

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting first half term in 2016. I sincerely hope that you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and would like to wish you a happy and healthy new year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the kind gifts, cards and messages. I was once again overwhelmed by your generosity. This half term we have lots of exciting things to do. At the end of January, we are having our first Rejoice Class Assembly and we will be celebrating all of the things we have learnt at our new school. In class, we are going to be exploring water, investigating ice and learning about Artic animals. This overview will outline what the children will cover in the different areas of the curriculum, which is driven through their interests. If you have any concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to come in and see me at the end of the school day. Kind regards, Miss Morris.

Reading

The children are working very hard at learning to read and are showing a developing interest in books. We are working with the children to make them aware of the range of strategies involved in reading.



Letter sounds are important, but they are not the only way to learn to read. Try a few of these ideas with your child:

- Give them the book upside and the wrong way round. Can they hold the book correctly and turn the pages left to right?
- Ask them to point to the title. Can they guess what it might say using the illustration on the front cover?
- Before they start reading the words, ask them to look at the pictures throughout the book with you. Can they tell you what is happening before reading the words?
- When reading the words, if they are stuck, ask them if the word looks like a word they know. Can they pick up on the repetitive language in the book?
- If they read a word incorrectly, read back what they said. Ask them does that sentence make sense?
- At the end of the book, ask your child what they enjoyed about the story or about any facts they have learned, see if they can relate it to their own experiences in any way.

By the end of the Reception class year, all children are expected to do the following to achieve the 'Reading Early Learning Goal':

- Read and understand simple sentences
- Use letter sound knowledge to decode regular words and read them accurately
- Read some common irregular words (tricky words)
- Show understanding when talking to others about what they have read.

The above ideas will help your child to reach these goals and begin to read with confidence.

St Oswald's runs an early doors reading club each morning during the week from 8am - 8:45am (£2 per day), which your child is welcome to join at any time. If you would like further information, come and see me at the end of the day or contact the school office.

Water bottles and snacks

WATER: We ask the children to bring water to school everyday (please no juice or flavoured water) in a bottle with a sports top to prevent any unnecessary spillage.



SNACKS: The children need to bring a healthy snack to school Monday to Friday. They can bring fruit or cereal bars for their snack and will be given the opportunity to eat their snacks during morning playtimes.



During afternoon playtime, the children are given the opportunity to choose a piece of fruit for their snack.

Book bags

Your child will need their book bags in school in each day with their reading book and reading record inside.

Reading Records

The Reading Record is an excellent way of letting me know how your child copes with their reading book. It is very helpful if you can make a brief comment about your child's reading. Information about if they enjoyed the book, their favourite characters, the words/sounds they recognised, if they could retell the story/main facts and say what they think may happen next, are very useful.

PE

This half term, we will be doing PE on a Friday. These sessions may be outdoors so please ensure that your child has an outdoor kit (dark blue jogging pants, and a plain dark blue jumper). If your child wears earrings, they will need to be removed before coming to school or plasters will need to be provided to put over their earrings during PE.



Important dates

Thursday 28th January: Reception Re-joice Class Assembly 9am in the school hall.

Tuesday 9th February: Parents' Evening 3:30 to 6pm (school closes at 3pm).

Thursday 11th February: Parents' Evening 5:30 to 8pm.

Appointment request slips will be available soon.

Catholic life of the school

This half term we will be re-introducing our class masses. Each Tuesday two classes will join with the parish to celebrate Mass at 9am. Year 6 and Reception, Year 5 and Year 1, Year 3 and Year 2 and Year 4 will join the parish. Please look out for dates on the weekly newsletter or on the school website.

Each day the children will take part in collective worship. Whole school collective worship begins our week every Monday, followed by class collective worships led by the teachers and children on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Fridays there is a key stage assembly.

The Wednesday Word is available for every child to take home every Wednesday. Please look out for this and share it with your child. Additional copies are available at the school office.

Also this term the children will be involved in charity work during Lent. We will be taking part in fundraising activities and raising awareness of local charities through the Good Shepherd Appeal for Nugent Care. We will also be raising funds for 'Mission Together' which supports international charity work.



Things you can do at home

Below are a few things that you can do at home to help to support your child in school this half term:

- Share books with them each night and talk about what they have read/looked at.
- Help them to learn to read and write their key words (located in the back of Reading Records).
- Help them to record their WOW moments/special events in their 'Special Moments' book.
- Encourage them to fasten buttons and zip up their coats.

Thank you for your continued support in helping the children make good progress. Any extra help you can give is very much appreciated.

Come and See



Each week the children take part in RE lessons taught from the 'Come and See' Religious Education programme, which all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool follow.

This half term we will be learning about 'Celebrating'. The children will learn about what it means to celebrate and about how the parish family celebrates. This half term, we are celebrating our learning in our very first Rejoice Class Assembly.

In February we will begin our next topic 'Gathering'. We will learn about how and why people gather, and the joy in gathering together to celebrate Mass.

Literacy

- To share winter stories and poems (The Stick Man, Percy the Park Keepers' Snowy Night, The Gruffalo's Child). Retell and sequence story events.
- To use non fiction books to find out about polar bears and penguins.
- To continue a rhyming string.
- To identify, say and write the initial sound in words.
- To segment the sounds in three letter words (CVC) and blend them together.
- To begin to learn the alphabet.
- To begin to match capital letters to lower case letters.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- To share ideas about how we can help others and show that we care.
- To develop ways to solve problems when they arise.
- To explore feelings and experiences that make us feel certain emotions.



Physical Development

- *Let's be a train toot toot!* To learn to adjust speed (gradually slowing down/speeding up) and changing direction to avoid obstacles.
- To use scissors, keys in padlocks, screw tops on bottles with increasing control.
- To practise opening and fastening buttons, and tying scarves.
- To continue to form recognisable lower case letters with pencils, paintbrushes and piping bags.

Communication and Language

- To develop language about winter and water.
- To use winter language when playing in the role-play area (the Ice Cave and Percy's house).
- To talk about stories/events in sequence and to say why events have happened.



Mathematics

- To count beyond 10 and order numbers on a number line.
- To find the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them.
- To find one more/less than a given number to 10 and then beyond.
- To use the language of more and fewer to describe two sets of objects.
- To use mathematical names for 3D shapes and describe them.
- To use 2D shapes to make patterns.
- To order objects by their capacity.
- To use everyday language related to time, order and sequence familiar events.



Winter



Understanding of the world

- To talk about how animals/birds survive in the winter, and explore how we can help them.
- To investigate the weather in the North and South poles.
- To find out about animals that live in cold places.
- To explore how we keep warm during the winter.
- To investigate water and how we can change it.

Expressive Arts and Design

- To explore water sounds using instruments made from recycled materials.
- To explore what happens when they mix colours.
- To listen to music and describe how it makes you feel, then paint the picture of the feeling.
- To design and make penguins and snowflakes.

