



ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS

12th January 2018

Welcome back! We do hope you all had a restful Christmas and a happy new year. We are all looking forward to a very exciting second term in Reception. This half term, we will be looking at 'People Who Help Us', exploring different professions and how they can help us, both directly and indirectly. After half term, our topic will be 'Space': we will explore our Solar System and show the boys different features of our world. We will look at the planets, what makes a star, find out about astronauts and what they do, and even talk about aliens! We also arranged for the Science Dome to come in which is always a fun and informative day for the boys. They will love it! These themes have been chosen through careful observation of the boys' interests. They will have a focus on 'Understanding of the World' and 'Expressive Arts and Design', however, all seven areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum will be linked to the topics. If you have any books or resources that you think might be helpful, we would love to borrow them (please make sure they are labelled).

Below, we have outlined the learning intentions from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which your son will be focusing on this term.

Communication and language:

Listening and attention

- Children listen attentively in a range of situations;
- They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions;
- They give their attention to what others say, and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

Understanding

- Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions;
- They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Speaking

- Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners needs;
- They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future;
- They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

Physical Development:

Moving and handling

- Children show good control and coordination in large and small movements;
- They move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space;
- They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Health and self-care

- Children know the importance for good health of physical exercise and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe;
- They manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.

As well as their regular P.E. lesson, this term the boys will be learning dance with Sadie. They will be practising a routine which will be performed for a special Mother's Day show. Please ensure all P.E. kits have been returned to school so we can get started as soon as possible. We will send their kits home at the end of term.

PE sessions:

Kangaroos – Tuesday and Thursday

Monkeys – Monday and Thursday

Personal, social and emotional development:

Making relationships

- Children play co-operatively, taking turns with others;
- They take account of one another's ideas about how to organise their activity;
- They show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with adults and other children.

Self-confidence and self-awareness

- Children are confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others;
- They are confident to speak in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities;
- They say when they do or don't need help.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Children talk about how they and others show feelings, talk about their own and others' behaviour, and its consequences, and know that some behaviour is unacceptable;
- They work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules;
- They adjust their behaviour to different situations, and take changes of routine in their stride.

Literacy:

Reading

- Children read and understand simple sentences;
- They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately;
- They also read some common irregular words;
- They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

Writing

- Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds;
- They also write some irregular common words;
- They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others;
- Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

We will be continuing our phonics programme this term, moving on to Set 2 sounds. The boys will also be starting independent writing this term. We will be starting our Guided Reading sessions, and the boys will have a Ruth Miskin book that we will read in class, and then that book will be sent home with them the following week to show you how well your son knows how to read with fluency and expression. Please remember not to tell your son that these books are 'too easy' as they are supposed to show you their new decoding and comprehension skills. These books should be used as a moment for your son to shine. Let them read to their teddies and pets too- they will love being the one in charge! The boys will continue taking home a levelled reader as an extra book each week. We will also be learning high frequency words and consolidating any tricky sounds. Please continue to practise these sounds and words at home with your son.

Please remember to sign your son's Record Book whenever you read with him.

Mathematics:

Number

- Children count reliably with numbers from one to 20 and place them in order;
- They say which number is one more or one less than a given number;
- Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer;
- They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

Shape, space and measures

- Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems;
- They recognise, create and describe patterns;
- They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.
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We will be covering the order and formation of all numbers 11-20 this term. Please review all numbers to 20 with your son as often as possible, concentrating on value and the numbers before and after.

Understanding of the world:

People and communities

- Children know that other children have different likes and dislikes and that they may be good at different things.

The world

- They can describe some actions which people in their own community do that help maintain the area they live in.

Technology

- Children recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools;

- They select and use technology for particular purposes.

Expressive arts and design:

Exploring and using media and materials

- Children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them.
- They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

Being imaginative

- Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes.
- They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

Other Information:

Please continue to send in your own observations of your son at home or out and about. We will be sending home some more 'Wow Parent Slips'. Please fill them in when you see your son doing something new or just fantastic!

Every Friday, we will continue to send home a newsletter which will give you an idea of what the boys have been learning that week. It will also let you know what we will be teaching the following week. Please do take a moment to look over it and have a chat about it with your son.

A letter about Show and Tell will be going out for this term so please make sure you have a read of that and help your child prepare for his day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and see one the Reception Team at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Katie McDermott