

St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

with Nursery Unit



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Nursery Doves

January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! As we start the Spring academic term, we thought it would be useful to share with you our topic this half term and how you can help your child at home. Our topic this half term is Fairy Tales; we will be reading a wide range of fairy tales, basing our work around the texts, characters and settings.

The Nursery Class teachers are Mrs Sheridan and Mrs Chapman. The other staff your child will work with during the week include Mrs Hill, our Nursery Nurse and Mrs Davies and Mrs Bates, two of our Teaching Assistants.

How you can help your child at home:

- Talk to them; speaking and listening are vital skills children need in order to develop
- Model and expect good listening from your child
- Encourage the understanding and use of new vocabulary
- Sing songs and rhymes and read poems with your child
- Read to your child regularly and develop their story language
- Recognising numbers e.g. the numbers on a bus on the way to nursery
- Counting objects on the way to nursery
- Number rhymes and songs

Phonics

Every Friday, children bring home a phonic sheet with the sound we have been learning that week. We ask that you go over the sound and action with your child and how each letter is formed. First help your child to trace over the letters and then encourage them to have a go on their own. The sheets can then be coloured in or patterned. Games such as I Spy are also a good way of helping your child to learn these letter sounds.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Phonic sheet to be returned - any sheets returned after this day will receive a late mark in our record book.		Reading books changed. Children should have their reading book and reading diary in their book bag. We do monitor these reading diaries and the comments in them.	Reading Café 12.30-12.45	Phonic sheet sent home. Forest School – all children should be dressed appropriately and wearing wellies.

Star Moments

We have enjoyed reading about your child's star moments which they have achieved at home and we would love to hear from you about any more star moments. It could be about your child's favourite story or how they built a tall tower, for example. Please hand a completed star to a member of staff whenever you would like to share the information. If you need any more stars, they are on the nursery notice board in the cloakroom.

We are always keen to ensure that parents are involved in the learning process and welcome any feedback on activities which you have done at home that will help staff gain a broader picture of our child's learning and development.

Alphabet Teddy and Prayer Book

Every child has the chance to bring home Alphabet Teddy; if your child brings home Alphabet Teddy please can you help them to find three things at home that begin with our **sound** of the week. Once you have found three things, please can you put them in the bag. Once back at Nursery your child can share what they found, during carpet time. If your child brings home the Prayer Book on a Friday, please can you work with your child to write a prayer which your child can then decorate around the edges - this should be returned on the following Monday.

Stay and Play Dates

Due to the success of our previous 'Stay and Play' sessions, Nursery would like to welcome you again to join your child in the classroom on **Monday** 15th January, Tuesday 30th January, Tuesday 6th March and Tuesday 20th March for a 'Stay and Play' session; this will be from 9:00 to 9:30am. Because of limited space issues, we ask that only one adult per child and no siblings, should stay during this session. The Stay and Play sessions are educational with the emphasis on "learning through play".

Reading Diaries

Please show your child that reading is an important and enjoyable thing to do. When you read to your child they learn a lot more than what is happening in the story. They absorb how to hold and handle a book, how to turn the pages and how a story can be told. Their curiosity about the words and pictures is the first step towards reading. They enjoy guessing what will happen next, and what the pictures will show. They find it fun to anticipate the words and join in with the sections that are repeated.

Sharing books with your children every day can become a very happy habit. It will enable them to develop language experience, and it will set them on course for learning to read. You'll probably enjoy it yourself too!

Please read with your child for 10 minutes each day, writing the date and title in their contact book, along with any comment. We do monitor these diaries on a regular basis and the support you provide at home is essential in helping your child to become an independent reader. Included below is a fantastic example of a nursery child's reading diary.

The image shows two pages of a 'My Reading Record' diary. The diary is titled 'My Reading Record' and has columns for 'Date', 'Book and page number', and 'Comments'. The entries are handwritten in blue ink.

Page 1 (Left):

Date	Book and page number	Comments
29/11	Kipper's Birthday	Michael read to Mum through the pictures. Practised the story and he practised reading the end.
30/11	Kipper's Birthday	Michael and Dad read together. Dad read the book to Michael asking him to tell him what the book was about. Michael's version of events was very colourful but close enough.
2	Kipper's Birthday	Michael read to mum. Mum claps mums turn to read. Michael named the ingredients on page 3 & 4. Mum said the black thing was blackcurrant and was immediately told no (sour) we also compared Kipper's cake to his friends one.

Page 2 (Right):

Date	Book and page number	Comments
2/12	Kipper's Birthday	It was mums turn to read to Michael through the pictures. He both enjoyed the compassion Kipper's friends had and wished he had been clearer about the date of the party. Also had the book to read.
3/12	Kipper's Birthday	Michael read Kipper's story through pictures. He narrated how Kipper made cards to invite his friends and decorated. Mum also compared the two cakes. Michael also distinguished the fabrics between the different dogs so it was big dog, half and small dog. Wow Michael you have done so much reading.

A blue and yellow 'Excellent Reader' badge is stuck on the right page. The badge is circular with a scalloped edge and contains the text 'St. Gabriel Catholic Primary School' and 'Excellent Reader'.

At the bottom of each page, there are sections for 'words or words to practise' and 'New words I have spotted (e.g. night rain)'. The right page also has a small smiley face drawing.

Reminders

We would like to remind parents that we request a termly voluntary contribution of £3 - last term this contributed towards our Christmas resources. This contribution will be used to buy cooking ingredients, topic resources and other small consumable items.

Milk and fruit are provided for all children in Nursery and water is also available.

Please make sure that all coats and other belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather each day as we spend large amounts of time outside.

Children are not to wear earrings to nursery.

We appreciate any resources for our design area, so please continue to collect empty boxes and pieces of fabric and ribbon etc. and hand to a member of nursery staff.

We are also in need of spare socks, so if you have any at home we would be extremely grateful.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to an exciting and enjoyable term at St Fidelis Nursery.

With regards,

Handwritten signatures of Mrs Sheridan and Mrs Chapman in blue ink.

Mrs Sheridan and Mrs Chapman
Nursery Teachers

<p>RE and Personal, Social and Emotional development</p> <p>Getting to know Jesus, children will be learning that Jesus loves them all very much. Children will be encouraged to think of ways that they can make each other happy in the nursery. Children will learn how Jesus cured people who were ill and we will think of ways in which we can show love for people who are ill. Children will have the chance to take our prayer book home where they can work with an adult to think of a prayer, they can then share this prayer with the other children in the nursery.</p>	<p>Communication, Language and Literacy</p> <p>We will be reading a wide range of fairy tales, basing our work around the texts, characters and settings. The children will be encouraged to act out stories, draw pictures. Daily phonic sessions will be used to introduce the children to letters and their sounds. Every child will have the opportunity to bring Alphabet Teddy home with them and find three things in their home beginning with the sound of the week; they can then share what they found back in nursery the next day.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> <p>Children will learn through group sessions and focus group work. They will enjoy a range of stimulating and practical activities that will develop children's skills in counting, calculation and shape, space and measure. Children will be encouraged to explore using their senses and experience Maths in the world around them and use Maths vocabulary as they play and learn.</p>	<p>Understanding the world</p> <p>We will spend time exploring our environment and use our senses to investigate our world. We will observe signs of seasonal change, using the classroom, the Nursery outside area and Forest School. Forest School is a child led programme which aims not only to increase children's knowledge of the importance of forests and woodlands but has also been proven to develop confidence, emotional resilience and language skills.</p>
<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>Children will learn a variety of different songs and nursery rhymes. They will be encouraged to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through art, role play, music, dance and stories. We will also have a visit from Mr Robinson the music teacher where children will have the chance to play a variety of different musical instruments.</p>	<p>Physical Development</p> <p>Children will learn to move confidently and imaginatively with increasing control and co-ordination and an awareness of space and others. Children will have access to a wide range of activities to develop their gross motor skills.</p>