



# Newsletter for Reception Class

## Spring Term 2016

**Topics:** 1<sup>st</sup> half term – The Environment  
2<sup>nd</sup> half term – Houses and Homes

### Physical Development

The focus will be on moving in different ways, jumping, balancing, climbing and using the large gym apparatus in the hall. The children will also practise their throwing and catching skills.

There will be a continued focus on activities to develop their fine motor skills such as cutting and threading.

### Understanding the World

The children will be investigating the properties of different materials and finding out about their senses.

In ICT the children will continue to develop their mouse control and typing skills through a variety of programmes.



### Expressive Art and Design

The children will continue to use their imagination for Art, Design and Role Play. They will have opportunities to explore and use a variety of media such as clay, junk modelling, paint and play dough. In music the focus will be on rhythm, beat, singing and responding to music.



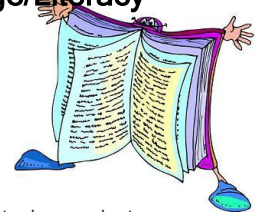
**Homework** Each week your child will continue to bring home reading books. The books your child brings home will include a story from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme and a book that your child has chosen themselves. Please share these books with your child and write a comment in the accompanying Reading Record book. Please keep it in your child's book bag so it can be changed when necessary. Please continue to practise sounds at home with your child, discussing both the sound and letter name, writing the lower and upper case letters and finding objects which begin and end with each sound. Your child will bring home "Tricky Words", rhyming words and some simple numeracy.

### Personal Social and Emotional Development

The focus will be on managing their own feelings and how this has an impact on others e.g. being happy and how to cheer up your friend. The children will continue to focus on school rules and expectations of excellent behaviour at St John's.



### Communication and Language/Literacy



The focus will be on sequencing, retelling stories and story language including descriptive words e.g. once upon a time, happily ever after. The children will be encouraged to ask questions about the story, as well as predicting what might happen next.

**Writing** In our writing activities we will focus on capital letters, full stops, finger spacing and using our sounds. The children will experience writing for different purposes including recipes, recounts of stories, lists, captions, letters and writing their own simple stories.

**Reading** The focus will be on elements of a story e.g. character, setting, problem, resolution and ending. We will also be looking at non-fiction books and how to use them. The children will be practising reading "Tricky Words" These are words that typically cannot be phonetically sounded out such as "the" and "put". The children will continue to practise sounds and apply them to their reading and writing. This will include letter names, capital letters and rhyming.

### Mathematics

We will continue to say and use number names in familiar contexts and count everyday objects. This term we will be reading, writing and recognising numbers to 20 and beyond. The children will use "kind Mr Plus" who always gives you more and "mean Mr Minus" who always takes away. As well as doing addition and subtraction practically we will be using a number line. The children will continue to talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns, 2D and 3D shapes. We will be looking at recognising coins and making a given amount with different coins