



Autumn 1 Overview

Our 1st term in Reception is spent welcoming your child into our school family and supporting them in settling into life at St Joseph's. We aim to foster a love for learning for all the children and look forward to building up a home-school partnership to support your children throughout the coming year. Our topic this half term is 'All about me!' and as the title suggests our focus will be on getting to know your child, helping them learn the school routines and supporting them in making friends. Below is a brief overview of the skills and knowledge your child will be working on over the half term.

Literacy, Communication and Language

In the 1st term we aim to expose the children to as many books as possible; reading lots of stories to ensure the children develop an early love of reading. Our focus will be on maintaining attention, active listening, understanding questions, and articulating thoughts. We use the Little Wandle Phonic scheme, and will start this term by learning the phonemes and graphemes for the alphabet before blending and segmenting CVC words together.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We begin Reception by learning the rules and behaviour expectations in our school. We will talk about our feelings, the zones of regulation and who we can turn to for help. We will get to know each other and build caring friendships, understanding the importance of being kind. As our topic is 'All about me!' we will be learning about ourselves and how we are special. We will talk about our similarities and differences, and learn to celebrate the things that make us unique.

Mathematical Development

We use the White Rose maths scheme and begin with the topic 'Just like me!' The children will learn about matching and sorting, comparison and pattern. They will be looking at similarities and differences in reference to colour, size, shape, mass, capacity, texture and amount. We will be enhancing their vocabulary, encouraging them to describe and explain their mathematical thinking.

Physical Development

It is important that we develop the children's fine motor skills this 1st term ready for writing. They will be engaging in all sorts of funky finger activities to gain precision and control. Our writing focus is on copying their name, forming letters correctly. They will start PE with Mr Thompson. Their 1st topic is locomotion, which focuses on developing movement skills such as running, jumping and leaping.

Expressive Art and Design

We will begin reception by exploring a range of medias such as painting, music, construction and imaginative play; encouraging the children to develop their own ideas in express themselves freely. Our artist for Autumn is Monet so we will look at his work and try to create our own masterpieces based on his concepts.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We will be engaging all of the senses in the hands-on exploration of Autumn; looking at the natural world and building an extensive descriptive vocabulary. Our final week this half term will be multi-faith week, where the children have the opportunity to learn all about Hinduism, and in particular the autumn celebration: Diwali.

The Way, The Truth and The Life - RE

At the beginning of the year it is important that the children learn to engage with the Catholic life of the school through prayer and collective worship. We introduce them to the classroom alters, and teach them the daily prayers. We begin RE in reception with the topic 'God's World'. We learn all about the wonderful world that God created for us and how it is our special job to look after it for him. We start to talk about the ways in which God shows his love for us, and learn that he made us all unique and special in our own way. We use the bible, listen to scripture, sing hymns, reflect on religious poems, and say prayers altogether.