



St David's R.C. Primary School Newsletter

Term: Autumn 2026

Class/Dosbarth: Reception/Derbyn

Teacher/Athrawes: Mrs Walters

PPA Teacher: Mrs Clements (Monday PM)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Richards & Mrs Lacy-Brown



Dear/Annwyl Parents,

Welcome to your first Reception newsletter! These are sent out termly to give you an overview of what the children will be learning during the term including our theme, and any other important information.

Firstly, I have to say it has been so lovely getting to know your children over the last couple of weeks. This time has really allowed us to spend time with the children building a relationship with them and observing their skills to ensure they have a successful learning journey in Reception. I am very excited to go on this learning journey with them and please always remember it's about the 'learning journey' and not the 'final destination'. Children are unique and will all progress in their own very special way!

In Reception this year our theme will be 'Seize the Season'. Each term will be full of learning activities based on the current season as well as celebrating key events of each season. This allows the children to have real authentic learning experiences. We will begin Autumn term with a celebration of ourselves and our community before we explore the transition from Summer into Autumn and all the joys which Autumn brings. This will include a wonderful Autumn walk and sorting beautiful colour leaves with 'The Leaf Man'. As the days become darker in the second half term we will learn about nocturnal animals, enjoy stories such as 'Owl Babies', before we discover 'The Leaf Thief' moving from Autumn into Winter.

The children will also have dedicated lessons to developing Literacy, Maths and R.E skills as detailed below.

Literacy:

Literacy is a combination of oracy, reading and writing skills.

Oracy: The children will enjoy learning rhymes and reciting parts of familiar stories, such as 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We will support the children in developing their vocabulary to be able to talk in

extended sentences using describing words and correct grammar. We will develop the children's clarity in speech to be able to pronounce words clearly as well as being able to hear sounds at the beginning of words. We will practice asking and answering questions such as who? what? why? and when?

Reading & Writing: As you are aware we follow the Monster Phonics scheme for phonics. The first term introduces all the single sounds and encourages the children to start blending c-v-c words (consonant-vowel-consonant), such as sat and mat. We will also begin to introduce some of the high frequency words such as 'the' and 'no'. The children will also have 'Squiggle Wiggle' once a week to help develop their fine and gross motor skills which will support them with their writing. You will be advised weekly of the sounds and words taught and it would benefit your child to practice them at home. You will also receive a copy of the letter formations rhymes we use and please ensure if practicing writing at home that your child is holding the pencil correctly.

Maths:

We will be exploring number in lots of different ways. We will be looking at being able to count forwards to 20-and backwards from 12 confidently as well as being able to touch count confidently. We will build confidence reading numbers and exploring correct number formations. I will upload a copy of the number rhymes we use in Reception so you can use the same ones at home if the children are practising them. We will explore 1 more/1 less than a number and begin simple addition. We will also be exploring 2D & 3D shapes, patterns, sorting objects into groups and making tally charts. We will also begin to introduce using money in role-play and begin to recognise coins.

R.E:

In Reception we will follow the new R.E curriculum. Our topic this half term is called 'In the Beginning' and after half term 'Advent to Christmas'. Please see the R.E newsletter for more information which I will also upload on SeeSaw.

In addition to R.E topic work, the children will take part in collective daily worship. This will either be in the hall with other classes or our own class worship in the prayer room. On a Friday there is a whole school worship and celebration in which children receive certificates for demonstrating attributes of the four purposes and virtues.

Home Learning

Sounds (Phonics): We will be starting to introduce the Monster Phonics scheme next week with a celebration of the monsters. Every Friday you will be sent via SeeSaw a copy of the sounds and words taught that week. Please practice them with your child. I will be uploading some ideas in which you can make reading more fun at home. Children best learn practically therefore playing games like 'I spy...' and writing letters in flour, glitter, paint etc. are also valuable activities you could do at home.

Reading Books: From next week can the children bring in their book bags every Wednesday. The children will choose 1 story book for 'reading for pleasure' and when ready they will also receive a reading scheme book once a week. Please write a comment in the book to acknowledge you have shared the book with your child.

Maths: There are many opportunities outside of the classroom in which children can practice their number skills. Take any opportunity to practice counting, reading, and writing numbers with correct formations. Shape and money can also be tricky for your children to learn so do not be afraid to introduce recognising coins and both 2D and 3D shapes with your child when convenient. We will also be starting Maths Seeds soon which is a fun engaging maths app for children. They will have their own usernames given and certificates to gain. We are also introducing a Maths Family Programme which will be explained further in our Meet the Teacher session.

Topic: Each half term there will be a home learning bingo with activities linked to the topic. It will be up to you how many you wish to complete. This will be uploaded separately on SeeSaw and on the school website. The children will be rewarded for their participation in this.

Cymraeg/Welsh: From next week we will have a weekly Welsh champion in the class. As a reward they will be able to take our Welsh puppets Fflic a Fflac home for the weekend. In their bag will be a fan of questions we use in class. They will be able to share this with you. You can share your adventures on SeeSaw (using the home learning code) or in their travelling book.

Prayer Bear: From next week a child will be chosen everyday to take home the prayer bear. The prayers are included in the bag with a candle and rosary. Please send us photos and videos of them using them on SeeSaw.

Catholic Social Teaching: We also send home Catholic Social Teaching characters once we have introduced them in class. These will also go home daily with a story and rhyme for you to share together. Please send us photos and videos of them using them on SeeSaw.

General Important Information

- **Home time** - When the main gate is opened at the end of the day, please now come through the gate and wait under the shelter by the classroom door. We remind you to be patient whilst we dismiss each child 1 by 1 and if you need to discuss something then you will be asked to wait until all the other children have gone and it is safe to do so.
- **Water bottles** - Please be assured that the children have access to their water bottles all day and they have at least 1 cup (if not more!) with their dinner too. We do remind the children throughout the day to go and have a drink, albeit some children do become engrossed in their learning and play. Please reassure your child that they can get their drink from the water trolley during 'play and activity time' and if they confide in you that they are too scared to ask then firstly please remind them they don't have to ask because they are free to have it whenever they require and then also let us know so we can also remind them it is ok to access them. Also please make sure bottles are labelled with names.
- **Snack** - The children only require one item for snack or a couple of small things i.e. a mix of strawberries and blueberries. They do not have a lot of time to eat large boxes of snacks as well as have time to play with their friends on the yard. A gentle reminder also that it should also be a healthy snack such as fruit and vegetables or items such as rice cakes, breakfast bars, mini breadsticks etc. not crisps and chocolate bars.
- **P.E - Tuesdays**
Please make sure they come in wearing appropriate clothing and shoes. There are school P.E t-shirts or any yellow t-shirt would be most appropriate. Ideally black/grey jogging bottoms/shorts/leggings. P.E may be inside or outside. It would be beneficial to the children to not wear shoes with laces on this day in case they have to take them off and put them back as we want them to be independent learners. If your child cannot take off and put on their shoes and socks independently then please practice this at home.
- **Book Bags** - Children are to bring in their book bags in every Wednesday and will go home on Fridays unless told differently.
- **Outdoor Learning - Mondays**. We will go out whatever the weather so please ensure that your child has wellies and appropriate clothing for that day including school uniform. As the weather gets colder they may wish to wear more layers underneath their school t-shirt to help them keep warmer when outside. We will be starting this Monday so please make sure they bring their wellies in.
- **Show and Tell - Thursdays**. From next week we will also begin 'show and tell' on Thursdays. Due to the number of children in class this will be on a rota and you will be sent this on SeeSaw.
- **Uniform and Coats** - A polite reminder to make sure all uniform including coats are labelled with your child's name. With the weather changing quite frequently at the moment please make sure they bring in a coat every day even if it is in their bag. If

they cannot do their zips and buttons independently then please practice with them at home.

- Loose part play and woodwork are key practice in early years development, so we welcome any nails, screws, bottle lids, any bits of wood, reels, bottle lids etc. We also have loose part ingredient trays for our mud kitchen. If you have any flowers which are dying out, then please donate them to our petal tray. If any children want to collect pebbles, leaves, sticks, conkers, cones etc. to add to our mud kitchen ingredient trays then please feel free to bring them in a bag to school. If any one is super keen I can lend a nature collecting bag to do this if needed.
- We also welcome any spare clothes, so if at any point you are doing a closet clear out we will make sure they don't go to waste!
- Please check out our school website; <https://www.stdavidsprimarycwmbran.com/> if you need to see any further information about the class and school.
- Reminder! Tuesday 22nd September - Meet the Teacher!

We hope you find this information useful and please just let us know if there is anything we can do to support in any way.

Diolch yn fawr iawn!

Mrs Walters and the Reception Team