



BUSY BEES CLASS: Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the Busy Bees Class.

We hope you and your child[ren] thoroughly enjoy the first year at St Peter's School, 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 further support. Please feel free to 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 - we offer something to entice every learner, from role play to painting, from the mud kitchen to maths and STEAM 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, our special Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church and our Nativity play in the run up to Christmas.

Literacy

This half term we will be introducing the children to the phonic sounds using the programme "Unlocking Letters and Sounds" phase 2. After a few sessions we will also send home a reading book for your child to practise reading at home. This book will be at the correct level for your child's phonological development; The children are expected to read for at least 5 minutes every day from that book and this reading needs to be recorded in their Reading Record Book. More information about this will come home with a book in a reading pouch along with the Reading Record Book.

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 5, including, number bonds within 5 and counting to 6, 7 and 8. Repeating patterns, days of the week and sequence of daily events.

To support your child with all these new concepts, you may like to practise number and quantity recognition, making repeating patterns and point out some of 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 juice or squash please) and their book bag containing their reading book and reading diary in the wallet. Book bags need to be placed in the storage box in the cloakroom.

P.E. will usually take place on a Friday afternoon, but it can change depending on our timetable. Please ensure your child's P.E. kit is in school every day (they can keep their PE kit on their named peg) and 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 on the gate or please do 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 Early Years Team