are special • Discuss how to be a kind friend • Know which words to use to stand up for yourself
Literacy	The children will be using the key texts in order to: • Create story maps • Create a group message • Make signs and labels • Practise mark making • Write cards • Create a scene of a story
Maths	• Recognising and representing numbers to 5 • Count and subsidise these numbers • Identify larger and smaller groups • Identify one more and less • Explore shapes and where they can be found • Use and understand positional language • Understand times of the day and routines
Understanding of the World	• Making observations about autumnal objects • Explore different animals and where they live in the winter • Learning surrounding festivals such as Diwali and Bonfire Night • Discuss Christmas and different traditions around the world • Making Christingles and festive foods • Describe how they celebrate Christmas
Expressive Arts	• Using natural objects to make collages • Using clay to make light holders • Role playing different stories • Building structures • Decorating Christmas objects
RE	We will also be focusing on the topic 'Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?', where the children will: • Explore what the Bible tells out about what Jesus was like • Understand how Jesus is shown to be important in the church • Recognise impact of Jesus on Christian living • Understand the Christmas story and Christmas traditions

Reading

By this stage all children will have one book a week to be reading at home. We continue to ask that these reading books are sent into school every day.
One of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning is to ensure that they engage with 10- 15 minutes reading every day. This can consist of hearing them read their school reading book or sharing books that you have at home. Your child should also have received a **paper reading record** to monitor reading. It is important that you look at the reading record on a regular basis and make a brief comment about your child's reading at least once a week.

PE

The class will have PE on **Wednesday and Thursday.** On these days, children I need to **come in to school wearing their PE kit.** This should consist of their school PE t-shirt, jogging bottoms/PE shorts and trainers (not plimsolls, due to possible wet weather).

Reminders about what children need in school

- **Named** school jumper/cardigan/coat
- Named water bottle (water fountains are still not in use)
- Folder containing reading book (provided by school)
- Children can bring in school book bags if they have them.

- Small packet of tissues, and we also ask for any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, please contact the class team via the School Office email.

Miss Christou and the Reception Team