

Reception Newsletter – Friday 1st May 2026

RE - Easter Unit

In the final week of our Easter unit, we considered the feelings of Jesus' Disciples when they learned that Jesus was alive. The children talked about times that made them happy, thought about how they feel about Jesus' resurrection and what it makes them think about. We learned that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection at church during the celebration of Mass.

The Wednesday Word for this week is '**trust**'. We considered the people we can trust and how we know we can trust them. We also talked about how we can trust in God:

<https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/trust?pid=MTA101634&v=208.1>



Our hymn this week was '**Praise Him**' and we composed our own verse linking it with our Wednesday Word 'trust':

<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/hymns>



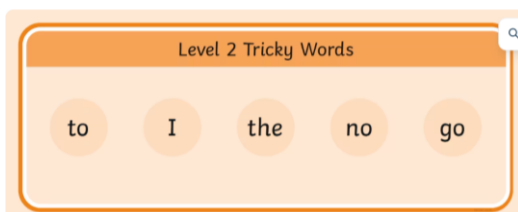
Phonics – Level 3

The final new sounds for Reception have been introduced this week. They are '**ure**' (**sure & pure**) & '**er**' (**dinner & hammer**). The digraphs 'er' says the same as 'ur'. At this level the children need to know that 'ur' is usually found in the middle of words. The 'er' is usually found at the end of words and also usually has a double letter digraph before it. The trigraph 'ure' is very tricky and not in many words we use at this level of development, so please don't worry if your child doesn't get it just yet – just keep practicing. Please stick these sounds into your child's sound books and help your child learn to recognise these digraphs on sight. The rest of the year will be revising Level 3 (reading and writing words using the sounds) before starting Level 4.

Remember – Practice makes permanent

Don't forget to use www.phonicsplay.co.uk to help your child practice reading words using these sounds. You might want to do the dictation challenges using the Level 3 sounds now.

No new Tricky Words have been taught this week. We have now introduced all Level 3 Tricky Words. Children should become confident in reading all the Level 2 & Level 3 words on sight and also be able to write these words from memory.



Handwriting

This week we continued with our 'Funky Finger Gym' using a washing peg. They are excellent to help strengthen the muscles in fingers. We started by squeezing them open using our duck fingers and moved down the fingers to strengthen each. Try this yourself – the ring and little finger can be quite tricky! We then used our other hand and also tried picking up pompoms with them.



Ask your child if they can show you some of the warmup exercises we do before handwriting sessions. You might want to come up with your own. Although most children are holding their pencil using the tri-pod grip, the muscles in little fingers are still developing. Young children still need to access activities such as dough, building blocks, cutting, finger painting, sand play and digging etc to help them develop stronger pencil control.

We have practiced the letters 'u' & 'y' using the correct formation. Don't forget to use the lines carefully when writing them.

Maths

This week we continued learning how to add objects together and write addition sums using the symbols + & =. We will continue to develop these skills over the next few weeks. Next week it's completing addition sums using objects.

Understanding the World – How does the weather change & How do Animals and Plants Grow in Spring

This week we started our new unit. We started by being 'Spring Detectives' around the school grounds. We found buds, blossom, new leaves growing (light and dark green for new and older leaves), a variety of flowers (daffodils, bluebells, lily of the valley & forget-me-nots), returning birds and looked at the changing weather. The children were able to make links with things they had seen outside school, at home and family member's homes. Perhaps you might like to go on your own spring detective walk over the Bank Holiday weekend.

We've had a change to our Role play corner – '**Camping in the Woodlands**' campsite, complete with a tent, barbecue, campfire, picnic blankets & basket and a bird hide for bird watching. The children made their own binoculars using toilet roll tubes and are using them to pretend to look for the birds they made using paper plates.

General

Friday was another great day for spending time outside in the beautiful spring weather. The children enjoyed their reward for filling their marble jar last week – a visit to the 'secret woods'. I will upload pictures on Facebook social media shortly. I wonder what the next reward will be?

The children thoroughly enjoyed their dance lessons with Mrs Swann on Monday. These will continue. Please see pictures on Bluesky.

Following the successful London Marathon last weekend where the world record was broken, the children watched clips and then took part in their own Mini Marathon on the field. All children ran 2

laps of the field and some children chose to do another. They were truly magnificent - athletes of the future! Please see pictures on Bluesky.

The new website is now live. I hope you find it slightly easier to navigate.

Dates for your Diary

Please note a change to the date of the Special Friend's Family Mass next half term from Saturday 27th June to Saturday 11th July

May – BTK Marian Artwork – create a piece of art with the theme ‘Mary – the Mother of God’

Monday 4th May – School closed for Bank Holiday

Monday 18th May – Local History Week

Tuesday 19th May – Reception & Y6 Mass at church 9am. Please drop your child to church at 8.45am

Wednesday 20th May – St Anne's Feast Dedication Day. Whole School Mass at 9am followed by our May Procession

Friday 22nd May – Journey Through Time Day (information to follow)

Friday 22nd May – Celebration Assembly at 9am

Friday 22nd May – Break up for half term

Enjoy some special family time during the long weekend

Mrs Turley