

Welcome to Reception Class Newsletter



Dear Parents

Thank you very much for supporting your child during their first transition week in school. I am very pleased with how quickly the children have settled into their new environment and started to adopt new routines. I hope that like me your child is looking forward to having a very fun and exciting year in Reception class.

This newsletter is intended to provide parents with a few important details and also give you a brief insight into our topic for this Autumn half term "All About Me". However, on Tuesday 13th September we are having a 'Meet the Teacher' evening from 6pm until 7pm during which you can find out more about our Reception class routines and how Phonics and Reading are delivered in the classroom. It is important that school and parents work in partnership to enhance learning. I am therefore looking forward to getting to know and work jointly with parents so that the children's time in Reception class is as enjoyable and productive as possible.

At St. Luke's we have an open door policy so please do not hesitate to speak to the Reception staff with any questions you may have.

Kind regards Mrs Birch

Week beginning Monday 12th September

All Reception class children will be starting school at 8.50 am, staying for lunch and then going home at 1.30 pm. As the cost of your child's meal will be covered by the Government we would like to encourage children to try our school meal during this week.



Parent's Lunch - Friday 16th September

We look forward to seeing parents in school for our Reception class Parent's Lunch on Friday 16th. Following registration at 1pm parents are welcome to take their child home.

P.E.

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school and that all items are clearly labelled. The children will have P.E. on Monday afternoon. We would encourage children to practise getting undressed/dressed independently at home to help them get changed quickly in school!

PLEASE LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES

Water bottles

Please could you provide your child with a water bottle to enable them access to water throughout the day. Bottles should be brought in full on a Monday and taken home every Friday.

Please make sure your child's name is written clearly on their water bottle.

All About Me

Over the next 6 weeks , to cover our topic "All About Me", we will be looking at areas such as our homes, our families and our bodies.

To engage and encourage children to talk about where they live and their family it would be helpful if children could bring to school a photograph of their home and a photograph of themselves with a family member/members. Photographs will of course be looked after carefully and returned. Preferably, photographs can be emailed to - abirch@st-lukes-endon.staffs.sch.uk

When talking about our bodies the children will be encouraged to observe how we are all different i.e. eye/hair colour, size (height). We will focus on using and identifying those body parts that provide us with our senses i.e. sense of smell, touch, taste, sight and hearing.

As Autumn approaches we will ask the children to collect items to create an Autumn display table e.g. conkers, acorns and different coloured leaves etc. These items will encourage discussion and children's understanding of seasons and change.

During our Harvest celebration we will focus on "sharing with others". We will share the story of Jesus "Feeding of the Five Thousand" and make our own bread to share. We will start to think about "healthy eating" and previously children have made a large bowl of fruit salad to share in class.

Literacy

In literacy we will be reading Traditional Tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, Red riding Hood and Little Red Hen. These stories will help the children with understanding story sequences, characters and settings as well as encouraging them to join in with repeated phrases.

Children will be recapping on Phase 2 letters sounds using Jolly Phonics songs and actions. Sounds to practise daily will be sent home in a folder.



Mathematics



In mathematics we will be practicing both counting skills and forming numbers correctly. Children will be encouraged to talk about time in relation to ordering events in their daily routines, learning a days of the week song and playing "What's the Time Mr. Wolf". We will be extending the children's mathematical language when ordering and comparing the size and length of our 3 bears. The children will also be learning about repeated patterns, going on a shape hunt and making 2D shape pictures.



"I can" stars



We will send home with each child an "I can" star. We would be grateful if, along with your child, you could think of something special your child has recently achieved either at home, a club or at school i.e. riding a bike, passing a swimming level or counting objects to 20.

On the front of the star please could you write - I can ... (followed by your child's achievement) and on the back of your star write your child's name.

Please could you return the star to school where the children's achievements will be discussed and the stars will then be cut out to go on our "I can" classroom wall display.

A new star will be sent home every half term and our display changed accordingly.

"Wow moments" activities

For the past four years Reception class parents have kindly offered to donate a voluntary contribution of £1.00 per week to allow us to purchase extra resources to facilitate additional "wow moments" in school. Previously this contribution has enabled us to buy; wild flower seeds to enhance our garden and attract wildlife, ingredients for making and baking, as well as different role play items and costumes. Whilst our busy EYFS curriculum provides exciting and engaging activities, facilitating additional "wow moments" aspires to enhance play and learning experiences. Should you wish to contribute please could you do so in a purse or envelop labelled "Wow Moments".

Thank you in advance for your support.

Any contribution you wish to make would be gratefully received.

Home work

As a precursor to reading books we will be sending out "Talkabout Cards" for you and your child to share and discuss. In addition, we will be sending home a "Brain Builder" book. Within this book you will be given information on what the children have been doing in school during the week and ideas on how you can help to support them further with their learning.

More details will be given during our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on the 13th.

Book Bags

Our PSA have very kindly funded the cost to provide every new Reception class child with a St. Luke's book bag. We will frequently be sending letters and information home so please could you ensure that your child brings their bag to school everyday and that letters are removed and read each night.

In due course book bags will be used for sending reading books and reading diaries home. Therefore please do not put your child's water bottle inside their book bag. Thank you in advance

School Terms and Holiday Dates 2015/2016 with inset days.

Autumn Term 2015:

Staff: Mon 7 September and Mon 16 November (Inset Days)
Staff and Pupils: Tues 8 September - Fri 23 October (34 working days)
Holiday: Mon 26 October - Fri 30 October (5 days)
Staff & Pupils: Mon 02 November - Fri 18 December (34 working days)
Holiday: Mon 21 December - Fri 01 January (10 days)

Spring Term 2016:

Staff and Pupils Mon 04 January - Fri 12 February (30 working days)
Holiday: Mon 15 February - Fri 19 February (5 days)
Staff & Pupils: Mon 22 February - Thurs 24 March (24 working days)
Holiday: Fri 25 March - Wednesday 06 April (9 days)
Easter Sunday: Sun 27 March

Summer Term 2016:

Staff: Thurs 07 April, Fri 08 April and Mon 06 June (Inset days)
Staff and Pupils: Mon 11 April - Fri 27 May (35 working days)
May Day: Mon 2 May
Holiday: Mon 30 May - Fri 3 June (5 days)
Staff: Monday 06 June - Friday 18 July
Staff & Pupils: Tuesday 07 June - Fri 22 July (34 working days)
Holiday: Mon 25 July - Fri 2 September (30 days)

Staff Total: 195 days Pupils Total: 190

INSET DAYS Mon 07 September 2015 and Mon 16 November 2015
Thursday 07 April 2016 and Friday 08 April 2016
Monday 06 June 2016