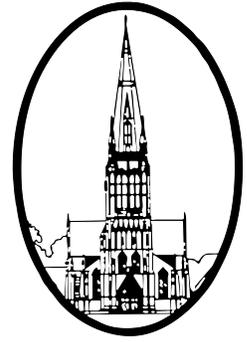


St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School
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Headteacher: Jane O'Brien

*"St Mary's.... feeding the mind, body
and spirit so we can be the best we*



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great feeling it has been this week to welcome children back into the school and the classroom. I am very excited to get to know the children coming up from the nursery as well as new children starting at St. Mary's this year. Here in Reception class at St. Mary's the children's learning will be linked to a different topic every half term. Your child's topic this half term is:

All about me

During this topic, the children will have the chance to find out all about themselves, their new friends and the adults who work with them. They will learn about their bodies, make self-portraits, discuss their likes and dislikes; they will be able to describe themselves in positive terms and will also learn about each other's interests and families. After an uncertain and unusual few months due to Covid 19 we will also have some focus lessons about our thoughts and feelings. This is a way for me to ensure the children are coping ok with our return to school, whilst preparing them for the future.

Here are some of the areas that will be covered this half term:

Literacy	Hearing, saying and writing the initial sounds in words. Name writing and beginning to write other familiar words.
Maths	Counting, recognising & ordering numbers to 10 (extended to 20), identifying the names and properties of 2D shapes, understanding and using positional language.
RE	Creation - Who made the wonderful World?

Music

The children will have music every Tuesday with an experienced music teacher, Miss Reeves. Music ignites all areas of child development: intellectual, social and emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together.

Spanish

Every Tuesday the children will also have a Spanish lesson with our school Spanish teacher Senior Enric. By the end of the year the children will be able to count to 10 in Spanish and know the names of many animals, modes of transport, colours and fruit in Spanish.

Reading

Every child will be given a red book bag when they first start at St. Mary's. Books will be changed **every Friday** so please ensure your child comes to school with their **red book bag** with the previous book and reading log inside. We expect that you share a book with your child for 5-10 minutes each day and to fill out the orange reading log. For the first term the children will choose a book from the classroom to take home and share with an adult. It very important that we implement a love of books and reading from a very young age so please support me by enjoying reading and books at home.

Phonics

During the whole of the Reception year there will be a big focus on phonics. Here at St Mary's we use the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics program and we will be starting at Phase 2. Phonics is the foundation of writing and reading in school so it's really important.

Water bottle

It is very important that every child brings in a water bottle **every day**. We cannot provide the children with access to water at the moment so please understand the importance of your child bringing in a water bottle every day.

Change of clothes

Please can you bring into school a change of clothes and underwear for your child that will be kept on their peg in the case of any spills or accidents in school. These will be returned at the end of the school year.

Junk modelling

In Reception we are constantly using our imaginations to construct and build. We use various materials to do this, including empty food boxes (no trace of nuts), empty drink containers and caps, loo rolls, etc. Please feel free to bring in these types of items any time for us to use.

I look forward to working with you all during what I'm sure will be a successful school year. At the moment due to Covid 19 there are limited opportunities for us to have regular communication at the gate, which is a real shame. However if you have any questions, comments or concerns and would like to talk to me please call the St Mary's school office and leave a message, I will then call you back at a convenient time.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Mackay (Class Teacher Reception)

Miss Hammond and Mrs Rose (Reception class teaching assistants)