

Reception Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term September-December 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Our Lady of Victories Reception. We are very excited about our first term and welcoming your child into their Reception Year. We are planning a wonderful term of learning focussed on two topics: **'Super me'**, which is all about getting to know each other, things we like and dislike using our senses, our families and people that help us to stay Super.

Our second topic called **'Once upon a celebration'**, which will focus on the change of season and 2 loud and colourful festivals; Bonfire night and Diwali. We will then enjoy some well-know fairy tales on our run up to Christmas. The children will be learning and developing key skills in each of the following areas listed below through a range of carpet sessions, focus group work and independent choice.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Yepes and Mrs D'Aiuto

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Over the Autumn term our first R.E topic is learning about how God made our Wonderful World as well as how God made us and loves us. We will be reading stories from the bible and taking part in different role-plays, songs and crafts to help us to understand how much God loves us, we are part of his family and that we are special. In the second half of the term we will also learn about Advent and Christmas. Starting with the Angel visiting Mary and the exciting time of the birth of Jesus Christ. Please refer to the separate RE curriculum newsletter for further information.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PSED)

Starting in Reception it is important that we help the children develop their independence, which will build their confidence and pride in themselves and their learning. We will spend the first part of Autumn Term helping the children to settle into their new routines, access their new classroom and making new friends. The children will be talking about things they like and dislike to help us see similarities and differences in each other. As the children get to know their new areas they will learn new behavioural boundaries and why it's important to respect each other and our environment. As friendships grow we will help the children talk through any problems they may have and show them ways to resolve any conflicts. Please talk to your children about discussing their feelings and reassuring them that it is good to talk about how you are feeling and asking for help. Encourage your child to be independent with activities at home as this will support their social development.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)

Gross and Fine motor skills are a very important part of Reception throughout the year, we need to make sure your children's hands are nice and strong to start their journey into writing. To help them build those muscles we will be doing some 'Dough Disco', tweezers and threading activities as well as daily practice with pens and pencils. Please have pencils and pens available for your children at home and encourage all forms of mark marking. **We will have P.E on a Wednesday and we ask the children to come dressed in P.E Kits.** To support your child with improving their independence and physical development please encourage them to dress themselves as much as possible. During P.E lessons, we are focussing on negotiating space ensuring we do not bump into others, safely climbing over equipment and dance sessions to experiment with different ways of moving including skipping.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE (C&L)

This term the children will continue to develop their communication and language skills in a variety of ways. Through daily story and role-play sessions, the children will begin to learn new vocabulary and develop an understanding of story language and characters. Classroom wall displays show topic related key vocabulary that children will become familiar with and use during activities. They will begin to build up a repertoire of songs, rhymes and chants. The children will also be developing the ability to listen to stories/group discussions with greater focus and for longer periods. With this growing ability, we want the children's confidence to grow so they can speak in front of the class and others and begin to ask relevant questions. Please support your child at home with their language development by ensuring they are asking and answering in full sentences.

MATHEMATICS (MATHS)

The Autumn term is all about numbers – we are getting to know the very entertaining Number blocks! The first half-term we are looking into the numbers 1-10 and deepening the children's knowledge about number. We want the children to be able to recognise, count, write and show a number in a variety of ways and introducing simple 2D shapes. In the second half-term we will be moving on to the numbers 11-20 and using the language of one more and one less. During our Diwali week we will also be looking more closely at patterns, returning to shapes, revising what we have learnt and teaching some 3D shapes. Your children will receive a Mathletics password, which is an online maths programme where if they have access to a computer they can complete different challenges, independently. To support your child with their maths please talk to them about the days of the week, times of the day and how you buy things.

LITERACY (LIT)

Our school follows the Read Write Inc programme where we teach the children all the phonic sounds to start their reading and writing journey. We teach the sounds of the letters rather than the name of the letter e.g. mmmmm not 'em' for m. I will update Google Classroom and/or Tapestry detailing which sounds have been taught and videos to help you say the sounds at home. Please help them to say the sound and support them with writing. Once the sounds have been taught we start blending the sounds together to read simple words c-a-t = cat. We will also be teaching the children to use these sounds and simple words to start labelling their work. Throughout the term we will read many books and the children will participate in various independent and focus activities that develop their understanding of story structure, character and setting. We will use puppets, role-play props, and picture cards to help the understanding of the story and to support in re-telling. To support your child develop their literacy skills please be positive with any writing they want to do at home and ensure that when sounds or books are set they are read or practised.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD (KUW)

Our first topic 'Super me' the children will be encouraged to think about who they are and what makes them special and unique. We will be encouraging them to talk about their family and how they help to make them Super and also people in our communities that help us. Talking about the things that they see and people they interact with help the children get a sense of their world and will deepen their understanding of it. We will be learning and taking part in lots of celebrations this term with Diwali, Bonfire night and of course Christmas. Taking part in different celebrations helps the children to understand that not everyone celebrates the same thing but we can all join in and respect each other. We will also learn about the change of season, looking at our environment and noticing the physical differences. The children will have an I.C.T slot every week where they will learn to log on to a computer independently, access a programme and work on their mouse skills.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN (EAD)

Children love to express themselves creatively and during this term we want to offer lots of different ways they can do that. We will start with concentrating on the children being able to create simple representations of things e.g. drawing/painting themselves, family members or something they like. The children need to think about which colours they will use and why. They could prefer to build or construct using different material and resources and again we will support them in talking about their decisions and making sure they have a clear purpose in mind. We will show the children a range of different tools to help stick, cut and decorate and support them as they use them safely and independently. We sing and dance most days and learn a wide range of songs and experiment with instruments.

Tapestry – Learning Journals

We use an online learning journal called Tapestry to share your children's progress with you. You have been sent activation emails if you are new to the school, if your child was in Nursery you already have access.

Home Learning Books

Home learning tasks will be posted on Google Classroom on **Friday** with the Class Letter. You can take a picture and upload it to Google Classroom or Tapestry by the **following Thursday**. We will show a variety of the children's home learning to the class to encourage learning at home.

