



## **BUSY BEES CLASS: Autumn Term 2021 Newsletter**

Welcome to Busy Bees and your child's first year at St Peter's School. We hope that you have all had a lovely summer and that your child is looking forward to the adventures that lie ahead. Over the next few weeks there will be many new routines and experiences for your child, and we understand that, at times, these may seem overwhelming. Please do not worry, we will always support your child to settle into school life in a way that best suits them. We understand also that we will be giving lots of information to you that may be new, again, please do not worry, as we are always available if you have any questions or need some support. Please do come and talk to us.

As the children settle into school life, they will begin to navigate their way around our classroom and have the opportunity to develop their learning through a variety of different experiences. Your child will always be learning as we offer something to entice every learner, from role play to painting, from the mud kitchen to maths and STEM challenges, from singing to PE and so much in between! With all of this in mind please be prepared for very tired children by the end of the half term and exhausted ones by Christmas!

### **Topic**

Our topic this half term is 'All About Me'. We will be encouraging the children to talk about themselves and their families. One of the Prime Areas of learning in the Early Years curriculum is 'Communication & Language', so this half term is all about increasing the children's confidence in speaking and listening. To support this area, we will provide high-quality interactions, daily group discussions, circle time, RE lessons, PSHE times, stories, singing, Pie Corbett T4W actions, Nativity play, assemblies and 'Nuffield early Language interventions'.

### **Literacy**

This half term we will focus on "Letters and Sounds" phase 1. This phase concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Over the next half term, we will be introducing the children to the phonic sounds. This will be with the support of the Jolly Phonics actions and songs. At that time, we will also send home a reading book for your child to practise reading at home. This book will be colour banded and will be at the correct level for your child's phonological development; More information about this will come home with the book in a reading pouch.

To support your child's writing development, we will be building up our finger muscles with "Finger Gym" activities such as playdough, peg boards, plastic tweezers, chopsticks as well as the traditional pens, pencils and scissors.

## **Maths**

The emphasis this half term is to develop the children's understanding of the number system. We will focus on Early Mathematical Experiences, such as counting rhymes and songs, positional language, classifying objects based on one attribute, number recognition and 2D and some 3d shapes. Numbers within 6, addition and subtraction within 6, calendar and time.

To support your child with all these new concepts, you may like to practise number and quantity recognition, making repeating patterns and point out for the changes that occur during the different times of the year (4 seasons, weather or special occasions). You may also have opportunities to point out numerals and shapes within the environment (on doors, at the supermarket, in the kitchen cupboard etc).

On a practical note, the children will need to bring in a named water bottle everyday (no squash please) and their book bag containing their reading / phonics wallet. Book bags need to be placed in the storage boxes in the classroom under the interactive whiteboard. P.E. will usually take place on a Monday afternoon, but please ensure your child's P.E. kit is in school every day – all items of clothing should be clearly named. All children will also need a pair of welly boots in school for when it is wet outside – these should be clearly named and handed to a member of staff at the beginning of term.

We are available to speak to parents and carers briefly in the mornings or please feel free to make an appointment after school if you require more time with us.

We look forward to getting to know you and your children over the next year.

Mrs Vaquinhas and the Reception team