**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

“Learn, Love and Respect Through Jesus” St Francis of Assisi

10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to school to all families. Please see the information below for this term’s staffing and curriculum in the Early Years.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Staffing | Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Lang (Learning Support Assistant- AM only) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant – AM only)  Mrs Lang (Learning Support Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Donno (Teaching Assistant – PM only) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant) | Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Pettitt (Learning Support Assistant) |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Curriculum Information - Topics | | | | | |
| **Autumn 1 2024** | **Autumn 2 2024** | **Spring 1 2025** | **Spring 2 2025** | **Summer 1 2025** | **Summer 2 2025** |
| My 5 Senses | Shadows and Light | Fantasy and Adventure | Jurassic Journey | Materials | People who help Us |

Below we have highlighted some of the key learning intentions for the beginning of the Spring Term, however please note these are not exhaustive and will be adjusted and adapted to suit the needs of individual children and the entire cohort.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spring 1 Curriculum | | |
| Curriculum Area | Nursery & Reception | Home Enrichment Activities |
| ***Personal, Social and Emotional Development*** | Children will be learning to understand that if we persevere we can tackle challenges.  We will be setting goals and working towards them and learning to recognise when we feel proud.  Children will be thinking about ways we can use kind words to encourage others.  We will also begin to understand the link between the things we are learning now and the job we might like to do when we’re older.  The children will also be developing their understanding of how to make the right choices and the consequences of not making the right ones. | Reinforce expected behaviour in the home setting. Discuss the consequences of inappropriate behaviour/actions. Talk about feelings with your child and help them to understand: happy, sad, angry and scared. Encourage them to express how they might be feeling. Have fun looking in a mirror and pulling funny faces to express emotions! |
| ***Physical Development*** | Children will access the outdoor classroom, and develop balance and coordination skills to enable them to travel in a variety of ways, including over, under, through and around obstacle equipment.  Children will take part in PE sessions each week in the school hall, playground or field with Mr Fitzgerald. The focus this half term is gymnastics.  Children will engage in a variety of fine motor control activities including: scissor control, threading, construction, mark making and dough activities. Reception will also be developing their core strength and ability to sit at a table to write.  Children will practise health and self-care routines including: hand washing, blowing their nose and putting on their coats and wellies. We will commence Forest School will begin after half term. | Encourage your child to be fully proficient when using the toilet and washing their hands.    Encourage children to develop the ability to cope with dressing and undressing by putting their school shoes and coats on themselves each morning. |
| ***Communication and Language***  ***Literacy*** | Children will continue to be encouraged to take part in circle time activities within small and large groups. There will continue to be lots of opportunities for pupils to express their views, share stories and become confident to speak in a familiar group and we will continue to support children in responding to ideas expressed by others with relevant comments and questions.  Children will be introduced to a wide range of vocabulary linked to our **Fantasy and Adventure** and **Materials** themes, including*, knight, armour, castle, turrets, hero, fiction, character, waterproof, float, sink etc.*  We will then move onto language associated with dinosaurs, fossils, carnivores and herbivores.  Language interventions will be delivered to target pupils to develop their expressive and receptive language and early language development. | We’d love for you to draw (and for Reception children to have a go at labelling) your favourite Fantasy and Adventure book! You could share your drawings and any photos of you reading your favourite books at home via Tapestry. We’d love to share these with the rest of the class and use your work from home for a new display!  Encourage your child to spot letters in the environment, e.g. number plates, signs, magazines etc.  Reception children will continue to bring home phonics sheets to help consolidate our phonics learning each week as well as a decodable word book. Please listen to your child read this book over the weekend and return it to class on the Monday.  All Nursery children will continue to bring home a story sack or wordless book each week. These are to share at home to encourage children to retell stories / describe what they see in as much detail as possible.  Endeavour to read to your child every day to foster the love of reading and books. Encourage your child to talk about the illustrations in the stories. Model how to hold a book correctly and turn pages. Feed your child’s imagination and deepen their vocabulary by telling them a range of stories |
| ***Mathematics*** | Children will consolidate their understanding of numbers 0-5 and then be moving on to deepen their understanding of numbers beyond 5.  Reception will become familiar with the language associated with weight, height and capacity. They will also build confidence using Part-Whole models to deconstruct numbers.  Children will be learning to add and subtract 1 from a given number using practical resources.  Nursery will continue to develop the skill of subitising and they will explore repeated patterns, position and learn to compare quantities. | Practise counting with your child. You might like to count objects at home. Encourage your child to place objects in a line whilst counting and to touch count. Go on a ‘Number Hunt’ with your child. Draw their attention to numbers in the environment, for example, on registration plates, buses, doors and encourage them to recognise and name the numerals they see.    Please follow the links below for further information on Numicon or for educational games to access at home:  • Making Numbers Real-Numicon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYgwM5Z1tMo>  • Crickweb-free online educational games for children <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html> |
| ***Understanding of the World*** | Children will learn that maps give us directions and they will be introduced to the idea of simple keys on maps. We will also think about landmarks.  We will learn about different materials and their basic properties and think about what different familiar objects are made from.  We will look closely at the changes in our environment throughout Winter and as we move towards Spring.  We will also bring to life the topic of dinosaurs through fossil hunting and learning about key historical figures. | ***If any Parents would like to come in to share their profession with the children we’d love to welcome you in to the classroom. Please let us know if you think you can help.*** |
| ***Expressive Arts and Design*** | Children will be taught a range of skills to help them develop confidence and enjoyment of expressive arts. This term in particular we will focus on cutting skills and how to hold and turn paper to cut around curved edges.  During child initiated learning pupils will have access to a wide variety of creative materials and will be able to express their own creativity.  Children will be able to access a variety of small world and role play activities to develop expressive language. Children will develop their repertoire of Nursery Rhymes, Action Songs and themed songs. | Encourage your child to sing songs from school in the home setting.  Allow your child to access a wide range of creative activities: painting, collage, creative role play etc. |
| ***Religious Education*** | Our R.E topic this half term is Galilee to Jerusalem.  Children will learn about the Epiphany to start with and then they will hear the Bible story of Jesus welcomes the little children.  We will also learn about the Trinity and the Glory Be Prayer.  We will focus on ways that we can show love to others such as helping the vulnerable. | Maybe your child would like to think of a way in which they are a good friend like Jesus, and send in a photo or drawing of how they have helped others.  Prayer Bear will continue to come home with a different child each week, we hope you enjoy your turn with him!  Jesus Children Stock Illustrations – 2,273 Jesus Children Stock  Illustrations, Vectors &amp; Clipart - Dreamstime |

Nursery and Reception children will begin PE sessions with Mr Fitzgerald on **Friday 17th January**. They will need to wear a named P.E kit to school every Friday please. This PE session will be indoors focussed on gymnastics.

Our Forest School sessions will not begin again until after the February half term. This is to give our forest the chance to rest over the winter. We will update you on kit requirements before these session begin.

Please be reminded that Reception children will be bringing home a worded reading book every Friday. This will need to be returned to school and ticked off on the return list every Monday please. We are unable to issue the following book until the previous one has been returned and ticked off on the return list.

Nursery children will also continue to bring home a new book or story sack to share with you every Friday. This will need to be returned and ticked off on the returns list by the following Friday please.

If you have any questions please feel free to catch us at drop off or collection times and we will be happy to make an appointment to discuss all queries or concerns.

We look forward to another busy and exciting term ahead!

Mrs Overett Mrs Clark

EYFS Teacher EYFS Teacher