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| St Mary’s Catholic Primary School,  Reception – Robin Class  Spring 2019 |

Happy New Year. I hope you have had a good Christmas Holiday and feel ready to embrace the Spring term. Our topic will be called Land of Make Belief. Our curriculum sheet will give you some information about what your child is learning at school this term.

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| **Communication and Language**  We will be basing our English work around the story of The Magic Porridge Pot and The Gingerbread Man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Three Little Pigs. The children will learn to retell these stories with actions and will write sentences based around these stories. The children will be taught phonics every day to learn to read and write.  They will also be taught to read during guided reading where two groups of children are heard every day. I will also monitor their individual reading books every few weeks. | **Mathematics**  We will work on counting and number recognition, simple addition and subtraction, patterns, as well as ordering, shape and measures. The children will use their growing knowledge in everyday contexts using everyday language. They will solve simple problems. | | **Religious Education and Personal Social and Emotional Development**  We will be exploring the topics of Christmas, Sacraments and Lent as well as other faiths. The children will be encouraged to reflect on how what they have learnt affects their lives. In circle time we will be exploring medicines, who looks after us when we are ill, how we are special, growing and changing as well as setting personal goals and exploring feelings and how we express them. |
| **Physical Development**  In gymnastics we will be pushing and pulling, squatting and rolling and bending and stretching. In games we will be rolling and trapping, catching, striking and kicking, releasing and dribbling using a ball. | | **Topics**  Our work will be linked to our traditional stories and after half term we will be looking after some hens at school as well as taking a trip to Magdalen Farm. We will follow the children’s own interests and set up different areas in the class to encourage the children to challenge themselves in their learning. We will have song and rhyme time every day where we will learn simple songs and rhymes which will help the children to learn musical concepts including pitch and pulse. | |

**Reading**: We are fortunate to have a few volunteers who kindly come into school and listen to the children read individually. It is important for children to read as much as possible and it will really benefit your child if you can hear them read as often as possible, even if it is for ten minutes a day. Encourage them to sound out words that they do not know and ask them simple questions after they have read, e.g. What was the main character called? Why did he do that? What was your favourite part of the story? If you were the main character, what would you have done?

Please write that you have heard your child read in your child’s diary.

**Reading Baskets: Reading Baskets:** There are two baskets in school labelled ‘Reading Records’ and ‘My book needs changing’. Before your child puts their book bag in the ‘book bag box’ they will need to put their reading book and reading record in the appropriate basket.

**Writing**: Encouraging your child to write at home will make them more enthusiastic about writing. They could write a letter, a story or anything that they want to write. The children are encouraged to bring in to school any writing they have done at home where they will be praised and invited to share it with the rest of the class.

**Phonics and spelling**: Children are taught phonics every day in school where they will learn the sounds that individual and groups of letters make together. It is important to encourage them to listen to the sounds in words that they are trying to spell and write down the sounds that they can hear. The sounds the children are learning will be written on the news sheet.

**Mathematics**: Mathematics is fun and is used in all areas of life. You can practice mathematics with your child anywhere: on a walk, in their bedroom, in the car, going shopping etc.

Key targets in mathematics for this term are to:

* I can count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number.
* Using quantities and objects, I add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer.
* I can solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.
* I can use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems.
* I can recognise, create and describe patterns.
* I can explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

**Independence**

We would like you to help us to encourage children to be more independent. Part of them becoming independent is being able to walk into class on their own and sort out their belongings before settling into an activity. It would be helpful for children to arrive at 8:45am so they have enough time to settle before assembly which starts at 9:00am.

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| **PE kit**  **Please make sure that your child’s PE kit is in school on a Wednesday unless told otherwise in the weekly newsletter.**  Children need to wear their PE kits to school on a Thursday. | **Home-school contact**  Please make sure you write anything that has happened at home on a note and put into the yellow Reading Record Book so we can either follow it up in school or reply promptly. |

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Rachel Burrough